



# Saint Mary School December 2016

Dear Saint Mary School Families

**Our school theme this year for Advent 2016 is—Be Still...**

Outside of each classroom and in our office hallway during Advent, we will have our visual reminder during this holy season of preparation to be still... We are reminded through hope, love, service, prayer, comfort, joy, listening and adoration. **CHRIST IS BORN!**

Luke 2:1-7

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

**AMEN!**



Thank you all for your service at Christmas and throughout the entire year. May your families enjoy the beauty of Christmas as we celebrate Christ's birth! The staff and I extend to you our best wishes for a blessed Christmas.

## **Saint Mary SFO General Meeting ...December 6th 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

A cordial and sincere invitation is extended to **all** families to join us. We are especially excited to present our inspirational speaker—**Wilson Kubwayo**. He writes—*How does one live life to his or her fullest potential? You cannot know where you are going unless you know where you have been. In addition, you cannot improve what you don't know. It is through knowing what you have that you seek what you don't have. It is through giving that you receive. I'm super thankful to have the mind and courage to accept who I am because it was the most difficult thing to do. It brought me from an academically challenged kid who was on the verge of quitting school at age 13 while in the Tanzania refugee camp. From a kid with a Mind Virus mindset, "if I had a better start in my life I would have had done more good things and did more things right". Then, from a Burundian child who thought God must be lazy and crazy to now a child of God who wishes nothing but to be the best version of myself no matter what. Later, to a kid who silently struggled to understand the world and its very few opportunities to now creating my own. What changed? Nothing much, I have a "why" now. My passion encourages me to never give up on my longevity to destiny. When you accomplish a goal that is near and dear to your heart, you feel a sense of direction. I have been able to accomplish a few goals through having a third world perspective. Sometimes we forget that people exist in the world who are with no feet and still trying to stand up. It is through taking those things into consideration that you become thankful for what you have and being aware that what you already have is enough to help you achieve what you want. It is about patience, character, leadership, and service to others. The skills that one can teach but cannot give you. Despite the mean face of the world when you get rejection after rejection, trials on every trail you choose to take—I don't give up for one reason: I want to lead a life so opposite from my past. I am resilient. When I speak, people wonder what environment I come from. I am not from the ghetto. I am not from the projects. I am not from the slums of Africa. I have come from a refugee camp and I am here to let the world know that we were never stupid, poor, backwards, defeated or small. It just means that the world never played on my side. And as blunt as it gets, when provided with a resourceful environment even a broken seed thrown under cement can rise from the concrete.*

[www.wilsonkubwayo.com](http://www.wilsonkubwayo.com)

## Faith opportunities in December ...



An important part of our school week is our weekly liturgies. The students and staff benefit from the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist together. Please consider joining us for the following:

- Wednesday, December 7th—8:30 a.m. planned by grade 5T.
- Wednesday, December 8th—Immaculate Conception Mass—8:30 a.m. planned by 4H. Preschool attends.
- Wednesday, December 15th—8:30 a.m. planned by grade 4L.
- Wednesday, December 21st—8:30 a.m. planned by 3D. Preschool attends.
- Thursday, December 15th—12:10 p.m. St. Mary Parish Anointing Mass. Grade 6 attends.

Parents pray the Rosary each week before our school Mass (around 8:05 a.m.). Please join

them as they pray for our school and staff.

A decade of the Rosary is said each day with our school students at 2:45 p.m. Please forward your prayer requests to us (we will recognize your intentions with a prayer certificate). The staff prays the Rosary each Friday at 7:30 a.m. Thank you volunteers for watching the office each week while we pray!

## Hot lunch program news ...

Thank you to the many parents who find time out of their busy lives to help us out in the lunchroom. If you signed up to volunteer this year, please observe the volunteer schedule each month. You will find this on the

Saint Mary School website under newsletter. If you are scheduled and cannot come (or find a substitute), please contact Mrs. Mary Beth Piatt between 9:30-11:00 a.m. or 1:00—2:00 p.m. at 334-9881.

Outside of those hours she can be reached at 338-3331.

We are grateful to the many families who stay on top of their family lunch account. We always appreciate the donation of healthy snacks for our ala carte

## Congratulations to ...

Geography Bee Finalists—

- Grade 4—Tommy Tobin & Ava Skillman
- Grade 5—Ella Walton & Dylan Majeres

- Grade 6—Kate Aday, Sydney Anel, Grace Barnett, Will Hurd, Maeve Boetel, and Rory McManus

Saint Mary School final will be held on January 6th at 2:00 p.m. (MPR).

