

St. Michael Swords Newsletter

December 7, 2023

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*to be friendly, respectful,
responsible, and Christ-like*

An Out of the Box Christmas

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be performed on Tuesday, December 12th. There is a morning performance at 10:00 a.m. The evening performance begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Center gym. All grades will participate.

This year's pageant is "An Out of the Box Christmas" by Celeste Clydesdale. This musical takes place at the final dress rehearsal for the Christmas pageant. The costumes finally arrive and they notice when they pull them "out of the box" that they are all wrong. Working together, the children come up with some unique, comical, and heartfelt ways to share the Christmas message with their friends and family. After all, God can surely use cowboys, pirates, and cheerleaders to tell HIS love story. The HSA will serve drinks and cookies in the cafeteria following the pageant.

We could use a few moms to decorate some Christmas trees for us for display in the gym to add to the ambience. If anyone is available, please contact Ms. Roeder or Mrs. King.

Christmas Parties

Our annual class Christmas parties will take place on Friday, December 15th. Room moms, please contact your child's teacher to find out what time they would like the food to arrive. Times will vary due to dismissal times. Your child's homeroom teacher should have contacted you concerning the class gift exchange.

Room parents, money for the party for your class was sent home yesterday.

HSA Corner 12/7

Catholic Life Tickets –

December 14th Incentive - Sell and turn in 12 books by Thursday 12/14 to be entered into a drawing for 2 Splashway tickets.

REMINDERS –

*For tickets to count for fall selling dollars, tickets must be turned in by end of school on Thursday, 12/14.

*Any tickets turned in after 12/14 will count for spring.

*Once families meet their \$600 fall selling goal, additional ticket sales will roll over and count for spring.

*The final deadline to submit all tickets is Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

*The top 3 selling families will receive money off tuition! Sell as many tickets as possible to claim those top prizes!

HSA Board –

Welcome Tracey Schimcek back to the HSA Board. She will be filling our vacant board member position. Tracey previously served for many years on HSA in various leadership roles.

Also, thank you to board member Logan Hatfield for agreeing to serve as HSA Treasurer for the remainder of the school year.

CSW Chicken Strip Dinner – Mark your calendars for our annual Chicken Strip Dinner Sunday, January 28th. This annual fundraiser is at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Tickets will go out to families to sell when we return from Christmas Break.

The Vocations crosses this Friday will be given to the Chloe and Hadley Brandt family and the Aiden, Isabelle, and Jacob Prichard-Jones family.

There will be no Vocations crosses next week due to the Christmas holiday.

First Reconciliation

Please keep our second graders in your prayers. They will be receiving their First Reconciliation on Friday, December 8th.

Altar Servers

Altar servers on Friday are Dawson Brandt, Cullen Marek, Kole Fogleman, and Wyatt Janecka.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow, December 8th, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Even though Mary is unique in all humanity for being born without sin, she is held up by the Church as a model for all humanity in Her holiness and Her purity in her willingness to accept the Plan of God for her.

Every person is called to recognize and respond to God's call to their own vocation in order to carry out God's plan for their life and fulfill the mission prepared for them since before the beginning of time. Mary's "Let it be done to me according to Thy Word," in response of the Angel Gabriel's greeting, is the response required of all Christians to God's Plan.

Lunch Bills

You should have received your child's lunch billing through most of November last week. We would like to get all of our own bills paid before the Christmas break. Please be sure to pay your bill by December 8th.

***This will be the last newsletter of 2023.
The January calendar and menu are enclosed.***

***We wish all of you a very merry and blessed
Christmas season!***

SMCS Sports

Basketball

From Coach Kamie Klesel: We had our first A-team game against Trinity last night. Although we didn't quite get the win, we definitely stepped up our game in the second half, playing with more aggression. We have a full weekend ahead as we will be playing in the Sacred Heart tournament. We are excited and grateful for the chance to learn and grow in are games ahead!

The girls may leave on Friday any time after 2:40 due to Christmas Pageant practice.

Our SMCS Boys B-team played against a more evenly matched team and won against Trinity last night. Our A-team boys were not as successful and lost their game. They continue to show improvement each week.

Second Sunday of Advent

Last week we lit the candle of **HOPE**. We will relight that candle, and we will light the candle for the second Sunday in Advent. This is the candle of **PEACE**. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace.

Today, we hear some of Isaiah's most famous lines, "Prepare the way of the Lord! ... The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All people shall see it together." The beginning of Mark's Gospel offers us a perspective on preparing the way of the Lord. Mark tells us that John the Baptist proclaimed a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sin."

John's call to "repentance" wasn't an invitation to penance. He was inviting people to see everything in life from a new perspective. Instead of concentrating on the past, on what they had done wrong or lost, John, like Isaiah, invited people to focus on God's promised future — a future he told them was about to dawn.