

# SAINT MARY ACADEMY

## NEWSLETTER

Phone: (502) 315-2555

Web site: [www.SaintMaryAcademy.com](http://www.SaintMaryAcademy.com)

December 6, 2011



### CATHOLIC IDENTITY

#### LITURGY

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Our next All-School Liturgy will be celebrated on Thursday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This liturgy is being planned by 6D.

Parents, grandparents, and parishioners are invited to join us at mass each week. Come celebrate Eucharist with us!

#### RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to our second graders on the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week. It was a beautiful way to prepare for the Christmas season. You all did a great job!

All our students in grade 3-8 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on December 15<sup>th</sup> in preparation for Christmas.

#### ST. NICK SURPRISE

Today, December 6<sup>th</sup>, all our students put one of their shoes in the hallway in hopes that St. Nicholas might leave a treat for them. What a surprise when they left their classroom, and each shoe had a candy cane!

Special thanks to our PTO for helping St. Nicholas with these treats!



### CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

#### PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Our Pre-School Christmas Program will be held on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. in the gym. Cookies and punch will be served after the performance. Parents and grandparents are invited.

### K-3 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in our gym, our students in grades K-3 will have a Christmas Program for parents, grandparents, and parishioners of Immaculate Conception and St. Bernadette. Please mark your calendars now for these wonderful events!



### INFORMATION SESSION FOR INTERESTED FAMILIES

Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00-9:30 a.m.

Our December Information Session for Interested Families will be conducted next Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, in our Media Center from 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. This Information Session is for parents who may be interested in sending their son or daughter to Saint Mary Academy. We will provide an information packet, a question and answer session, and a tour of our beautiful building.

If you or someone you know is interested in attending SMA, please call the school office at 315-2555 to register for this session.

### SIXTH GRADE SHOWCASE

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Showcase was held on Saturday at Maurice Bowling Middle School in Owen County. We are so proud of the way our students represented Saint Mary Academy! The following students placed in the various categories:

#### Science

Chris Keller 4<sup>th</sup> place

#### Social Studies

Chris Keller 5<sup>th</sup> place

#### Arts & Humanities

Kaelyn Harris 5<sup>th</sup> place

#### Written Composition

Emily Guernsey 6<sup>th</sup> place

Way to go, Monarchs!

## PRE-REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Mark your calendars now for our Pre-registration for new students. It is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in our library. This is for ALL students enrolling at SMA for the **first time**. A \$500 deposit per family is required at pre-registration which will be applied toward your 2012-2013 tuition. (This deposit is non-refundable.) More information about what to bring to the pre-registration will be forthcoming.

## PRE-REGISTRATION FOR STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN SMA (Re-enrollment)

Pre-registration forms and fees for our present families will be due by January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please find enclosed in the Tuesday Folder, and attached to this e-mail, a pre-registration form to re-enroll for the 2012-2013 school year. A \$100 deposit per child is required to hold a place for next year. Send forms and deposits to school by January 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Special Incentive for Present Families:** If you send the pre-registration form and the deposit by January 13<sup>th</sup>, you are eligible for a drawing for \$100.

Don't be late! If your pre-registration form and deposit are not turned in by January 20<sup>th</sup>, we will open spaces to new families.

## COUPON BOOKS

Please return your Coupon Book or the envelope and money (cost is \$20.00) by December 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions about this fundraiser or have not received the books you ordered contact Theresa Whalen by phone or email at: 442-7642 or [rtwhalen@insightbb.com](mailto:rtwhalen@insightbb.com).



## SPORTING NEWS By Jeff Medley

I first want to thank all the volunteers that have assisted in getting basketball and winter cheerleading rolling. Special thanks go to our basketball coordinator John Langford for his time and effort he has put in to this time consuming job. He has not had any children playing at SMA, but has still given his time and has approached his job with integrity. He has truly tried to develop a basketball program that is fair to **all** our children and develops players and winning teams. We

have had teams make the city championship and division championships with his guidance. I bring this up, because John has informed me that this will be his last year as boys' basketball coordinator as he finishes his term.

**The Boy's Basketball Coordinators position will open.** If anyone is interested in being the basketball coordinator, please contact me via e-mail by January 1<sup>st</sup> at [jeffmedley50@live.com](mailto:jeffmedley50@live.com). We will hold interviews if there are multiple candidates. The selected person will begin working with Mr. Langford and me immediately as we begin to plan for next year. Anyone is welcome to apply, but those with a strong background (playing or coaching) in basketball and connections to the local basketball scene are encouraged to get involved. This is a great way to get involved at SMA and make a difference in the lives of young people.