## In our prayers ...

As a faith community we hold in our prayers -

\*Our 2nd grade students as they prepare for their First Holy Communion.

\*The Barnes family on the loss of Thad's grandmother.

\*The Lamphiear family.

\*The Evans family.

\*The Lent/Hoffman family.

\*Haydens on the loss of Larry's mother.

## Christmas Program presentations...



We are proud to share the celebration and birth of Jesus and the Christmas season with our musical presentations. Our Kindergarten program will be December 2nd at 9:00 a.m. (gym/stage). Preschool will present their program on December 9th at 9:00 a.m. (gym/stage).

Our grade 5-6 band student program will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Grades 1, 2, 3, and Grace Notes vocal music program was presented on Monday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the O'G PAC. Our students and instructors work very hard to prepare these programs. We humbly ask your assistance in maintaining a respectful and attentive audience.

## Advent Benedictine Service Project...

Within our Sioux Falls community there are many opportunities to extend outreach to people in need. There are “giving trees” for so many needs and causes and ways to assist others during the Advent and Christmas season. In the midst of all these requests (plus those within our own families and parishes), we again are hosting our Benedictine Sisters “tree of giving”.

The Sacred Heart Monastery is located in Yankton, SD and is home to 89 Sisters (ages 30-102). They are a monastic order that follows the rule of St.

Benedict. They are committed to prayerful service. We are fortunate beneficiaries of their faith-filled witness in our Diocese. The Sisters’ “wishes” are placed on ornaments on two trees in our school. These trees made their “debut” at our donut day but there are ornaments that haven’t been taken. Please visit these trees and select an ornament to help us with this project. Please return the wrapped gifts with the ornament attached by December 14th. The Sisters would greatly appreciate it if you would include your family names on the

ornament or inserted in the gift.

From our grade 4 teacher—Sr. Carmella Luke (our very own Benedictine Sister) - *“please know that the stars are not something we are asking for. We see these gifts as expressions of honor by the Saint Mary School families in recognition of our service. We humbly accept these gifts and in turn keep all families in our prayers.”*

Thank you project coordinators—**Amy Kusmak, Hilary Longo, Michelle Majeres, Ann Henkhaus, Tricia DeMore, Susan Hurd, Carol Rogers, Paula Denevan, Michelle Bruns, and Deanna Peters.**

Stay up-to-date by following us on Twitter -  
@SaintMarySchool



## Thank you to our first semester volunteers and committees...

**Uniform Exchange**—Tania Hicks and Annie Gordon

**Room Parents**—Jaclyn Aberson, Paige Bock, Caitly Lacey, Elizabeth Alick, Leslie Bannwarth, Molly Ellefson, Annie Welsh, Megan Sage, Laura Kneip, Anne Haber, Kristen Peterson, Tiffany Hohn, Katie Heavlin, Jaime Miller, Rosy Rojas, Molly Christianson, Lynn Bendaly, Karen Gourley, Cynthia Jones, Kerry Boetel, Susan McDowell, Annie Gordon, Susan Hurd, Rebecca Barker, Claire Santos, Rosana Jamous, Jessica Kleinsasser, Anne Haber, Kimber Severson, Tammie Berdahl, Laura Vucurevich, Marcia Schmitz, Jen Mentele, Sara Garry, Tara Tobin, Jen Gonzales, Bridget Czarnecki, Mary Huber, Rita Eggert, Kim Hove, Teresa Gevens, Sarah Flynn, Rachel Tribble, Jana Sweetman, Peggy Brower, Anne Hayden, Barbara McDowell, Nicole Ratzlaff, Christy Zwagerman, Rima Mohama, Sheila Zimprich, Salena Reimer, and Missy Brewster

**Friday morning—office during staff prayer**—Jackie Lent, Laurie Finnegan, Elizabeth Alick, Vicky Reker, Stephanie Kunkel, Jaime Miller, Megan Sage, Karlee Bathke, Edith Liu, and Emily Glatt

**Health Screenings**—Ann Henkhaus, Nicole Barnes, Heidi Mahrous, Jamie Sheridan, Tracy Bieber, Claire Santos, Chrissy Johnson, Nancy Ortmann, and Rebecca Barker

