



December 2024

'Tis the season to be shopping! Christmas, among other things, is a season of 'gift-giving'. In addition to God giving us this wonderful world, He gave us the most thoughtful gift that can be given – His Son, a living being, a source of all that is good, a teacher, a savior, a brother, an example, a path to Heaven. This gift is so special that it continues to yield its value for over 2,000 years and counting. What other gift does that! His earthly body is no longer on Earth in human form, but yet, the gift of Himself will remain with us as long as we 'receive' it. He is offered to anyone who desires Him. Also amazing is that this gift exudes its value through those who value Him. During this 'gift-giving' season, may the gifts you give and the gifts you receive be extensions of the reason for the season – the gift of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You won't find them on Amazon, or at the mall, or in a gift card. Instead, look in your church, in your family, in your neighbor, and in your heart. Happy shopping!



Advent

December 1st begins the first Sunday of Advent. It is also the start of the Liturgical Year. Each morning, the children will be praying an Advent prayer. We light a candle in the Advent Wreath asking God to help prepare us for the coming of Christ.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

While the feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8th, we will be taking the children to Mass on December 9th, at 9:30 a.m. since we will not be together on Sunday. Our preschoolers and kindergarteners will be joining us, as well as the Geibel Catholic students, as they will be leading us. We hope you will join us for this holy day of obligation.

Advent Angel Tree

It has been a long tradition that we do a collection of baby items during the Advent Season. Within this packet you will find a list of what we are asking each grade to donate. All donations will be given to Alternatives Laurel Highlands Pregnancy Support Center which helps needy families get started with their little ones. When your child brings in a donation, they can stop in the office to get an angel to hang on the tree. Please know how grateful we are for your donations to this organization and for teaching your children the importance of giving of themselves to help those in need.

St. Nicholas

On December 6th, we celebrate St. Nicholas Day. The students will be decorating stockings and putting messages in them. The message will include what they plan to do during Advent to prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus. St. Nick will take their notes and replace them with a candy cane!

Christmas Program

Our entire student body will be presenting to the families a Christmas Program – ***Uncertain Poor Shepherds***. Our kindergarten kids will portray the Nativity, our sixth-graders will do the narrations, and all students will be singing. We will also be featuring our Cantor Choir. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m. Students should arrive by 3:40, and head to their classrooms, except for our preschoolers. Our PK kids are to sit with their families in the gymnasium. They will be called to the ‘stage’ to sing three songs at the beginning of the program and Silent Night at the end. Be sure to make this a priority among all the activities of the season. You will be pleased.



Dairy Queen Delights

Our good neighbor, Lynn's Dairy Queen, will be getting in the Christmas spirit by donating a percentage of their sales from our families on December 15. Please visit the Dairy Queen between 3:00 and 7:00 and be sure to tell them you are from Conn-Area Catholic School.

Stocking Stuffers

Every year Santa Claus calls the school and asks us to provide him with some dress down passes, as he has found that many children are putting them on their Christmas list. The problem is he wants us to ship them to him since he is very busy getting ready for the big night. Unfortunately, the shipping for the North Pole is quite expensive due to gas prices. If you think your child will be requesting dress down passes from Santa, please help us deliver them to the North Pole by sending in \$3.00 for each pass requested. There is a maximum of three passes per child, and these can only be purchased for your child. Orders are due by December 13. See enclosed form for details.

The Nutcracker

On December 12th, our first and second graders will be going on a field trip to the State Theatre to see *The Nutcracker*. We are very excited for them to be experiencing such a classic tradition of the holiday season. Thank you to the PTG for paying for the transportation.

Christmas Break

Our Christmas break begins with an early dismissal (11:15) on Friday, December 20. There will be van/bus transportation. The children will also have their Christmas parties on this day. Our break falls in such a way that we will have two weeks off. We will see the kids back in the building on Monday, January 6. Have a wonderful time with family.

Pride in Connellsville Winners

In the Fall, our fourth, fifth, and sixth graders participated in the Pride in Connellsville poster or poetry contest. We had several winners. For the poster contest, first place goes to Brielle Dziurzynski (grade 6) and Scout Witt (grade 6). Second place goes to Noel Sampey (grade 6). The following students received honorable mention: Max Barndt (grade 5), Quintin Suter (grade 4), Travis Snyder (grade 6), Felicity Speeney (grade 4), Mason Whitehead (grade 6), and Kendall Mahokey (grade 6). For the poetry category, first place goes to Kinley Himes (grade 4), second place Adalynn Allen (grade 6), and third place Ty Pushkis (grade 5). Honorable mention goes to Piper Stockton (grade 6). Congratulations to all! Thank you to Mrs. Schnorr for working with the students on this process.



Fayette County Firefighters' Association Essay Contest

Recently our fifth and sixth graders participated in an essay contest on fire safety. This year's theme was "SMOKE ALARMS: Make them work for you!" We are pleased to announce that we have two winners: sixth grader Kalista Bryant and fifth grader Adelyn Bell! They will attend an award ceremony on December 7th to find out where they placed and to accept their awards. They competed with 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from all the Fayette County schools. We are so very proud of them. Thank you to their teachers, Mrs. Kostley and Mrs. Hustosky for overseeing this project.

School Closings and Delays

In most cases, Conn-Area Catholic School will be seen on the television screen for closings and delays. You will also receive a School Messenger alert via text, email, and/or phone call. However, if it should happen that my home in the mountains has no electricity due to a storm, know that we follow Connellsville School District's directives when it comes to weather delays and cancellations (just in case it cannot get posted).

Boys Basketball Season

Our Boys' Basketball season will begin this month and go through the month of February with the tournament being on February 22nd and 23rd. We have twelve boys on this JV team of 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. We are grateful to Matt and Lindsy Yoders and Chris Dalansky for volunteering their time to coach our boys. It is a huge commitment. We hope you will bring your family out to see the boys in action.

Cheerleading

Our cheerleaders are getting ready to be the support behind our boys' basketball team. We have twenty-four girls in grades preschool through sixth grade with a boatload of spirit! Wait until you see what they can do! Thank you to Renee Davis and Megan Patsch for coaching once again for our girls. They are brave to take on 24 girls of this range of ages, but they can handle them. They are awesome!

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!

