

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

November 30, 2011
Volume 9, Issue 5

Monsignor Peter P. Buchignani, Pastor
Mrs. Beth York, Principal
Mrs. Vicki Boyd, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Mary Annette Keating, Assistant Principal

www.sfawolves.org



www.sfawolves.org

Phone: 388-7321

Absentee: 381-2555

EXT.CARE: 381-2595

Sodexo: 381-2551
sandra.cole@sodexo.com

Admissions News...

Applications for students **NEW** to St. Francis School for the 2012-2013 school year need to be turned in by *December 15, 2011*. This includes siblings of current students already attending SFA School.

(The re-registration process for currently enrolled students will begin in February.) If you have family members or friends interested in our school, please have them call Mrs. Susan Fetz at 381-2548 for more information

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December, 2011

- 1** *Religious Goods Sale, 8am-4pm, MPR; Christian Witness Awards following 8:15am Mass, Grades 6-8;*
- 2** *First Friday*
- 4** *SFA Musical Auditions; Open to 5th-8th Graders; 1pm-4pm, Activity Room*
- 5** *Advent Wreath Lighting, 8:00am Gym*
- 6** *St. Nicholas Feast Day; Pajama Day-“Bring a pair, wear a pair”*
- 8** ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception – NO SCHOOL***
- 10** *Father/Daughter Dance – sponsored by Home/School -6:30pm, SBA Dining Hall*
- 11** *1st-4th Grade Basketball & 5th- 8th Grade Baseball/Softball Registration deadline – 1:30pm-3:00pm PLC*
- 12** *Advent Wreath Lighting, 8:00am Gym*
- 14** *Christmas Programs – PK-5th Grade, PLC*
- 14-16** *Middle School Exams – Dismiss at 11:15am*
- 16** ***Christmas Break begins-ALL STUDENTS DISMISS 11:15am***

December 19-January 2 – Christmas Break

SFA Music Department Presents...

Don't miss these wonderful opportunities for our students to show off their talents in celebration of the holiday season!!

December 1st - Band Concert at SBA - 7:00pm

December 1st - Middle School Choir performs at *Starry Nights*-7pm at “Mistletoe Village” (<http://starrynightsmemphis.com/>)

December 6th - Middle School Choir performs for the Residents at the *Ave Maria Home* - 9:00am

December 14th - **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS - SFA Church PLC**

PK, JrK & Kindergarten - 8:45am -9:15am

1st - 3rd Grades- 9:30am - 10:15am

4th-5th Grade- 10:30am - 11:00am



Grandparents/Special Friend's Dinner & Open House February 2, 2012

For those of you who are new to our school, this is a tradition at St. Francis that is enjoyed by all! The students invite their grandparents and/or anyone who is an important part of their life, such as, Godparents, aunts, uncles, coaches, neighbors, etc.

Simply send us your student's grandparent and/or special friend's COMPLETE mailing address and WE WILL SEND THE INVITATION FOR YOU! Invite as many grandparents & special friends as you like!

Send Addresses to
tina.sosnowski@sfaschool.cdom.org or to
the school office.

The evening will include dinner, the opportunity to shop at the *Scholastic Book Fair* and the *SFA Spirit Shop*, a visit with your student's teacher and classroom and *New This Year!* "The River City Rice Show" created by SFA students will be on display in the school gym. Plan ahead and don't miss this exciting evening!

**Invitations will be sent to parents,
grandparents and special friends
mid-December**



Several of our students auditioned for the prestigious **All-West Junior Honor Choir**. The goal of the choir is to put on a concert with the best West TN singers in 7th to 9th Grades. Over 400 students auditioned for the junior high honor choir from schools all over west Tennessee.

Congratulations to Erin O'Brien, Brian Shaffrey, Sophie Bougeois, and Baylee Thielemier for being selected members of the All-West Choir!

National Junior Beta Club

Thursday, November, 17, the National Junior Beta Club held an induction ceremony for its new members. The induction ceremony was led by this year's officers:

Matthew Barczak (President),
Leah Cluck (Vice President),
Sarah Turner (8th grade Secretary),
Baylor Beardon (Treasurer), and
Max Thielemier (7th grade Secretary).

Congratulations to all the new members!

