


DECEMBER NEWS



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS: During December we will celebrate Advent and then the Christmas Season. The church year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. The word “advent” means coming. The season of Advent is about three important comings of Jesus: his birth long ago, his promised coming at the end of time, and his coming into our lives now in the Spirit. It should be a family time of preparation and joyful anticipation for Christmas--the feast of the Incarnation, and the everyday ways that Jesus comes into our lives.

The usual symbol is the Advent wreath. This wreath can be simple or elaborate-but it is basically a green wreath with four candles representing the thousands of years that people waited for the coming of the Messiah. A new candle is lit each week.

FEASTS: Remember that this month we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, St. Nicholas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Stephen, St. John and the Holy Family. Why not take time in your family to do something special on these days. At least find out what or whom the feast celebrates!

THANKSGIVING PARADE: St. Clare has a float in the Grosse Pointe Parade on Friday, November 25th at 9:00. All are encouraged and invited to attend. Meet at Grosse Pointe Blvd, section F3 near Fisher Road. “D is for Detroit” is the theme, so either dress “Detroit” or in our black, white and red colors.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Our annual Christmas program will be presented on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 in St. Clare Church. All students are expected to be in attendance and in their classrooms by 6:30. All are welcome to attend. Students in K-8 need to “dress up.” No jeans, jean skirts, sweatshirts or tennis shoes please.

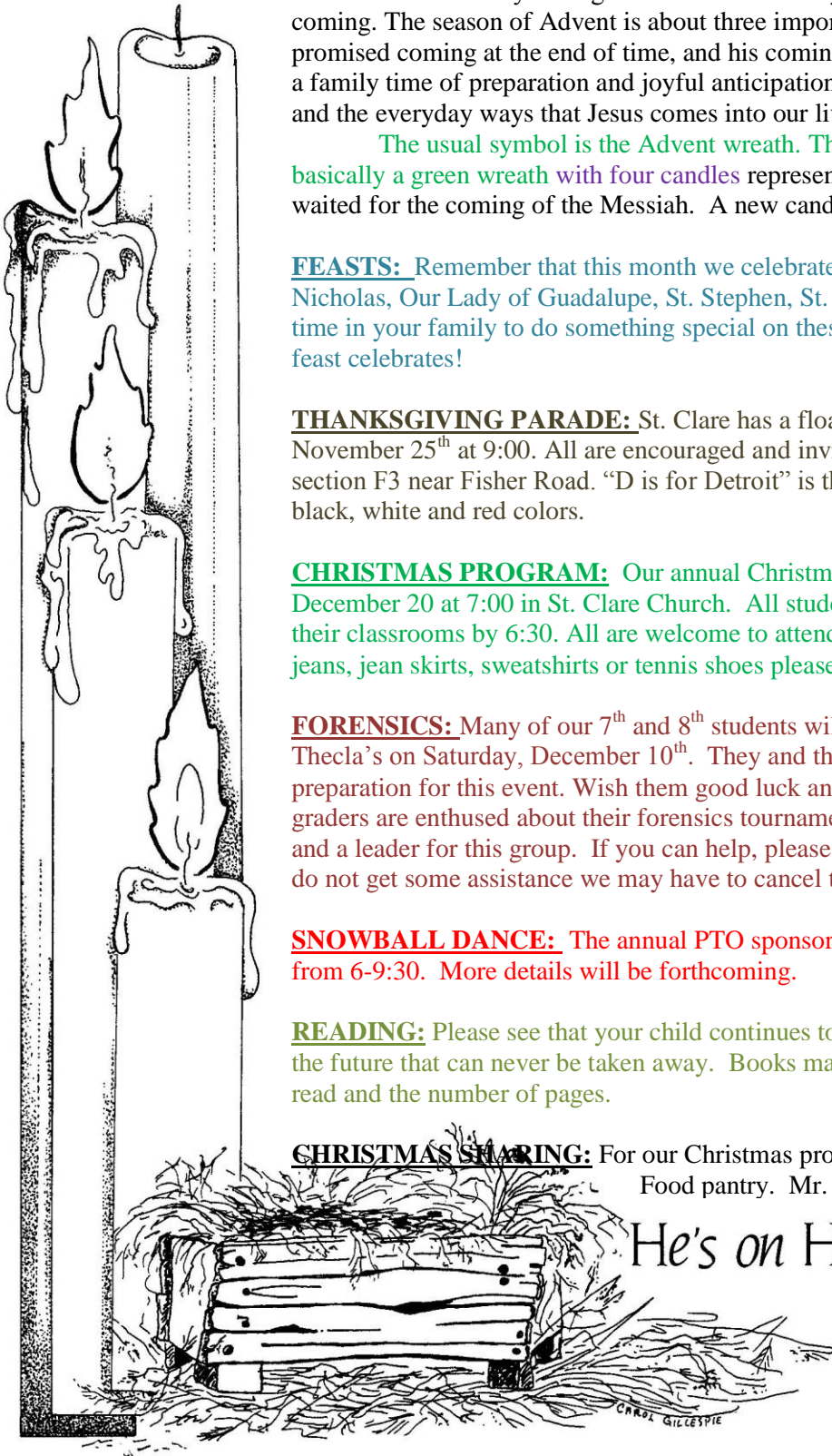
FORENSICS: Many of our 7th and 8th students will participate in a forensics tournament at St. Thecla’s on Saturday, December 10th. They and the teachers have been working all semester in preparation for this event. Wish them good luck and say a prayer for them. Our 5th and 6th graders are enthused about their forensics tournament. However we are still searching for judges and a leader for this group. If you can help, please contact Mrs. Pawlowski or Sr. Kathy. If we do not get some assistance we may have to cancel the program.

