



St. Denis – St. Columba School

A Holy Ground of Loving and Learning

Family Newsletter



Week of December 18, 2017

Gaudete Sunday

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of our Lord Jesus (both his first coming and his second coming), and by the third Sunday of Advent, we are most of the way through the season. The third Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday. Pope Francis instructs us that Gaudete Sunday is known as the "Sunday of JOY," and that instead of fretting about "all we still haven't" done to prepare for Christmas, we should "think of all the good things life has given us." This final week of school before Christmas, let us all pause and be **JOYFUL** for all the good things in our lives!



Grandparent/Senior Citizen Luncheon and Christmas Concert – Thank You!

Thank you to all those who made our annual Grandparent/Senior Citizen Luncheon and Concert such a success! Over 150 local Senior Citizens enjoyed a delicious free turkey lunch with all the trimmings, followed by a wonderful performance of our Christmas Pageant.

Luncheon Coordinator: Mary Ann Menuau **Food and Drinks:** Fr. Michael and Priests of St. Columba Parish
Cooks ("Santa's Helpers"): Danielle Peratikos, Heather Sulca, Ken Helkoski, Libby Kish, Darlene and John Polidoro, Tara Maucieri, Mrs. Mulvey, Mrs. Smith, Christa Kennedy, Bridget Connolly, Stacey Reis, Gerri and Caitlin Schneider, Veronica Allgaier **Classroom Supervision:** Christa Kennedy, Anne Criscuola, Bridget Connolly, Stacey Reis, Alexandra Sullivan, Veronica Allgaier, Eileen Bernhardt, Dawn Colabatistto,
Set-up and Clean-Up: Gary Bartilucci and Robert Parlapiano **Servers:** Mrs. Sheridan and the 7th Grade Class

Christmas Pageant – Thank You!

Thank you to Mrs. Fisher for her hard work and dedication in preparing our students for the Annual Christmas Pageant. What a beautiful show! We are also most grateful to our faculty for their work in supporting the pageant.

Christmas Shoppe – Thank You!

Thank you to Tara Gigliotti and Coleen Murray for coordinating our annual Christmas Shoppe. On hand as Santa's Helpers Yiota Kakavas, Lori Kermel, Theresa Lesko, Marge Schifini and Mary Ann Servidio. Thank you! The students enjoyed buying gifts for their loved ones. The Christmas Shoppe raised over \$550 for the PSA to help fund student activities!

New Drama Director

Just before Thanksgiving we were informed that our drama director of two years, Miss Victoria Bartolotti, is no longer able to make a commitment to our SDSC drama program. **We are happy to announce that we have a new Drama Director, Mrs. Christine Manning**, who has a passion for theater. She has not only worked in theater herself for many years, but she has also worked with children of all ages in her company, *4th Wall Theatrical Productions*. She comes very highly recommended and is so excited to be a part of our SDSC Drama Program. She will be meeting our students in Grade 5-8 on Monday afternoon to discuss some of the opportunities of being a part of a theater production. We welcome Ms. Christine to SDSC and wish her God's many blessings with us!

Breakfast with Santa

Special Thank you to our 8th Grade Parents and students for hosting our annual Breakfast with Santa this weekend! What a great way to share the Christmas spirit with our parish community!

NEW Student Applications

We are now accepting applications for NEW students for the 2018-2019 school year. Families with siblings entering school next year must submit an application – *but only for the new student*. Follow the “Apply Now” link on the school website. There is no cost to submitting an application. Thank you for choosing SDSC for the growth and development of your children!

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To Everything there is a Season and a Time for Every Purpose under Heaven

Let us continue to keep in our prayers the many among us who are sick and suffering.

A TIME TO HEAL

Kelsey B. (6-year old cousin of Winogradoff children who has leukemia and a very rare brain tumor)
Eileen Rubin (friend of Sr.Kathleen’s sister who has a very large inoperable tumor pressing on her kidneys)
and the many who are sick and suffering in mind, body or spirit at this holiday season.

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Christmas NUT Day! – Friday , December 22

As a Christmas gift to all of our students, Sr. Kathleen has declared Friday, December 22nd a “No Uniform Today” (NUT) Day! Students are encouraged to wear **Christmas colors** that day. Please be sure that all clothing is respectful and modest as outlined in the Parent-Student Handbook. Merry Christmas to all of our students!

December 22nd Christmas Parties and Christmas Vacation

On Friday, December 22nd our Christmas Lunch Celebrations will take place from 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m. in the classrooms. There will be **No Hot Lunch** and **No After School Program** the last day before Christmas vacation.

Christmas vacation begins on Friday, December 22nd at our 3:00 p.m. dismissal. **School will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd**. During Christmas break our maintenance men, will “spruce up” the school building before the New Year. We are asking that the children *clean out their desks, throw out the extra “stuff”* they’ve *accumulated* over the last few months and *make sure all their books have good covers* on them so that when we come back in January we can begin anew. The children are also asked to bring home all their notebooks, folders, pencil cases, and any books they may want to use for review over the break.

*Wishing you and your families a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year!*

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Looking Ahead to the New Year

Tuesday, January 2 nd	School Reopens
Friday, January 5 th	Epiphany School Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. (Grade 3 planning Mass)
Tuesday, January 9 th	Life Touch Graduation Pictures
Tuesday, January 16 th -19 th	Math, ELA, and Religion Midterm Exams