Lindsay Arvin, Ashley Buckingham, Grant Burks, Maggie Callahan, Bryana Clancy, Blake Criswell, Will Dearman, Nicole Ferris, David Fryt, Jake Griesmer, Raymond Guasco, Mary Elizabeth Hagan, Ashley Hammond, Katie Hieatt, Lily Howard, Amanda Magusiak, Robert Tyler Maxwell, Sarah McMahan, Dale Pitawanakwat, Caroline Raulston, Emily Reber, Daniel Smith, Will Urban, Erin Yoser, Caroline Allen, Katelyn Dabney, Matthew Fehrenbacher, Lexie Fletcher, Isabella Giddens, Matthew Hammond, Lauren Michele Harrell, Sam Incardona, Elie Kiameh, Megan Morrison, Anna Schuman, Allison Sorette, Emily Sosnowski, Sarah Webster, Andrew Barczak, Laurance Murphy Boyd, Jack Brannon, Mark Brouwer, Indie Caldwell, Catalina Carrasco, Mac Clark, Ashley Clemente, Catherine Crowe, Sarah Henson, Juliette Hirsch, Sarah Hovanec, Mia Lawson, Caroline McClure, Katie Morris, Emily Odom, Johnathan Radcliff, Tyler Joseph Richards, Michelle Shah, Margo Valadie, Sarah Waddell, Andrew Williams, Noelle Ybos

The SFA Scripts Spelling Bee was held on Monday, November 21st. Congratulations to the following spellers! **Emily Hieatt**, 6th grade received first place, **Erin Bargiachi**, 6th grade, second place and **Katie Hieatt**, 8th grade, third place! Great job girls!!

Congratulations to **Kara Drago**, 7th grader, whose artwork won at the district level of the Lions Club *Peace Poster Contest!* Awesome poster, Kara!



SPORTS NEWS....from the desk of Karen Baird, Athletic Director

BASKETBALL registration for 1st - 4th grade boys and girls is NOW OPEN. The walk up registration (Deadline) will be Sunday, December 11th in the PLC from 1:30 - 3:00 pm \$50.00 Participants must be students at St. Francis School or attending St. Francis PRE. The season will begin mid-February. Late registrations will only be accepted if space is available. Coaches needed. A printable registration form can be found at www.sfawolves.org

Early registration is available through the church office, the Athletic Director's office, or online at:

http://www.cdom.org/Web_Sites/StFrancis/YouthAthletics/YouthAthletics.htm

BASEBALL & SOFTBALL registration for 5th – 8th grade is NOW OPEN. The walk up registration (Deadline) will be Sunday, December 11th in the PLC from 1:30 – 3:00pm. \$50.00 Participants must be students at St. Francis School or attending St. Francis PRE. The season will begin mid-February. Medical forms are required.

A printable registration form can be found at www.sfawolves.org. Early registration is available through the church office, the Athletic Director's office, or online at:

http://www.cdom.org/Web_Sites/StFrancis/YouthAthletics/YouthAthletics.htm

Any questions, call Karen @381-2569

SFA Home and School Association News...

Father Daughter Dance - December 10th -
SBA Dining Hall - **RSVP** to
siovinelli@bellsouth.net - All girl students of
St Francis School are invited.

**Home & School Christmas Luncheon -
Ornament Exchange** - Dec 13th Noon -
RSVP to jbougeois@comcast.net - No cost -
just bring an ornament to exchange.

Thank you to Mr Dan Lohrman, Middle
School Counselor, for his awesome and
informative presentation at our Home and
School meeting in November. We all learned
a lot about our kids and ourselves!

Next meeting - January 10th – 12:00pm
Lunch, 12:30pm Meeting in the PLC
All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Have a wonderful and blessed holiday!



News from the SFA Extended Care Office...

School is closed on December 8th (Feast of the Immaculate Conception). Extended Care will be open if we have 20 registered students who sign up and prepay by the deadline. Should we not have 20 students, we will refund the money to those who prepaid. Remember, if we are open, there is no refund for a student who is signed up and does not attend.

Extended Care will now provide lunch for students attending when school dismissal time is 11:15am. (December 16th is a half day; 11:15am dismissal) You must, however, sign up for lunch to be provided and add \$2.00 to your weekly fee.

