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Parent Newsletter

December 15, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Mary Catholic School community empowers students to grow spiritually, academically, creatively, and physically so they may experience, understand and live their responsibilities to God, family, community and self.

Cookie Walk: Our annual Cookie Walk will be December 16 & 17 after all Masses. **We need each family to make 4 dozen cookies.** Please avoid jellied icings, meringues and lace cookies. Also, chocolate chip cookies are easy, but too many are hard to sell. Holiday-themed cookies are the most popular. Fundraisers require participation from all parents to be successful. We keep our tuition down by doing fundraisers. We are still looking for volunteers to help out after both Sunday Masses. Please let us know if you are available. Cookies can be dropped off all day Friday or Saturday

Home and School Meeting: Thank you to everyone who helped with the Gingerbread house event. We appreciate all the families who came out to decorate and enjoy the fun!

Christmas Program: What a wonderful performance! The students did an amazing job. A big thanks to Mr. Duncan and all of our teachers who helped. Mr. Duncan worked very hard to bring out the best in each of our students.

Antiphons: For each day of Advent from December 17 to 23, the Church has special prayers that tell us who Jesus is. Each prayer starts with an O and a name for Jesus. The O Antiphons are best known as the inspiration for the Advent Hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel". We can make them a part of our Advent preparation by including them in our prayers or Advent Scripture readings on the appropriate day.

December 17 O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18 O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19 O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20 O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21 O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22 O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23 O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Movie Day: We will be walking to the Theater on Thursday, December 21, for a special movie just for St. Mary Students thanks to our Knights of Columbus.

Jean Day: Thank you to everyone who donated for our blue jean day. The students raised over \$300 for the Mt. McSauba playground.

School Closings: When the Charlevoix Public Schools cancel classes due to inclement weather, St. Mary School is also closed. To receive notification from St. Mary School, you may sign up for Remind by following the link and entering your contact information. <https://www.remind.com/join/1005bridge> OR send a text to 81010 and text this message: @1005bridge

| Week at a glance..... | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Monday, December 18 | Tuesday, December 19 | Wednesday, December 20 | Thursday, December 21 | Friday, December 22 |
| | Hot Lunch: Macaroni and Cheese P.E. | 8:30am Mass Hot Lunch: Breakfast | Half Day of School No end of day bus Cinema Day! | No School Christmas Break Begins |
| Pray for Freya | Pray for Judge Snyder | Pray for Hank | Pray for St. Mary School Families | |
| Pirie: Kline | Nordman: Kurtz | Jess: Peak | | |

Upcoming Dates:

December 16 and 17: Cookie Walk after Mass

December 20: 8:30am Student Mass

December 21: ½ day school Dismiss at 11:20am No PM Busing

December 22: No School – Christmas Break Begins

December 25: Merry Christmas!

December 1: Happy New Year!