

# PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Diocese of Wilmington—Catholic Schools Office

December 1, 2023

## ***Pause and Ponder***

***Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.***

*Sunday, December 3, begins the new liturgical year with the season of Advent. During these weeks leading to Christmas, we have the opportunity to see meekness in action in the events of the Christmas narrative.*

*In the Gospel of Saint Luke proclaimed at Christmas, we hear about the birth of Jesus. We are told that “there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock” (Lk 2:8). To these shepherds the angels came to announce the birth of the Savior.*

*These shepherds are the meek about which the third Beatitude speaks. They are found fulfilling their daily responsibility without much attention from others. They were probably simple-living people doing a day’s work, albeit a 24-hour day living among the sheep.*

*It was to these meek that the great gift of Christmas was given. The shepherds were the first people to see the newborn king. They would be blessed and “inherit the land” of salvation by their humble homage of the Christ Child.*

*This week, let us meditate on the shepherds gazing upon the Lord, reminding us of the hope of salvation that lies before us.*

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

***+ that the season of Advent will bring about in us renewed hope as we seek to live more fully for God***

***+ for the repose of the soul of Timothy Getz, husband of Mary Getz, mathematics teacher at Saint Mark’s High School***

## ***Calendar Dates***

<b><i>Sunday, Dec 3</i></b>	<b><i>First Sunday of Advent</i></b>
<b><i>Monday, Dec 4</i></b>	Elementary Report Card Week
	Renaissance Star Assessment Week 2
	CSO Staff Meeting, 9:00 am Y2 Mentoring Meeting, Padua Academy, 4:00 pm
<b><i>Tuesday, Dec 5</i></b>	CSO School Visit, Holy Cross School, 9:00 am Y2 Mentoring Meeting, Holy Cross School, 4:00 pm
<b><i>Wednesday, Dec 6</i></b>	<b><i>Saint Nicholas</i></b> Bishop’s Visit, Mount Aviat Academy, 10:00 am Y1 Mentoring Meeting (PreK-5), virtual, 3:45 pm

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## ***Important Information***

### **Administrators' Retreat**

The deadline for returning the Administrators' Retreat registration form is ***Friday, December 15***. Please be prompt to assist with retreat reservations and planning.

### **Vision for the Future Tuition Assistance**

Applications and all required documentation for the 20243-2025 school year must be received by FACTS no later than ***January 31, 2024***. Tuition assistance through the Diocese of Wilmington is provided to children attending ***Grades K-12***. Families currently receiving tuition assistance from the diocese must reapply. Assistance is ***not automatically renewed*** from year to year.

## ***Calendar Dates*** (continued)

Thursday, Dec 7

***Saint Ambrose***

Y1 Counselors' Meeting,  
CSO, 2:00 pm

Y1 Mentoring Meeting,  
(Grades 6-12), virtual,  
3:45 pm

***Friday, Dec 8***

***Immaculate Conception***

Bishop's Visit, St. Ann  
School, 9:15 am

***Sunday, Dec 10***

***Second Sunday of Advent***

### **January Administrators' Meeting**

The next Administrators' Meeting will be held ***Friday, January 5, 2024***, 9:15 am. Site TBD. More information will follow.

## ***Catholic Identity – Blessed Are You Among Women***

The Second Vatican Council reminds us that Mary is a member of the Church who "occupies a place in the Church which is higher after Christ and also closest to us." She is the first and the greatest of all the disciples of Christ.

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as the supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire Church.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is celebrated each year on December 8.

*United States Catechism for Adults*



Renaissance

## Professional Learning

The Catholic Schools Office has four hours of Renaissance Professional Learning expiring on December 29, 2023. These hours are open for schools wishing to schedule professional development for faculty. The inservice does not need to occur before December 29; it means we just need to have the professional learning scheduled with Renaissance before the expiration date, not necessarily delivered by that date. If your school is interested in a PD session, please contact Dr. De Angelo ASAP.



Information about ACE scholarships was shared at the November Administrators' Meeting. A Google sheet was sent to schools to complete requesting three pieces of information – capacity, enrollment, estimate of available seats for qualifying students.

Thank you to the schools which completed the Google sheet by the deadline date of November 20. Your information was forwarded to the ACE Foundation as recommended by the Catholic Schools Office.

If your school did not complete the information and you wish to be included as an ACE-eligible school, please forward the requested information to Dr. De Angelo by **Wednesday, December 6**. Information should **not** be sent directly to the ACE Foundation since the foundation is seeking diocesan recommendation.

## **IDEA**

The Diocese of Wilmington Board of Catholic Schools recently sent information about the **Innovate. Develop. Educate. Award (IDEA)**. The award will recognize excellence in teaching, contributions, and achievements on behalf of Catholic school education in our diocese. Please remind teachers about the opportunity to nominate a colleague for this recognition by the deadline of **January 12, 2024**.

## ***Democracy Project***

**APPLY NOW - 2024 Democracy Project Summer Institute:** *Elections 2024: Teaching, Learning, and Discussing* (June 17-18 and 20-21, 2024)

The Delaware Center for Civics Education at the University of Delaware invites K-12 educators to apply for the 2024 Democracy Project Summer Institute which will run June 17-18 and 20-21, 2024. This year's focus, aimed at preparing teachers for the fall elections, is "*Elections 2024: Teaching, Learning, and Discussing*." Invited speakers include candidates for office, elected officials, election officials, and members of the media. Visit [here](#) for more details, apply, or to nominate someone. Attendees who complete the entire institute (required) will receive a minimum of 30 hours of professional learning credits as well as a \$400 stipend.

Registration is open to the first 20 educators who register and commit to full attendance.

## ***Support Catholic Education this Advent***

Looking for an Advent service opportunity? For \$350 a school or class can finance a full year of Catholic school education for a student in the Diocese of San Marcos, Guatemala, sister diocese of the Diocese of Wilmington. The new school year begins in January in Guatemala so students are in need of financial grants now.

For more information, contact Dr. De Angelo who will connect you with CDOW representatives working on this project.

**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE  
FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING.**

**ROMANS 15:13**

