



**IMPORTANT DATES/UPCOMING EVENTS**

- December 7 First Trimester Report Cards
- December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception School Mass @ 9:15 am Awards Assembly in Church right after
- December 13 Christmas Concert (7:00 pm)
- December 16 Dress Down Day and Hot Lunch (\$1.00 for Catholic Charities)
- December 19 Saint Mary's Christmas Concert @ 10:15 am in the gymnasium
- December 22 Manger Blessing and Christmas Sing Along-9:30 am in the church
- January 2 School Resumes

**FROM THE DESK OF MR. KAPPERMAN**

Dear Parents,

**Update on Diversity Assembly:** The Parish Administration has been hard at work creating a character education program "Putting Prayer Into Action" which will kick off after the first of the year. A letter highlighting this will be forthcoming. In addition, I would like to thank the Home School Association for providing input to the School administration to aid us in our decision to postpone the diversity assembly as we conduct research on the best way to move forward.

**First Marking Period Honors:** The Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart has announced first marking period honors:

9th Grade

Anneliese Przybyla

10th Grade

Kelly Boersma\*  
Jessica Fisher  
Cheyenne Jones  
Olivia Keicher  
Emma Zwack

11th Grade

Hannah Lewandowski\*  
Bridget Schiltz\*

12th Grade

Isabel Davidson\*  
Caitlin Peek  
Kathryn Pieroni\*  
Aoife Scannell\*

(\* Indicates "with distinction") Congratulations to our alumni!

**School Career Connection:** Our students can benefit from the real world experiences you are willing to share. As we prepare for our upcoming career exploration day, Immaculate Conception School is looking to compile a list of our parents careers. This list will also be useful for allowing the School to reach out to parents when we need services during our everyday operations. I would like to reach out to families before researching outside companies and businesses when work needs to be done around the School. Thank you in advance for your willingness to share this information and to further build the community atmosphere within our School! (Please fill out the card and return to the main office)

**Christ in Christmas Poster Contest Deadline Approaching!:** Please remember to submit your Christ in Christmas Poster to your teacher for a chance to win a nice prize! It is important that we always remember the reason for this blessed season. This is a great way to get involved! All posters are due no later than December 12th.

**Advent Family Calendar and Resources:** I have enclosed a copy of some additional Advent resources courtesy of Sister Judy. I also am attaching the week two Advent reflection to the bottom of the newsletter.

Have a blessed week!

*Scott C. Kapperman*  
Mr. Scott C. Kapperman M.S., Ed.



## Sunday, Week Two

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. Luke 2:9*

I'm certain that the Bethlehem shepherds' eyes were open. (It was their duty to be watchful, after all.)

Then, suddenly, the dark sky was alight! An angel soared above them! "Open your eyes," the angel told them. "And look for a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." The angel pointed those wide-eyed shepherds right toward God's promised Savior.

Keep your eyes open, shepherds. The Light of the World is truly here.

*Open Your Eyes This SEE-Son...*

You probably don't have to look far to see opportunities to point others to the light. Donate toys, blankets or baby items to a charity this SEE-son. Be an out-of-sight angel shining the light on behalf of that Bethlehem baby.

## ADVENT WREATH

I encourage each family to make an advent wreath for your home. Gather around the wreath each week, light the candles and pray the Advent prayers.

The wreath (a circle) is the symbol of eternity; the evergreens, a symbol of hope; the four candles, a symbol of the four weeks of Advent and the thousands of years that the world waited for Jesus; the purple candles, a symbol of penance; the pink candle, a symbol of joy.

**First week:** (light the first purple candle)

God, we are blessed with the gifts of faith, and we thank you for that gift. As we light this candle, help us to trust in you and say “yes” to you with all our hearts. Amen.

**Second Week:** (Light two purple candles)

God, in faith we find hope. As we light the candles of faith and hope, we remember and believe in your promises to us. We give you all our struggles this day. May we always find our hope and help in your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**Third Week:** (Light two purple candles and the pink candle)

God, as we light these candles, we thank you for all the blessings in our lives. You have done great things for us. In you we find faith, hope and great joy. We thank you especially for the gift of our family and the joy we share. Amen.

**Fourth Week:** (Light all the candles)

God, you have given us faith, hope and joy. Forgive us for all the times we have made hurtful choices. In you we find our true peace. Help us to live the peace of your Son in our hearts, in our family and in our world. Amen.