**The Track and Cross Country position has opened.** Joe Durbin has given our school many years of dedicated service and has been an example of those who coach and volunteer even without having a child involved. Joe's son is heavily involved in sports at another school and wants to be there to enjoy watching him. Again, anyone wishing to be the Track and Cross Country coordinator should contact me at [jeffmedley50@live.com](mailto:jeffmedley50@live.com) by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Christian spirit is being exemplified by Saint Mary Academy sports. As the football teams completed a philanthropic project in the fall to exemplify that life is much bigger than sports to our student athletes, our basketball teams have done so as well. The Saint Mary Academy Basketball teams collected blankets to help warm the homeless. This project was featured on [www.catholicssports.com](http://www.catholicssports.com). I have attached the link. <http://catholicssportsnet.com/louisville/articles/2011/11/25/elementary-excellence--monarchs-aim-to-give-back>. Thank you to all the families who donated blankets and the coaches who helped organize getting the blankets. A special thanks to Scott Porter for organizing Saint Mary Academy sports involvement in the project. The Crown Club is doing an excellent job running the concession stand and managing getting the gym up and running. That job entails setting up the gym for our leagues that we host and much more. This is a terrific way to meet others and contribute to the SMA athletics, and they are seeking volunteers that want to have some fun and help out.

**Attention basketball coaches for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teams:** The Christmas program for K-3 will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the school gym. This is a wonderful program for the school and is a proud accomplishment of our music program. Please let your players know the school expects them to perform in the music program, even if they may have basketball practice scheduled.

Thank you so much for all of your assistance and your willingness to volunteer. We could never offer the opportunities to our children without the help of our volunteers.

**REMINDER:** The gym is not available on the following date: Dec. 15 – Christmas Program

## KINDERGARTEN TOY COLLECTION

**Tomorrow is the last day!**

Our Kindergarten students are collecting new or gently used toys (ages 7-13) for the Schuhmann Center between November 30-December 7th. Please send toys to your child's homeroom teacher and thank you for your generosity and support. Merry Christmas!

## GALA AT THE BROWN

The Taste of SMA has a new name and a new twist! The Saint Mary Academy Gala will be held at The Brown Hotel on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Same wonderful evening of silent auction, live auction, but the NEW twist will be a delicious buffet dinner provided by The Brown. Come dance the night away with The Monarchs! Tickets go on sale in January. They will be \$50 a person.

- Dec. 12-14: Domino Dough Nights
- Dec. 13 – Information Session and Tour 8:00-9:30 a.m.
- Dec. 15 – All school Liturgy @ 8:15 a.m.
- Dec. 15 – Reconciliation for Grades 3-8 after our school liturgy
- Dec. 15 - Pre-school Christmas Program @ 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria
- Dec. 15 – Christmas Program for grades K-3 at 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 16 – Class Parties
- Dec. 16 – Early dismissal @ 11:30 a.m. for Christmas Break
- Dec. 19-Jan. 2 – Christmas Break
- Jan. 3 – School Resumes
- Jan. 4 – PTO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 5 – School Liturgy @ 8:15 a.m.
- Jan. 16 – MLK Holiday – NO School
- Jan. 17 – Information Session and Tour @ 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24 – Pre-Registration for New students 8-11:00 am



**REMINDER:**

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

Saturday, December 10  
9:00-12:30 p.m.  
At all Archdiocesan High Schools

Students need to bring:  
Elementary school code 060  
Two #2 pencils  
\$10.00 to cover the cost of the test

We wish all of our eighth graders much success and good luck on this placement test. We know you will do well!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 5-7: Secret Santa Shoppe
- Dec. 6 – St. Nick Day
- Dec. 6 – Chick-fil-A Night
- Dec. 7 – PTO Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8 – Liturgy for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 8:15 a.m. in the gym
- Dec. 10 – High School Placement Test for 8<sup>th</sup> graders



## INCLEMENT WEATHER

(PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR.)

The Office of Lifelong Formation and Education does not always follow Jefferson County's announcements about weather related school closings. The Superintendent of Lifelong Formation and Education will make an announcement on the major radio and TV stations. One of the following announcements will be made:

1. All Catholic elementary schools in Jefferson County are OPEN. (This means that Saint Mary Academy will be open.)
2. Catholic elementary schools in Jefferson County will be OPEN BUT ON A DELAYED SCHEDULE. (In this case, Saint Mary Academy will open at 10:00 a.m.)
3. All Catholic elementary schools in Jefferson County are CLOSED. This will mean that Saint Mary Academy is CLOSED.