Also, there are no payments due during the two weeks of Christmas Break (December 19th – December 30th). Weekly payments will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

December 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception - NO SCHOOL - Extended Care OPEN (if 20 sign up & prepay)
December 14 – 16 – Exams 6th – 8th – 11:15 Dismissal for 6th – 8th Extended Care OPEN
December 16 – Last Day before Christmas Break - 11:15 Dismissal ALL Students -Extended Care OPEN
December 19 – January 2, 2012 – Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL – Extended Care CLOSED
January 16, 2012 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL – Extended Care CLOSED

Timberwolves Helping Others

Wow! Our 2nd Quarter Donation out of uniform day raised over \$1,350 and our Red Ribbon Week Canned good drive yielded almost 1,000 cans for Catholic Charities! Be sure to Friend "Catholic Charities of West Tennessee" on Facebook to see photos of Mike Allen, CEO of Catholic Charities (and an SFA Parent), along with Mrs. York and our students as they presented the donations.



During the Advent Season, our students have the opportunity to participate in service projects to help those in need. Please remember that all grade level service projects are optional. You may participate in as many or as few as you wish!

- ❖ All Grades - Pajama Program - "Bring a Pair, Wear a Pair", sponsored by the SGA. The Pajama Program provides warm sleepwear and books to needy children. Students may wear PJ's to school and bring a pair (or book) to donate on December 6th. (Student's may wear pajamas that day even if they do not donate).
- ❖ All Grades - "Coats for Kids" - As we do each year, we will collect coats for those in need in our community! Please place your gently used Children's and Adult Coats in the collection boxes located in each building through December 15th. Donated coats will be given to Catholic Charities.
- ❖ 1st, 7th and 8th Grades - collect for "**Gifts for God's Children**", sponsored by Catholic Charities. Gifts are needed for children ages 0-18 years old and the elderly. New, unwrapped gifts will be collected in each school office until Thursday, December 15th. Gift cards should be enclosed in an envelope with the store name and amount printed on the outside. Gift suggestions for children are: Legos, Barbies, cars, action figures, Footballs, Basketballs, Soccer Balls, and dolls. For Teens: anything electronic, purses, perfume, DVD's, watches jackets, gloves and backpacks. For the elderly: slippers, robes, pajamas, blankets, crossword puzzles, hats and gloves.
- ❖ 2nd & 3rd Grades - Project Outreach. Items being collected include toys, clothing and paper products. **Project Outreach** is a nonprofit, nondenominational organization that serves the poor and marginalized of Fayette County.
- ❖ 4th Grade is supporting "**Ronald McDonald House**". They are collecting items for teens and adults to be used in a "**Holiday Shop**" where St. Jude children can shop for gifts for family members.
- ❖ 5th Graders are partnering with *Sahn Malen Junior Secondary School*, in Sierra Leone, West Africa, supporting **Schools for Salone**. Students will be collecting spare change-pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, to help these schools. (Amy Schober, daughter of Mrs. Schober, is working with these schools as a Peace Corps volunteer).
- ❖ 6th Grade is collecting for the **Juvenile Detention Center of Shelby County**. They are collecting new or gently used books - young adult fiction/non-fiction, magazines, biographies, and career/college material.

Partners in FAITH™

December 2011

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish



Thoughtful Moments

Mass Changes

As of November 27th, you will have noticed that some of the prayers and responses we say at Mass are different than those to which we have been accustomed. Many of the changes use more poetic and reverential language. This is an opportunity to look at the familiar Mass with new eyes and a new appreciation.



A lived faith

Enrolling children in Catholic school or sending them to parish religious education is an important first step toward raising them in the Catholic faith. But it is only the beginning. The most important part is showing children how to live their faith each and every day. That kind of education can only come from a Catholic parent.

God came

The miracle of Christmas is that the God of love came to us. Isn't that amazing? Even more incredible, he hasn't left. Look for ways you and your family can find Jesus in the world this Christmas.



Put Christ's love back into your family's Christmas

Shop the malls in October and you may see Christmas decorations. Even grocery stores play carols before Thanksgiving. Don't let the barrage of holiday selling rob you and your family of a truly joyful season. Try these suggestions for reducing stress, boosting joy, and putting Christ's love back into Christmas.

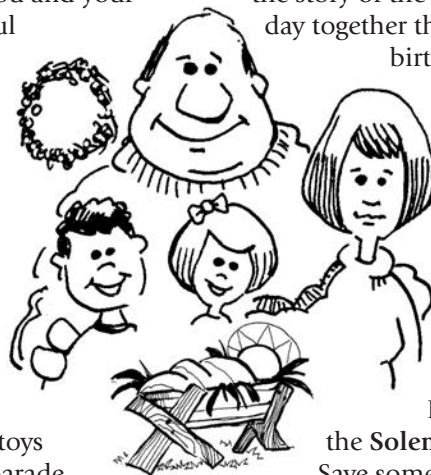
Avoid Christmas commercials. Nothing kills the spirit of Christmas like children pleading for over-priced, poorly made toys they just saw in the parade of holiday commercials. Instead, record the good Christmas shows and fast-forward through the commercials. Or, turn off commercial television and rent Christmas movies or

check them out of the library.