**Advent Service Project**—Amy Kusmak, Hilary Longo, Michelle Majeres, Ann Henkhaus, Tricia DeMore, Susan Hurd, Carol Rogers, Paula Denevan, Michelle Bruns

**Picture day**—Nicole Barnes, Kelli Ebbesen, Lynn Bendaly, Lisa Jones, Ann Henkhaus, Rosana Jamous, Annie Gordon, Kerry Boetel, Susan McDowell, Salena Reimer, and Rebecca Barker

**Staff luncheon for conferences**—Jenni Struck, Edith Liu, Ann Henkhaus, Susan McDowell, Kerry Boetel, Lisa Jones, Mary Theobald, Rachel Tribble, Bobbi Jo Van Wassenhove, Amber Kelly, Erin Faber, Christy Ernst, Marcia Schmitz, Kelly Jones, Heidi Mahrous, Jaime Miller, Megan Sage, Rita Eggert, Kristen Thorkelson, Susan Sabers, and Jenny White

**Donut day**—Nicki Ellerbroek, Annie Welsh, Teresa Livermont, Mary Huber, Charla & Emily Aramayo, Susan Hurd, Rochelle Sweetman, Ann Heiman, Karen Gourley, Kim Hove, and Paula Hagen

**Program Reception**—Patrick Steffen, Jaime & Troy Miller, Kali Vondra, Amanda Smith, Kara Arend, Kristen Thorkelson, Leslie Bannwarth, Marqaux Tiangco, Jen Walsh, Kerry Olson, Lauri Finnegan, Megan Sage, Rebecca Barker, Emily Petoske, Abby Walton, Mary Huber, Ashley Kayser, Tricia DeMore, Theresa Groos, Vicky Reker, Mary Theobald, Lynn Bendaly, Becky Greble, Molly Christianson, Karen Gourley, and Dua Anderson

**Book Fair**—Susan McDowell, Kerry Boetel, Bobbi Jo VanWassenhove, Bridget Czarnecki, Carol Rogers, Rochelle Sweetman, Kim Hove, Kathy Rutten, Kelly Illikman, Jenni Struck, Jenny White, Amanda Smith, Anne Haber, Deanna Peters, Jane Sejnoha, and Nancy Ortmann

## Thank you to our first semester volunteers and committees. continued..

**SFO executive committee**—Edith Liu, Rory Kelly, Jim Rysavy, Theresa Leveritt, Jeff Heavlin, and Julie Fischer.

**Lunch program volunteers**—we especially appreciated all the extra help during Mrs. Mary Beth Piatt's recovery—Ann Henkhaus, Julie Fischer, Jana Sweetman, Rachel Tribble, Jackie Lent, Amber Kelly, Erin Faber, Lauri & Mike Finnegan, Tricia DeMore, Jessica Kleinsasser, Chere Rosa de Sharon, Bridget Czarnecki, Becky Greble, Paula Denevan, Tiffany Walker, Ellie Smith, Karen Gourley, Rosie Rojas, Sheila Zimprich, Rita Eggert, Teresa Gevens, Heather Oakland, Margaux Anel-Tiangco, Katy Sonstegard, Deanna Peters, Nancy Ortmann, Emily Glatt, Amy Kusmak, and Lale Tuttle.

