

# ST. RITA OF CASCIA SCHOOL Principal's page December 2016

Dear St. Rita School Family,

As I write this letter, I realize that one week from today is Thanksgiving. Where is the year going? The days are getting shorter and moving faster. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. It is a day to feast with family and friends. Whether there are two people at your table or twenty people at your table this year, GOD is there too. How easy it is to think about the day to day demands and frustrations. What a grace to have this day as a reminder and give thanks to our Lord for our many blessings. This celebration is similar in some ways to the celebration of the Eucharist, the mass. We are "Gathered as God's Family" around the table of the Lord. We break bread together in memory of the sacrifice of Jesus and we give thanks. On a personal note, I am thankful each year for our St. Rita School and Parish family for the students, parents, teachers and staff. Together, we are one body, one family called to love and serve each other in Christ Jesus.



*Bette Faxon*

**REMEMBER:**  
**NO afterschool Extended Day on**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 22nd**



**ADVENT!** The new liturgical year begins on Sunday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. This is the time in the church year for PREPARING for the coming of the Savior. Somewhere in the midst of the busy holiday season, we need to find quiet time to prepare our hearts.

**Children Helping Children:** Each year, the children from St. Rita School adopt the families of the Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center. Mrs. Wilkinson was a distinguished senior member of our parish who devoted her life to serving the poor and deserving in the city of Aurora. More details will be coming soon. We will have our toy collection at mass at 9:00 on Thurs., Dec. 8th. Parents are always welcome to attend.



## **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - All School Mass  
In honor of the special feast day to  
Our Blessed Mother.  
This is a Holy Day of Obligation.

NO SCHOOL MASS ON TUESDAY, Dec. 6th



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bake Sale & Raffle:

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Each year the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class sponsors a Christmas Bake sale after all the weekend masses at St. Rita in the Gathering Space. The presentations are very festive. You can share these tasty treats with friends, neighbors, and co-workers. If any school family has a special secret family recipe and wish to donate it to the event, the class would be very appreciative. There will be raffles to take a chance on.

### RAFFLE:

- Children's Raffle - On Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and Fri., Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> during the school day, the children will be able to take a chance on special raffle items geared to the young. Children's raffle tickets are 50 cents each

Mrs. Peterson's PreK class will do a little Christmas presentation for their families on Friday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.



New preschool children are welcome to enroll for our PreK program. Four years olds are fun! Please tell your family and friends to join us. Call the office today!

### Christmas Concert 2016

All students in grades K-8 will present the 2016 Christmas Choral Concert on Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in St. Rita Church. The students under the direction of our music teacher, Mr. Robert Orland will present a program of religious and secular music for the holiday season. ALL students are required to be in attendance. Please remember to enter reverently into the worship space. "Lift Their Voices!" Our school sponsors our music program through donations and funds raised at our concerts.



DOORS OF CHRISTMAS – before the concert from 5:45-6:15. Come walk the hallways and see the festive decorated classroom doors!

### ONE VOICE CHOIR:

Our school choir under the direction of Mrs. Kendra Hiltenbrand will perform at the Paramount Theater on Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. The students will perform a variety of holiday music for the guests who will be attending the show that afternoon.



RED & GREEN DAY: Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, the students will have an out of uniform day. They may wear clothing with a holiday flair - red & green. Pull out those Christmas sweaters! They may also wear jeans and gym shoes. Please follow the out of uniform guidelines. It's our version of Casual Friday - Santa Style

NCTM: Our Math Team yesterday took the NCTM National Math Test. Great job boys and girls for all those practice sessions and hard work. Thank you to Mrs. Koeberl and Mrs. Guzauskas for their extra coaching time before and after school.



Math



Math

### *“COME TO BETHLEHEM”*

Our annual Nativity Pageant will be presented on our last day before break, Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 1:00 PM in the church. The story of the birth of Jesus is portrayed by the fifth and sixth grade students under the direction of Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. King. What a perfect way to pray together before we start our Christmas vacation. Please join us as we prepare for the special celebration of Christmas. We have an inspiring setting in our church, beautiful costumes, well trained actors and a wonderful choir. Come join us as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Lord.



### **TUITION:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> installment of tuition will be due in December. Thank you for making your payments by the due date each month. It is important for us to continue to make our financial obligations too.

### *GOING TO MASS WITH CHILDREN.....*

Does that statement make you laugh or cry? I know that taking a child to mass, especially if they are under 4 years old or in their teens, is sometimes an “adventure”. Parents seek ways to manage the hour of time with an active toddler but I always recommend that you avoid the “buffet” method. Children have been seen grazing on cheerios, crackers, pretzels or candy. In my experience, both as a parent and an observer, the food runs out in time for the homily. Then there are some teens who would rather be texting at home than coming to church. They may complain that they “don’t get anything out of it (mass). It’s boring.”

Remember, that no one promised that parenting would be easy. There is a blessing for both the child and the parent, when the family participates in the mass each week. As the parent, you are the primary religious educator of your child. Please don’t let that frighten you. It is one of the greatest blessings we are given as parents. As you help your child in their faith journey, you will deepen in your own spiritual life. As a parent of a child in a Catholic school you want to be consistent in the message that you value and observe Catholic teachings and traditions.

Please remember that the All School Mass on Tuesday is not intended to replace the Saturday or Sunday liturgy. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to go to mass each week with the students. We have our interesting challenges too! We are in this together.

Toddlers grow into young children who listen more and wiggle less. Teens will grow into adults who will come to realize one day that it was your job to guide them. We don’t know if our children will continue as adults to participate in the Catholic faith. We can’t control their future. However, we do have the right and the responsibility to guide and direct their present participation.

God bless you for your faithfulness in bringing the children into a deep relationship with God.