SNOWBALL DANCE: The annual PTO sponsored Snowball dance will be on December 10th from 6-9:30. More details will be forthcoming.

READING: Please see that your child continues to read over the holiday season. It is a gift for the future that can never be taken away. Books make a great gift. Please keep track of the books read and the number of pages.

CHRISTMAS SHARING: For our Christmas project we will be collecting cans for Gleaners Food pantry. Mr. Lundberg is arranging the details.

He's on His way



AUCTION: The auction is one of two major fundraisers for the PTO and thus for the school. It depends on everyone's help. There are large and small jobs. You can do something. Please do not leave it to someone else to do. We need to see new faces getting involved so the great traditions of St. Clare can continue.

One area we would like to increase this year is the number of ads for the booklet and our acquisitions. If you are a good salesperson, we need you. If you or someone you know has a business, please consider placing an ad in our auction booklet.

See Sonja Zakolski to volunteer. We need you at the next meeting December 6th at 7pm in the latch key room. **The auction is March 24. Save the date!**

OLGA'S FUNDRAISER: On Monday, December 5th, Olga's Kitchen-Starboard at 24060 Harper in St. Clair Shores will help the PTO with a fundraiser. They will give a percentage of your bill to the St. Clare Enrichment and Technology Program. You must present a certificate for your bill to profit the PTO, so please make sure you have a form before you enter.

Repeat: WEATHER RELATED TOPICS: Now that the weather has turned on the cool side, please see that your child has appropriate outerwear. Hats and gloves should be worn also. **Students are required to take to the lunchroom at lunchtime, all the clothing they will need to go out for recess.** We will be going outside for play unless the temperature or wind chill at 11:15 AM is below 20 degrees.

Only **solid navy sweaters (cardigan, vest, pullover) or St. Clare logo navy sweatshirts of appropriate size may be worn inside the building. A regulation shirt/blouse must be worn with the sweater/sweatshirt. A white turtleneck may be worn under a long sleeve shirt/blouse. Christmas sweatshirts may be worn December 6-January 6.**

Also when the snow begins to fly and the weather is considered "bad", please listen to Channel 2, 4 or 7 for school closings. The PTO will also have their CALLING SYSTEM or fan out. I will try to make the decision by 6:00.

TUITION/FEE PAYMENTS: One of the most difficult jobs the principal of a Catholic School has to deal with is tuition matters. I hate it. If it were up to me anyone who desired a Catholic education would receive it. But providing a good Catholic education has its own expenses; your tuition dollars cover some of the costs of our teachers' salaries, utility bills, insurance premiums, etc. Without tuition payments, we wouldn't have a school.

At this time several of your tuition payments should be made. Fundraising obligations should be underway-each family has a \$250 obligation due in April. Thank you to those who are sacrificing to keep your obligations.

Some of you may be receiving exclusion notices because of unpaid tuition.

If you have a graduating 8th grader, please be advised that all money due St. Clare School must be paid before a diploma will be issued, records are sent, or participation in activities will be allowed.

The tuition policy is written in the handbook on pages 6 and 7. This is a document of the School Commission. Please refer to it.

CHRISTMAS BREAK: Christmas break will begin at 11:35 on Wednesday, December 21st. Extended Care will not be open on this afternoon. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

CONGRATULATIONS: Congratulations to Ayana Hill and Korey Pearson Hill on the birth of their baby girl, Kai. She is the little sister of Kamryn in first grade.

PRAYERS: Your prayers are requested for Mrs. Monastersky who had some knee surgery last Friday. She should be back in operation after Thanksgiving.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: There are no classes scheduled for the month of December. The classes in January are in the Livonia and Bloomfield Hills. I will be happy to host a session here at St. Clare if there are at least 25 people interested. Are you interested? Please email me with your names. skavery@stclarem.org.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: On Sunday, January 8th there will be a Blood Drive here at St. Clare in the social hall. Please consider giving the gift of life during this holy season. You never know when you or a member of your family will need the gift of blood. And if you need it, you want it to be available. So please think about it. If you did not already give us notification that you might be interested in donating blood, you can still let us know and you can still show up on January 8th! The time will be determined by how many people have signed up. More information to be forthcoming. I'll even come and hold your hand if you need support!

EPIPHANY EDUCATION CENTER: Sr. Alice Baker and Sr. Marie Cyril Delisi, both IHM sisters are Co-Directors of the Epiphany Center. They offer after school tutoring for children in grades 1-8 from October through May. Students come on Mondays-Thursday, for two one-hour sessions per week either from 3:30-4:30 or 4:45-5:45. The program is individualized and children receive assistance in reading and math on a one-to-one basis from volunteer certified teachers. If you are interested call 313-267-1830 to register.

COOKING SHOWS YOUR INTEREST? On Monday, November 28, the *Traffic Jam Restaurant* will be featured at 10PM on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives on the food network. I hear Roanan "stole the show."