



St. Catherine School Weekly Newsletter (December 16-20)

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Principal's Message

Dear St. Catherine Families,

I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the many wonderful Christmas gifts and cards I received from families and coworkers. Your kindness truly warms my heart. I recognize that often when I interact with parents, it's because a difficult conversation needs to be had—perhaps a phone call or email about a student who made a poor choice. Yet, even in those moments, I find our families to be cooperative, understanding, and invested in what's best for their children.

In recent weeks, I've reflected on why I'm consistently excited to come to work each day. The answer always leads me back to you—our families. You're the ones who generously volunteer your time, readily answer the call when help is needed, and proudly share the value of a small, faith-centered school like ours with your friends and neighbors. I have colleagues who work in public schools who often say their greatest challenge is working with parents, or I've heard stories of educators leaving the profession due to constant parental discord. That's simply not my experience here.

We are blessed with parents who truly support our mission, trust us to guide their children, and genuinely care about the success and well-being of our students. Your faith in what we do and your partnership in this journey makes a world of difference. I'm so grateful that, together, we can foster a community where faith, learning, and service thrive.

Thank you for reading my sometimes-lengthy emails and for continuing to trust us with your children's formation. Jesus taught by example, and you, as the first teachers of your children, model Christ-like love and support each day. I wish your families a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. I can't wait to welcome back your kids on January 2nd!

Reminders

- **January 2nd:** Classes resume after Christmas Break.
- **Lockers & Items:** Students will be bringing items home today, Friday, December 20th (the last day before break). Please check backpacks for breakables, water bottles, or any food items.
- **Food Allergies/Sensitivities:** Mrs. Kennedy reminds families that students with food allergies or sensitivities need current documentation on file with the school. Please ensure this is updated if needed.
- • **Office Hours during Break:** The school office will be closed for most of the Christmas break. If you need assistance, please reach out via email. The church office will be open on business days except Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

St. Catherine Spotlight

- **All-School Mass:** Our third graders provided the music for Mass, and it was truly wonderful! (I'll admit I'm slightly biased, as my son is in that class, but I loved every minute.)
- **Featured Artwork:** Congratulations to Bailey Muske (Grade 6), whose beautiful Nativity artwork will be featured in this weekend's bulletin. Thank you, Bailey, for sharing your talent with our community!
- **Reading Challenge Joy:** A second grader recently completed a reading challenge, which included a series of books with amusing titles like "Our Principal is a Spider." When I asked if the stories were funny, the student's enthusiastic giggle and quick "Oh definitely" said it all.
- **Kindergarten Humor:** A kindergartener casually informed me he had to "toot" while walking—and then happily reported when it happened. Keeping a straight face was no easy task!
- **5th & 6th Grade Perspective:** During dismissal, I asked students what they were looking forward to this Christmas season. One 5th/6th grader answered without hesitation: "food." It's a simple answer, but it certainly made me smile.



Stay Connected with St. Catherine School

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