

Dear Parents,

St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga

I hope that your Thanksgiving celebration was a celebration of "giving thanks", a time to be with family and friends.

Advent season began November 28th. This weekend we light the first candle of our Advent wreath. An Advent wreath can help us get back the real "spirit" of the season. The Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus is the true source of joy in our lives.

The four candles remind us that good things take time and that waiting helps us to think about and appreciate God's gifts to us. As we light each candle, we should recall that Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in Darkness". As we look forward and backward during this Advent season, let us pray to build a better world by becoming a people in the spirit of joy.

Covid Vaccine If your child is vaccinated we need a copy of the vaccine record sent into school. The Covid vaccine is now available for age 5 and up.

Basketball Coaches are still needed for boys and girls basketball 5th & 6th grade. Please let us know if you can help.

Children's Choir Again this year, St. Mary's would like a Children's Choir at the 4 P.M. Christmas Eve Mass on Friday Dec. 24. We will practice for the most part during school hours starting Dec. 2nd. We start singing at 3:15 P.M. sharp in the church on Christmas Eve! Mrs. Charboneau, Mrs. Arzberger and Mrs. Dreimiller will be in charge this year. Did you send in your permission slip? If there is anyone in the public school who would like to join us, let us know.



RADA knife orders. We will let you know when the orders are in. Rada knife orders Plan to be here for Christmas.

Nov. 29 **1st Week of advent service at 2:10**

Dec. 1 **Picture Retake Day- Please bring your picture packet in for the retake. If you missed The first picture day order online with your picture ID or return the order form sent home.**

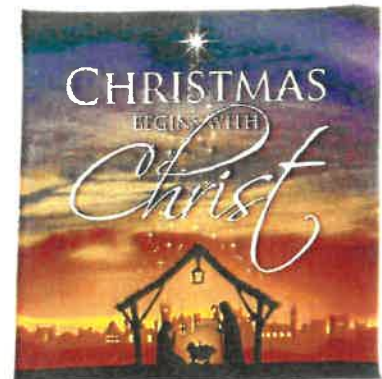
Dec. 3 **Saint Francis Xavier. First Friday Mass 9:00 a.m. Grades 2-8 will attend. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10:00- 12:00p.m.**

Friday December 3rd- Shop n Dine 5-8 P.M. throughout downtown: Ticonderoga, Holiday Farmers Market, Raffles, and the Parade of Lights. St. Mary's School will have an open house with 102 Baskets on display. Come in and get your tickets. Refreshments will be served. Quilt Raffle tickets will be available and register for a door prize.

Spaghetti Dinner/ Basket Raffle Sat. Dec. 4 Mass is at 4:30 followed by the Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle. We will serve from 5:00-6:30 (take-outs at 4:30). Adults – 12 and older are \$10, Students – 5-11 are \$5, 4 and under are free, Family rate \$30 for two parents + 2 or more paying kids. Raffle tickets will be on sale from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. tonight. The raffle will begin at 6:30. This has become a major fund-raiser for St. Mary's School. Can you help

with set-up Friday afternoon at 1:00 or serving, cooking or clean-up on Saturday? Please let us know. * *We need parents to bake brownies for dessert. Can you help with this? Call the school and let us know.*

- Dec. 5 **2nd Sunday of Advent**
- Dec. 6 **Feast of St. Nicholas** - Don't forget to put your shoes out the night before. St. Nick is sure to visit with candy treats.
2nd Week of Advent service at 2:10.
Lions Club Eye Screening for Pre K and K. Please return permission slips.
- Dec. 6 **Menu Change-** Spaghetti/ Meat Balls, Buttered Bread, Green Beans or Salad and Fruit.
- Dec. 9 **Menu Change-** Hot Dog/ Michigan, Veggie Beans and Fruit.
- Dec.12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day**
3rd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 13 **3rd Week of Advent** service at 2:10.
- Dec. 16 **Please help!** We will need help setting up the stage and risers at 8 a.m. for our Christmas Show on December 20th.
7th & 8th Grade Caroling.
- Sat. Dec. 18 **Search for The Star-** A new fun family event for grades 3-8th. Watch for an announcement.
- Mon. Dec. 20 **Christmas Program** will be presented tonight beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Students need to be here at 6:15. Remember, we will be drawing 2, \$300 Winners' Cards tonight. Do you have your Winners' Cards sold? Did you buy a ticket? We will also draw the winners for the Christmas Raffle – Quilt, \$100, \$50 Stewart's Gas Card, \$50 Country Florist Gift Certificate.
- Tues. Dec. 21 **Christmas Program** Pre K- 2nd Grade 1:00 p.m. All parents are invited. Please wear a mask.
- Wed. Dec. 22 **Family Breakfast with Santa** - We will begin serving at 7:15. Adults \$3.00. Students free. **Casual Dress Day. Pictures with Santa. Early Dismissal at 1:55 pm after lunch.**
- Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Mass, 4:00.** Our Children's Choir will begin singing at 3:15 at St. Mary's Church. Dress-Up clothes for all choir members. Mask's must be worn.
- Dec. 25 **Christmas Day Mass 9 A.M.**
- Jan. 3 **School Resumes**
- Jan. 6 **Epiphany of the Lord**



Healthy Body, Healthy Mind – Recent studies have shown that children who are active and fit have better test scores than those who are less fit and inactive. Activity before school can help students perform better on tests in school. Each morning at 7:30 before school starts the students walk around the gym for 15 minutes to music.

Thank you to those who have paid their supply fee and tuition. Remember each family needs to pay something each month. Nobody is free. Everyone needs to do his/her part. **Thank you** to all who have offered to help with the Craft Fair and Basket Raffle this year. We can't do it without your help. Thank you to Scott and Robin Hearburg for their generous donations. Thank you to Stewart's Inc. for donating gift certificates to our honor roll students. Thank you for selling RADA knives. Thank you to Mrs. Anne Charboneau for running this fund raiser and to Margy Pote for behind the scenes with the Basket Raffle.

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the gift of time. If you ask a group of adults what meant the most to them growing up, you will often hear fond memories of people who "had time for them". Given the fast pace of today's society, what might be some ways that you can build just a little more family time into your lives?

These are just a few simple ways to show you care:

- 1) **The family meal** – Do everything you can to sit at the dinner table together. This can be a relaxed time when the family can talk about the day and just enjoy being together.
- 2) **Family traditions** – these need not be elaborate. Children look forward to coloring Easter eggs, making gingerbread houses, decorating the Christmas tree, lighting the Advent Wreath, or any other activities that the family does together routinely.
- 3) **Pull out the board games** – Even young children enjoy sitting around a board game and playing as a family. This is also a great opportunity to help your child learn to be a good sport and have fun whether winning or losing.
- 4) **Be around and ready to listen** – In order for children to want to talk with parents, it is important for the parent to be available. Whether riding in a car, sitting on a couch, or just hanging out together, it is important to create opportunities for children to share what's on their minds.
- 5) **Take a hike** – Enjoy a short hike as a family, or strap on those snow shoes and take a walk. This is a no-cost way not only to get healthier, but also to build family memories.

Your family may already be creating great memories with times together. If you are, know that you are giving your child an invaluable gift. The important thing is that parents understand that it is the little gifts, often free, that mean the most to children. Your time is a more precious gift to your child than you could ever imagine!

The faculty and staff at St. Mary's pray with you, that each of us will truly "make room" for Jesus in our hearts this Holy season. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL

*Bless
Sister Sharon*