Separate your Christmas celebrations. Reserve December 25th for Christ's birth. Attend Mass, read the story of the Nativity, spend the day together throwing Jesus a happy birthday celebration. Let the 26th be the day for the secular celebration.

Make it last. Celebrate each day of the whole Catholic Christmas Season. Gather family close for a special meal on the **Feast of the Holy Family** (Dec. 30).

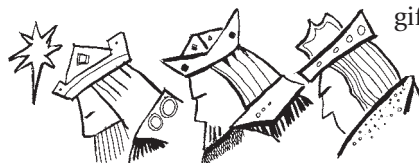
Pray for world peace on the **Solemnity of Mary** (Jan. 1). Save some Christmas gifts to give on the **Epiphany** (Jan. 8) to honor the Magi's gifts. Renew your Baptismal promises on the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** (Jan. 9), the last official day of the Christmas Season.



Why Do Catholics Do That ?

Why did the Magi give gifts to Jesus?

The Magi knew that they were traveling to greet a new king and brought gifts that were appropriate at the time for a king. Over the years, the Church has reinterpreted the gifts in terms of Jesus' life.

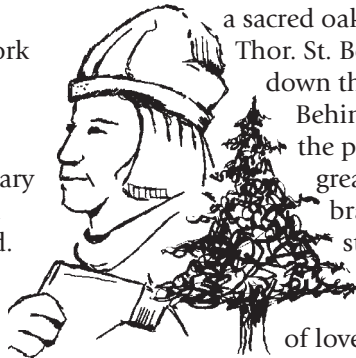


They gave him gold to recognize his royalty. The expensive gift of Frankincense, often burned to carry prayers to Heaven, was a symbol of Jesus' priesthood. His last gift, Myrrh, was used in burial preparations, a sign that Jesus would suffer and die for us.

The Christmas Tree teaches about love

Like many of our Christmas traditions, the background of the Christmas tree is a patchwork quilt of many cultures. One piece concerns St. Boniface, a missionary in the time of Pope St. Gregory II.

St. Boniface's greatest challenge as a missionary was to eliminate pagan superstitions that kept people from accepting the Gospel he preached. One Christmas Eve, St. Boniface was traveling through the woods with his companions and came upon the townspeople gathered around



a sacred oak about to offer a human sacrifice to their god, Thor. St. Boniface stopped the sacrifice and chopped down the oak.

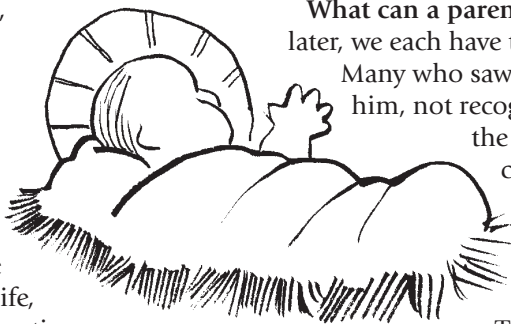
Behind the oak stood a fir tree. St. Boniface asked the people to bring it into town and set up in the great hall of the duke. They placed candles on its branches and listened while St. Boniface told the story of the Nativity and the Baby who would grow up to be the Savior and sacrifice himself for all of us. Many were captivated by the story of love and were converted.

Scripture LESSON

John 1:1-18 Who Is Jesus?

This month we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. By coming to Earth, living among us and teaching us, he taught us about God and his nature. We are able to share in God's divine life through Jesus's life, death and Resurrection.

In this gospel, St. John explained that Jesus took on our humanity because he loves us and wanted to share our experience. He chose to live as we live. He experienced what we experience.



Remembering that, we can also know with confidence that Jesus understands us.

What can a parent do? Sooner or later, we each have to make a choice.

Many who saw Jesus rejected him, not recognizing him as the Messiah. Help children to make a deliberate choice to recognize Jesus as their own personal Savior.

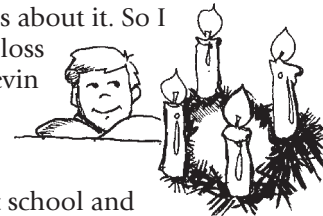
Teach them to ask,

"Do I live my life as if

I'm a child of God?" Tell them what it means to live as a child of God and to follow Jesus. Jesus is our friend and brother.