The decision for early dismissal due to inclement weather will be made only in an EXTREME emergency. Under no circumstances will children be dismissed early without parental notification. Our REACH ALERT will be used to inform parents of the emergency closing.

Parents are asked to refrain from calling the school during early dismissal so that the phone is clear for emergencies. If conditions worsen, parents may come early, report to the office, and take their children home.



**REMINDER:  
EARLY DISMISSAL**

**Friday, Dec. 16th  
11:30 a.m.  
No lunch served**

**School Resumes  
TUESDAY, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

With this said, “What is the most important item on your “refrigerator” at present and how can it be an experience of bringing Advent hope to your family?”

God bless,  
Julie Tobbe, M.Ed



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**

**Christmas at Immaculate Conception  
*Music for the Christ Child***

Sunday Afternoon, December 11, 2011, 4 PM  
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
502 North 5th  
LaGrange, KY 40031

Tickets:  
\$6 Student, \$15 Sr Adult, \$18 General Admission  
**LouisvilleChorus.org**  
**502-968-6300**

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Immaculate Conception**  
Saturday – 5:00  
Sunday – 8:00 and 10:30



**PRINCIPAL POINTS**

Dear Parents,

This week I came across a reflection on Advent by Jay Cormier, author of *Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas*, which really made me think and check out my fridge. The title of his reflection is *Just in Front*

*of the Butter and Leftover Chicken*. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

*“Years from now, when archaeologists and sociologists seek to study our culture and the intricacies of life in the first decades of the twenty-first century, perhaps their best source of information will not be found in libraries, museums, or other such depositories of information and data.*

*To find out what we really are all about, they should study our refrigerator doors.*

*The refrigerator door is the place where many an overscheduled family keeps their master calendars of who has to be where and when. It’s the place where busy parents and children communicate with one another through Post-it Notes. It’s the place where cartoons that make us laugh are shared, where photographs of important memories are displayed, where words of wisdom that have moved us and touched us are cut out and kept before us.*

*Thanks to the effect of magnet to metal, our refrigerator doors chronicle our lives, our belief systems, our goals, and our dreams. What we really believe, what is really important to us, is right there in our kitchens for all the world to see, on the way to the mayonnaise.*

*Advent challenges us to take a look at our “refrigerator doors,” day planners, and journals to see what makes us who we are, on what ethical and moral principles we have built and continue to rebuild our lives. These days before Christ’s coming call us to center our lives on the “rock” of God’s peace and compassion that is our protection against the storms that batter every house and heart. “*



**ST. BERNADETTE PARISH**

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**St. Bernadette**  
Saturday – 5:00  
Sunday – 8:30 and 11:00

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### **A Christmas Carol**

Performed by the St. Luke's Players

Friday, December 9, 2011

*Showtime – 8:00 p.m.*

*Dinner – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

*Visit from Santa Claus – 7:00 p.m.*

Show tickets: \$7.00 adult

\$5.00 for Senior Citizen/Students

\$20.00 per family

Dinner Tickets: \$5.00 or unwrapped toy

Magel Center – 2040 Buechel Bank Road

Louisville, KY 40218

(On the grounds of St. Bartholomew Parish)

Sponsored by the St. Bartholomew Parish Men's Club

For ticket information contact Mike Mullins at 502-239-7018

---

### **Heart at Home**

From the American Heart Association Newsletter

#### **Tips for Staying Healthy During the Holidays**

**Stay active:** One of the best ways to beat stress is to move your body. Yoga, running, Cross Fit and the gym are all great options. As the weather gets colder, try a brisk walk in a local park. Anything that keeps you moving and gets your heart rate up is a wonderful way to manage stress.

**Make holidays plans early, but it's OK not to have any plans too!** Waiting until the last minute to make plans can add to your stress. Take time in advance to figure out what you're going to do, whether its plans to drive, fly, board your pets, or stay with family. If your holidays aren't filled with plans to spend time with family or friends, try to relax and enjoy the time for yourself. Catching a movie, relaxing at home, buying a new book, or taking a leisure shopping trip can all be options if you're solo.

**Be selective about what festivities you join:** If you find that you get a number of requests for special dinners and parties, be mindful about which you attend. To go to every party you're invited to may leave you completely exhausted, broke and frazzled. If you're the type to get a number of invites, go to the events you'll get the most out of. Make it less about "being seen" and more about having meaningful connections.

**Get your rest:** Sleep is so important to health. Try to stick to a sleep schedule of at least six hours a night. Even though the temptation might be there to sleep late on the weekends, try keeping to a regular schedule.

<http://chatsworth.patch.com/articles/ten-tips-for-staying-healthy-during-the-holidays>