**Drivers/chaperones for events and fieldtrips**—Annie Gordon, Mary Huber, Kerry Olson, Megan Sage, April Saufley, Kristen Thorkelson, Margaux Anel-Tiangco, Elizabeth Alick, Jenny White, Molly Ellefson, Lauri Finnegan, Karen Gourley, Paula Hagen, Jaime Miller, Katherine Wang, Stacey Terveen, Tyson & Michelle Thill, Hue & Thomas Tran, Rebecca Barker, Wes Eisenhauer, Ashley & Matt Kayser, Laura Kneip, Heather Oakland, Sarah Peterson, Megan Sage, Shawn & Katie Travis, Annie Welsh, Terra Brost, Anne Haber, Nicole Rentschler, Danny Soetaert, Katie Campbell, Ty Whiting, Lynn Bendaly, Tamme Berdahl, Paula Denevan, Kelli Ebbesen, Rita Eggert, Julie Fischer, Becky Greble, Katie Hanson, Jaime Miller, Rosy Rojas, Katy Sonstegard, Dua Anderson, Tricia DeMore, Karen Gourley, Jennifer Roose, Jennifer Whiting, Jill Beuckens, Kerry Boetel, Christie Ernst, Gene & Cynthia Jones, Cena & Tom Merrick, Kristen Klinkhammer, Renae Pekas, Molly & Justin Satter, Jenni & Mark Vortheims, Alison Bailey, Aaron Canfield, Trish Barnett, Erin Faber, Annie Gordon, Kelly Illikman, Chrissy Johnson, Amber Kelly, Amy Kusmak, Hilary Longo, Susan McDowell, Josh Sapienza, Brandy Smith, Marguax Anel-Tiangco, Bobbi Jo VanWassenhove, Sarah Wishard, Michelle Bruns, Tina Casey, Jen Condron, Susan Hurd, Karla Jackson, Laura Kneip, Claire Santos, Jaime Whiting, Stephanie Berry, Mike & Lynn Bowers, Sara Garry, Emily Glatt, Rosana Jamous, Michelle Majeres, Jessica Kleinsasser, Deena Cunningham, Abby & Marcus Walton, Alison Bailey, Aaron Canfield, Austin Eich, Mandra Connelly, Jessilynn Healy, Lisa Jones, Dana Kouri, Teresa Livermont, Jarrod & Kathryn Muller, Erin Stanton, Edith Liu, Jenny White, Elvia Elmen, Chris Jones, Jen Mentele, Nicole Picconi, Marcia Schmitz, Bridget Czarnecki, Heidi Mahrous, Nichole Miner, Kathy Rutten, Lori Skinner, Tara Tobin, Nicole Barnes, Tara Bohms, Chris & Jackie Lent, Tammy Skillman, Mark & Jenni Struck, Shelley Watson, Michele Fonder, Theresa Gevens, Susie Heineman, Kim Hove, Susan Flynn, Pat Ronan, Lilibeth Sarmiento, Rachel Tribble, Maureen Brooks, Peggy Brower, Susan Sabers, Anne Hayden, Jana Johnson, Jennifer Johnson, Sarah Sorrell, Jana Sweetman, Mary Theobald, Susan McCoy, Barbara McDowell, Rima Mohama, Nicole Ratzlaff, Jill Reents, Nancy Savage, Sheila Zimprich, Christy Zwagerman, Janelle Aday, Tina Casey, Lisa Jones, Deanna Peters, and Salena Reimer

**Fall Festival Chair people**—Tamme Berdahl, Molly Hillman

**Volunteer coordinators**—Rachel Tribble, Jocie Davis & Lisa Tiensvold

**Bake Sale**—Heidi Mahrous & Molly Satter

**Printing**—Hosea Bennett

**Fun Run**—Ann Hayden, Stacey Terveen, Susie Heineman, Derek Robey, Cory Faber, & Chris Isaacson

**Silent Auction /solicitations/donations**—Susan Hurd, Jana Sweetman, Becky Greble, Molly Christianson, & Edith Liu

**Games**—Jackie & Chris Lent, Hilary Longo, Jamie & Nolan Whiting, Teresa & Ryan Gevens, Eric & Michelle Majeres, & Ann Henkhaus

**Raffle**—Amber Kelly, Nicole Picconi, Kara Arend, Tricia DeMore, & Lynn Bendaly

**Event Treasures**—Julie Fischer, Bridget Wenande, & Jim Rysavy

**Kitchen**—Rey & Jen Gonzales, Danny Soetart, Erin McManus, Big Rig BBQ (Bob & Nicole Brennan), hot dogs (Kyle Bohms) egg rolls (Hue Tran), and Wingstop (Claire Santos)

**Décor/Pumpkins/Mums**—Sara Garry, Christie Benz, Jen Condron, and Theresa Leverett

**Classroom basket coordinators**—Jaclyn Aberson, Kristen Thorkelson, Paige Bock, Stacey Terveen, Katie Travis, Kristin Peterson, Katy Sonstegard, Tricia DeMore, Nicki Ellerbroek, Chelsey Kortan, Susan McDowell, Rebecca Barker, Jessica Kleinsasser, Susie Heineman, Edith Liu, Amy Kusmak, Claire Santos, Mary Huber, Jackie Lent, Jocie Davis, Anne Hayden, Marb McDowell, and Lisa Jones

**We are abundantly blessed by all the people who help and support all our work on behalf of our students and staff.**