

*Believe and see the glory of God.*



## ***PRINCIPAL'S NOTES***

DIocese of WILMINGTON – CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

NOVEMBER 22, 2019

### ***Pause and Ponder***

**November/December – Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda (John 5:1-15)**

**Virtuous Action – Helping Others in Need**

When we return to school on Monday, December 2, the season of Advent will be upon us. Measured by school days, this Advent season will be only 15 days. The waiting time for the celebration of Christmas will seem as a blink of the eye compared to the 38 years the man in our Gospel selection for November-December waited to be healed.

For me, patience is a challenging virtue to practice. I become impatient when the stop light changes and there is a two-second delay before the car ahead of me moves. And that example is such a minor one. There are other, more important life events that require even greater patience. In reflecting on the waiting season of Advent, I have much to learn from the man in our Gospel selection. His strong faith and his patient waiting are two admirable qualities that I have planned to practice this Advent.

In preparation for Advent, think about patient waiting. For whom or for what are you waiting this Advent? How will you practice patience in the wait time? Truly, the four weeks of Advent offer us an opportunity to grow in faith and virtue.

### ***Let Us Pray***

- + for **those who are hungry, homeless, or alone** on Thanksgiving
- + for the **December intention of Pope Francis**: that every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority
- + for **Bishop Malooly**, celebrating a patronal day on Tuesday, December 3 – St. Francis Xavier
- + for the **Immaculate Conception School community** planning next steps for the future

### ***Catholic Identity***

**Practice Gratitude...Conversation Starters for the Thanksgiving Table**

- Name two things for which you are thankful this year.
- For whom are you thankful and why?
- What part of nature is inspiring and beautiful to you?

- What is something that makes you laugh out loud?
- What is an unexpected blessing you received this year?
- Choose someone who is with you and share three things you admire and appreciate about the person.
- What is something you love about your family?
- How are you going to practice gratitude this year?

Glenmary Home Missioners

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday, November 24</b>	<b>Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</b>		
Tuesday, November 26	T1 ends (Elementary Schools) Thanksgiving holiday begins at dismissal		
<b>Wednesday, November 27</b>	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAY</b>		
<b>Thursday, November 28</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day – SCHOOL HOLIDAY</b>		
<b>Friday, November 29</b>	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAY</b>		
<b>Sunday, December 1</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>		
Monday, December 2	CSO Staff Meeting	9:30 am	1626
Tuesday, December 3	<i>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i>		
Wednesday, December 4	Nurses' Meeting	8:30 am	TBD
	T1 grades due (Elementary Schools)		
	Board of Catholic Schools Meeting	6:00 pm	St. Peter Cathedral
Thursday, December 5	Counselors' Meeting	1:00 pm	1626
Friday, December 6	<i>St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>		
Saturday, December 7	<i>St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> High School Placement Test		
<b>Sunday, December 8</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> High School Placement Test		

## Action Required

**Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier** – In anticipation of the memorial of Saint Francis Xavier on **Tuesday, December 3**, each school community is asked to offer one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be for the intentions of Bishop Malooly, who celebrates his patron on this day.

**Final Weeks for High School Placement Test Registration** – Please encourage 8th grade students and their parents or guardians to register online for the HSPT at <http://wilmington.stsusers.com>. Online registration will close on **Thursday, December 5**.

**Administrators' Retreat** – This year's Administrators' Retreat, scheduled for March 4-6, 2020 will be held at the Dunes Manor Hotel in Ocean City, MD. We are looking forward to having Ms. Kristen Melley from the Roche Center for Catholic Education at Boston College, as our retreat leader. Registration forms were distributed at the October 29 Administrators' Meeting and due November 22. Forms have also been posted on the CSO Intranet. Please complete your registration form and forward it, with payment, to Mary Filippone at the Catholic Schools Office, **no later than Friday, December 6**. Full participation in the Administrators' Retreat is an expectation for every elementary and secondary principal. Assistant/Vice principals are invited to attend at the discretion of the principal.

## Attention Needed

**Principal's Notes** – The next edition of *Principal's Notes* will be Friday, December 6.

**December Reflection** – The December reflection is provided for use with faculty and staff.

**Advent Strong!** – We add the word “Strong” behind many of our causes – Boston Strong, Las Vegas Strong, etc. Christmas is upon us and Advent hasn’t yet arrived. It is our responsibility to make our schools and our classrooms Advent spaces. Celebrate this peaceful season by not giving in or giving up to the commercials, the stores, the media, and other intrusions into the season. Christmas decorations should not appear until after Gaudette (Rejoice) Sunday which is celebrated on Sunday, December 15, and remain through the Baptism of the Lord, Sunday, January 12. Let us remain “Advent Strong!”

**All Catholic Christmas Concert** – The annual Christmas Concert sponsored by the secondary schools of the Diocese of Wilmington is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10**, 7:00 pm, at Salesianum School. This event is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the sounds of the season as performed by the students in our Catholic schools. The presence of elementary administrators is always appreciated, especially by students who have graduated from your schools.

**High School Admissions Procedure** – Our recommended high school admissions procedure this year was changed so that the family had the responsibility to upload the applicant’s information to the high school. Some schools have experienced difficulty with this process. Two solutions are available at the discretion of the elementary school – 1) provide the family with the necessary documents and the family may forward the required information to the high school or 2) send the necessary documents from the elementary school to the high school. Remember the Confidential Student Recommendation Form is always sent directly to the high school.

**January Administrators’ Meeting** – The next Administrators’ meeting will be held **Friday, January 10**, instead of Tuesday, January 7. Thank you for noting this change in your calendar.

**Vision for the Future** – Beginning December, tuition assistance application information is available through the parish, regional, and diocesan seventeen (17) elementary schools and five (5) high schools. Applications are submitted online to FACTS, an independent agent assigned to evaluate the financial need of those seeking assistance. Low- to middle-income families struggling with tuition expenses are encouraged to apply. For School Year 2020-2021, the deadline to apply is **March 4, 2020**. Please communicate this information to parents/guardians now and regularly over the course of the next few months.

**Wellness Program** – Information required for participation in diocesan medical benefits is provided. Please forward it to all employees in school who participate in medical benefits. Note the deadline for returning the health physical is March 31, 2020 to avoid a \$100 monthly fee for benefits.

## Newsworthy Information

**Census 2020** – See the accompanying information about the 2020 Census. Free resources are provided for students in Grade K-12 to participate in this once-in-a-decade event. Don’t let your students be left out.

## ***Reasons to Celebrate***

***Giving Thanks!*** – Please see the special edition of the *Dialog* (November 22) in which a tribute to Bishop Malooly may be found. The 44-page insert would be a good resource to use with students about Bishop's tenure as shepherd of our diocese. All of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Wilmington expressed gratitude for Bishop's leadership, wisdom, and care on the final page of the insert.

***Bishop Malooly, Monsignor Hurley, and the Catholic Schools Office staff  
wish you and your family many blessings this Thanksgiving Day.***

***Let us ask the Lord during this Advent time to draw us closer,  
closer to his mystery and do so on the path that he wants us to take:  
the path of humility, the path of meekness,  
the path of poverty, the path of recognizing we are sinners.***  
***Pope Francis***

