

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWS

"Together We Say YES to God"

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BLESSING FOR A CHRISTMAS TREE

Lord of the forest, maker of trees, we honor you as we dedicate this tree. Let it be a sign of Christmas. Green as life are its branches; soft as compassion are its needled leaves; strong as love is its trunk. May all trees be for us Christmas trees and trees of life? As sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, let us rejoice in this tree of life; may the spirit of kindness and love rest upon it. Amen.

By Thomas G. Simons
Blessings for God's People

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thank you to all who came to share the Christmas spirit at our **PTG Christmas party** last Friday. Everyone clearly had a great time! The warm company, festive decorations, and the delicious treats brought such joy to this festive season. **Many thanks to Yvette Ramirez** and her special helpers who organized all aspects of this event—decorating, shopping, cooking and cleaning-up. Their hard work was greatly appreciated by all!

We are happy to welcome back **Virginia Cochran** to our school community. Mrs. Cochran is generously sharing her time two days a week to assist students with special needs. Thank you, Mrs. Cochran, for your goodness and your commitment to supporting our students.

We are also fortunate to have **Jondeshia Marshall** at our school. Ms. Marshall will be working in our library and assisting with yard duty every day.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Mark your calendars: The annual All Saints Catholic School Christmas Concert will be held Thursday, December 17th, at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Students should be in their classrooms by 6:00pm dressed in their Sunday/Holiday best.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - DECEMBER 12

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which commemorates Mary's appearances to St. Juan Diego, is **Saturday, December 12th**. The day will begin with Las Mañanitas, at 6:00 a.m. followed by traditional Mexican pastries and Mexican Hot Chocolate in the Senior Center. At 5:00 PM there will be an All Saints Intercultural Mass featuring the Festival Choir, the World Band, a reenactment of the apparitions of our Lady of Guadalupe and much, much more. After the Mass, everyone is invited to join the procession to the gym for food, music and entertainment by the Ballet Folklorico.

There will be no 7:00pm Spanish Mass on that day.

M ISSION STATEMENT . . .

All Saints Catholic School, a parish K-8 school with Dominican roots, provides a faith-filled, safe, and nurturing environment in a community that celebrates its traditions and diversity. All Saints School is dedicated to academic excellence, to fostering every child's scholastic success, and to supporting parents in developing respectful, responsible, socially conscious children who grow in their Catholic faith and their ability to say yes to life . . . yes to God.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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Saturday, December 12th is the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Our parish will be hosting an Intercultural Celebration at 5 PM followed by a reception in the gym. Our students are encouraged to dress in their cultural clothing and be part of the procession by carrying flowers that they will place before the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It's a beautiful way for us to celebrate the diversity of our parish community!

OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held on Thursday, December 17th, at 6:30pm, in the church. The children have been practicing hard to provide you a spirit filled concert guaranteed to get you ready for the holiday.

In order to keep the concert moving in a timely fashion, we have obtained the services of a photographer who will take several pictures throughout the program and insure a professional picture of each class performance. The photographer will place all the pictures on a CD for the bargain price of \$10. Samples of the photographer's work, including photos from last year's Christmas Program can be seen in the office. Individual picture taking is therefore discouraged. Thank you for your cooperation.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS SPECIAL DRESS

Thursday, December 17th is special dress for all students celebrating their birthday in December. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

CYO CRAB FEED

Please mark your calendar to attend the All Saints **CYO Crab Feed** on Saturday, February 13th. There will be dancing and all-you-can-eat pasta, salad and crab!! Please come and support the All Saints **CYO** sport program! Check back here because tickets and more information will be available soon. For more information contact Carole Adami at 510-581-6247.

SHOPWITHSCRIP

Remember, you can place orders anytime with ShopwithScrip.com but orders are only processed on the dates listed so please be sure to check the due dates and pick up dates in the scrip section of the website. Printed orders (with payment if you are not paying online) must be in the office no later than 3pm on the due date listed in order to be available for pick up the following week. Orders received without payment cannot be processed. **ALL ORDERS**, regardless of payment type, must be printed and sent to the office. This information is needed for accurate distribution of orders. Special order forms are no longer being printed. Scrip will continue to be sold from a limited inventory on-hand after school in the auditorium every day. Registration instructions for ShopwithScrip.com are also on the school website under the link for Scrip.

GET STARTED WITH THESE EASY-STEPS:

1. **Register with Shopwithscrip.com**
2. **Place your order online any time (being mindful of due dates/pick up dates)**
3. **Print your order and send it to the office no later than 3pm on the due date (with payment if not paying online)**
4. **Pick up your order on the availability date**

SCRIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The scrip committee is in need of volunteers to sell scrip after school. If you can help with this important position please contact Mary Bulnes at 537-5225.