## A BLESSING PRAYER BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS CRIB

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Ch. 9:1-2,5)

Let us pray in silence for the coming of peace into the world and into our home.

Lord,

As we pray before this Christmas crib  
and continue to celebrate the feast of the Birth of Christ,  
call forth the dormant child from within each of us;  
in this most ancient feast.

As the magi came bearing gifts,  
may we, this Christmas season and new year, gift one another  
with the gold of charity,  
the myrrh of kindness,  
and the incense of prayer.

With the shepherd,  
we come to the birth of Christ  
seeking simple celebrations of life,  
where the greatest gift will be ourselves  
given to You, our God, and to each other.

May the star of Bethlehem  
which shone brightly over the first crib  
stand guard over our home,  
filling it and all the earth  
with light and peace.

Sing "*Away in a Manger*" (words on back)

*All:*

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You  
because by Your holy birth  
You give hope to all the world.



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*Away in a Manger*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the heavens looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.*

## BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

There is something special about an evergreen tree: probably because it's *ever* green! In the middle of winter, when everything else is grey and white, the evergreen is a sign of hope. It's a promise that spring will come sooner or later.

That very first Christmas, Jesus' birth was a sign and a promise too. Jesus is an everlasting sign of God's love. He loves us so much that he sent us his Son. Jesus birth is also a promise of new life for all of us. His birth is the reason we put up the tree and get ready to celebrate the Coming of the Lord.

Whenever you see an evergreen tree, say to yourself *God loves me forever.*

Let us pray

God, You always give us what we need. You are faithful to your promises and loving to all the creatures you have made. We thank you for giving us hope through Your Son. We thank you especially for this tree. May we grow as trees grow, healthy and strong, until we become what you want us to be. Help us to grow in our faith, rooted in your love. Amen.

All extend their hands as the tree is blest.



# STREAM SCHOOL CAREER CONNECTION: CONNECT YOUR PERSONAL WORK STORY TO LEARNING!

When material learned in school is both relevant and personal, student motivation increases.

As part of the STREAM Education Initiative, we look to have our parents offer a window into real-life application. To that end, we want to offer opportunities for our students to see how skills and themes they learn in school are applied in daily life. (Example: web designer in Tech class or ELA persuasion unit or Landscaper for plant life/design for Science)

Our students can benefit from your willingness to share your real world experiences!

Parent Name:

Email Address:

Company Name:

Industry Type:

Position/Expertise Currently:

PREVIOUS Area of Expertise:

Are you able to connect your career with school skills/themes for a 15 min.-45 min. guest spot with our guidance? \_\_\_\_\_

Which time of day is best for you to visit? \_\_\_\_\_ THANK YOU!



Thank you families of Immaculate Conception School for your continued support with the refugee program in Buffalo. Your winter donations are very much appreciated.

Please call me, or drop off at school, any winter clothing, boots, blankets, etc., and I will see that they get to the families in need.

Thank you,

Donna Hofer  
523-2538



# Christmas Bazaar Thank You!

Thank you does not effectively convey the gratitude we feel for everyone who participated in this year's Christmas Bazaar. Whether you helped with set-up, tear-down, baked cakes or treats, crafted items, were in charge of a booth, worked at a booth, donated items or just came and shopped; this was a fantastic event!!

Thank you also to the Parishioners who donated items. We had more donations this year than ever before! What a wonderful show of support for the school!

Finally, thank you to the Faculty and Staff for all you do for our children. You have created a loving, safe space for them to learn, and grow. Your time, talent, and care are seen in the enthusiasm of the students as they come back to their families each day.

We can't wait for next year!! GOD BLESS ICS!!!!

Amanda and Derek Punaro

**Earn money for our school while you shop!**



**amazon**smile

**Each time you shop with Amazon\* this holiday season, they will make a donation to Immaculate Conception School!**

**It's quick and easy - just log on to  
smile.amazon.com**

**Enter Immaculate Conception and choose  
East Aurora, NY to get started**

**Thank you for your support!**

**\*You must enter through the smile.amazon.com portal  
for the school to get credit for your purchase.**

# Do all your holiday shopping with Scrip!

Scrip is a great way to give gifts and make money for our school at the same time! A portion of the proceeds benefit ICS and help keep important programs running at our school. With these great retailers and more, there's something for everyone this holiday season!



## Thank you for your support!

For more information,  
contact Becky Davidson at 655-3713