Parent TALK

Growing up, my family didn't practice many Catholic devotions. I mean, we went to church, but that's about it. So I was at a loss when Kevin came home from



Catholic school and asked if we could light an Advent wreath. I had seen them in church, but we didn't own one.

I went online and read that an Advent wreath is a symbol of the four-week season before Christmas when we await the coming of the Savior. We could make our own using a Styrofoam ring, three purple candles, a pink one, and some greenery. So I got the supplies and we made a family Advent wreath.

During the busy season it was nice to take a few quiet moments to turn off the lights, light our Advent candles and say our Advent prayers.

Something else that has meant a lot to me is knowing that we joined millions of families all over the world in this beloved ancient tradition.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 6 – **St. Nicholas (350).** St. Nicholas gave away most of his fortune and is credited with saving three girls from being sold into slavery to pay their father's debt. His anonymous acts of generosity helped him become the patron saint of children.

Dec. 8 – **Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** The day we celebrate Mary's conception in St. Ann's womb, free from Original Sin. A Holy Day of Obligation.

Dec. 14 – **St. John of the Cross**

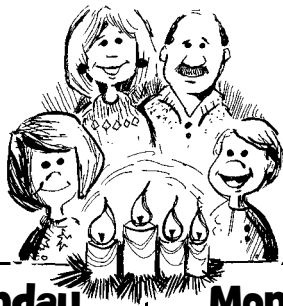
(1591). As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came while in prison. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

Dec. 27 – **St. John (1st century).** An apostle, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could rain fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to descend upon the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.





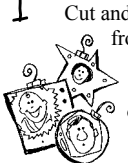

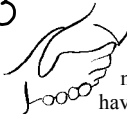

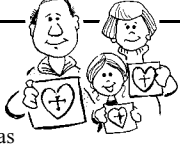




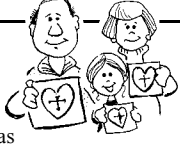


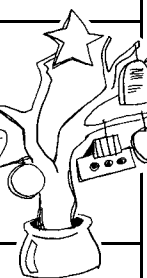








Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith* and *Partners in Faith*
(540)662-7844 (540) 662-7847 fax
www.partnersinfaith.com
(Unless noted, Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and New American Bible.)



Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 27  Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first purple candle each night this week.	28 Read together about Elizabeth and Zechariah's special blessing in <i>Luke 1:5-25</i> . 	29  Set up your Nativity scene, but leave out the Holy Family.	30 Make cookies to bring to a nearby nursing home or homeless shelter. 	1 December Cut and paste pictures from Christmas cards you receive into ornaments for your tree. 	2 Attend Confession as a family and go out to dinner afterward to celebrate forgiveness! 	3  Ask a family member you have hurt in the past year for forgiveness. Offer it to one who has hurt you.
4  Light two purple candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."	5 Read about the angel's remarkable visit to Mary in <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> . Talk about ways we can also say, "yes," to God. 	6 Send Christmas cards to your pastor, priests, and religious or ordained ministers who are important to your family. 	7 Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling. 	8 In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception , attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight. 	9 Together, write your Christmas cards. Let older kids address the envelopes and younger ones seal them.	10 Clean out your closets of unwanted clothes or toys in good condition. Donate them to a shelter or other charity.
11  Light two purple candles and the pink one for joy. See which of you can sing loudest at Mass today.	12 Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it. 	13 Set the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the rest of the scene.	14 Write letters to Baby Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming. 	15 Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day. 	16 Family Movie Night: Make some popcorn and watch a Christmas movie together.	17 Put up and decorate your family Christmas tree. 
18  Light all four candles in the wreath tonight. Read today's Gospel reading, <i>Luke 1:39-45</i> .	19 Move Mary and Joseph closer to the Nativity scene. Try to imagine what it was like to travel to Bethlehem by donkey.	20 Decorate a "Jesus Candle" with symbols of Jesus. Save it to light during Christmas dinner. 	21 Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready. 	22 Take a drive or walk around your home to look at the Christmas decorations or displays. 	23 Send a thank-you note to the priests or other parish ministers who enriched your seasonal celebration. 	24 Give each family member a chance to say "thank you" for a blessing God has given this year.
25  Put the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in <i>Luke 2:1-20</i> .	<p>... 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.</p> <p>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 Messiah 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." When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:4-19)</p> 