SVDP FOOD DRIVE

During the Christmas season, we try as a school to participate more in parish outreach programs. The St. Vincent de Paul Society has asked us once again to contribute to the holiday food baskets they will be preparing for needy families in our community. They are requesting that students in grades K-8 bring in any canned goods/non-perishable foods. A number of families will have a happier holiday season because of your generous contributions. All contributions should be brought in by Friday December 11th.

LUNCH SUPERVISION

Week of 12/11 - 12/17

F 12/11	Ledezma
M 12/14	VanProoyan
T 12/15	VanProoyan/Andino
W 12/16	Robles
Th 12/17	Andino

Lunch supervision is from 12:00 to 1:40.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN IN THE YARD DUTY BOOK IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE

TRAFFIC DUTY

Week of 12/11 - 12/17

F 12/11	Mendoza
M 12/14	Mendoza
T 12/15	Mendoza
W 12/16	Mendoza
TH 12/17	Mendoza

CHRISTMAS VACATION

Christmas vacation will begin Friday afternoon, December 18th. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4th. Dismissal on Friday, December 18th is at 12:00 noon. **KIDS KLUB WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.** The school will be closed at 12:15 p.m. so that faculty and staff may attend their annual staff Christmas luncheon.

PARENT HOURS

Parent participation hours will be collected when we return from Christmas break. Please make sure you have filled out the hours you worked for each month from June through December 2009 and total them. Unless you have completed your service hours, your form will be returned to you once the hours have been logged so that you may continue recording your service hours. Forms will be collected again in May for a final tally. If you need a form, they can be found on the schools website under the Quicklinks drop down menu at the center of the page.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

December 17th - December birthday free dress; Christmas Program
December 18th - Advent Prayer Service; Minimum Day, 12 noon dismissal; NO KIDS KLUB
December 21st - January 1st: Christmas Vacation
January 4th - School resumes
January 9th - High School Placement Test
January 18th - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday; NO school
January 20th to January 21st - Science Fair
January 22nd - Graduation pictures (8th grade ONLY)
January 31st - Catholic Schools Week Mass (9:00 a.m.) followed by Open House
February 4th - Annual VIP Day and Mass

HELPING THE HOMELESS AND HUNGRY (3H)

As part of our community outreach, All Saints Catholic School takes part in the parish Tuesday Breakfast program. Seventh and eighth grade students work with parish volunteers to serve a meal to the hungry who gather every Tuesday morning for a hot breakfast. The school asks three classes a week to provide a healthy lunch to be handed out to those who gather for breakfast. Lunches should include a sandwich (no mayonnaise, please), a piece of fruit, a dessert, a drink, and a snack item (i.e. chips, carrot sticks). Lunches should be, if possible, placed in a plastic grocery bag. Many thanks for your participation in this important outreach.

Tues 12/15	Kindergarten, third, & sixth grade
Tues 1/5	Second, fifth, and eighth grade
Tues 1/12	First, fourth, and seventh grade

POSADA

All Saints Parish invites you to participate in a community Posada. A Hispanic cultural tradition centered on the hope for the birth of Jesus, the parish Posada will include a Pastorela, a small play that projects the message of love and hope associated with Christmas. Part of the service will be in Spanish and part will be in English. Please bring your children dressed as shepherds or angels. Refreshments will be served.

WHEN: Sunday, December 20, 2009

WHERE: All Saints Gymnasium

TIME: Following the 9 AM mass

For more information, contact the Parish Office at (510) 581-2570.

ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY LITURGY

The Christmas Eve Family Mass is specifically aimed at bringing the good news of Jesus' birth to our families. One of the major ways to do this is through the Gospel Pageant, an interactive Christmas play acted out by the children during the Gospel.

All children, K-8, are welcome to participate. The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 17th, 10am in the church - choose parts, discuss costumes, and begin practicing

Friday, December 18th, 10am in the church - dress rehearsal

Tuesday, December 22nd, 10am in the church - dress rehearsal

The Christmas Eve family liturgy will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24, 2009. If you have any questions, please call Elena in the parish office at 581-2570, ext. 121.

CYO MASS AND PICTURES

The CYO Mass and Picture Day for boys basketball and girls volleyball will be on Sunday, December 13th. Players should attend the 9:00 a.m. mass in uniform and should sit with their coach and team. Pictures and refreshments will be in the gym after mass. Team picture times will be announced on the day of pictures. Questions should be directed to Carole Adami at 581-6247.