

Principal's Page

December 8, 2011



Dear St. Rita Family,

Today we give honor to Mary, the Immaculate Conception. Throughout the season of Advent we are given special days to remember with love, our Blessed Mother. Through her amazing "Yes", the Lord Jesus became man. On Monday, Dec. 12th we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. This feast day is celebrated in special ways by our families of Mexican heritage. On Monday, at St. Rita, our community will host a Mananitas – a special time of prayer and singing as a gift of thanks to Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will begin at 5:00 AM in church. In the evening there will be a special mass in her honor at 7:00 PM. The church will be filled with roses to celebrate the gift of Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego.

Between these two feast days will be the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday. The pink candle will be lit this weekend. We are halfway through Advent and these days begin the joyful anticipation of the birth of our Lord. I loved the words of the liturgy during the Our Father when the celebrant would say "as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord." In the new translation we hear, "as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." I appreciate how the new translation continues to make us aware that the Lord coming to be with us.



Reconciliation: During Advent, the school children from grades 4-8 will have the opportunity to participate in Reconciliation. In addition, as a parish community there is the time for a Parish Advent Penance Service on Dec. 19th at 7:00 PM. This will give you, the parents the opportunity to come for quiet reflection and time for Reconciliation.

TOY COLLECTION:

Please remember that on Tuesday, Dec. 13th we will have our annual toy collection at the school mass. The tags were sent home in last week's envelope. It is a huge help to our teachers and 8th grade helpers if you use those. Thank you so much for remembering to share with our little friends in the Marie Wilkinson Center.

Don't forget we have Five Below shopping days during December. Please bring your flyer with you to give St. Rita School credit.

THIS WEEK- END Dec. 10 & 11

BAKE SALE & RAFFLE - the 8th grade parents have done a great job collecting items for the raffles. I know we can look forward to some delicious treats in the bake sale. This holiday tradition is a favorite with our parish family. Don't forget to come early and get some treats to use for those holiday gatherings.

THEN.....

CHILDREN'S RAFFLE: Wed., Dec. 14 & Fri. Dec. 16th

Note slight change to dates: We moved the first day of the sale up one day due to some other schedule conflicts. The children love to see all the treasures to take a chance on. The 8th grade elves are here to help the children fill out their tickets. I love to watch the older students reliving the magic of the season when they help the little ones work toward a dream prize.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT REMINDER: Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011 at 7:00. Children should arrive at 6:30.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE NOTE THAT THIS IS A HALF HOUR EARLIER THIS YEAR.

Don't forget to order your DVDs. Bring your money for Krispy Kreme Donuts. This will help us purchase the recorders for the third grade classes this year. We need 36 recorders at about \$4.00 per unit. We like to give this as a gift to the children each year.



Nativity Pageant: Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 1:00 in church

Our fifth and sixth grade students continue with practices for our Nativity Pageant. Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Koehler have been working very hard with the children to give our school community this gift.

This annual St. Rita Christmas tradition reminds me of one of my favorite Christmas videos "A Charlie Brown Christmas". Charlie Brown and his friends are busy with the excitement of the holiday season, preparing for the big Christmas play. Everyone is having fun celebrating, except Charlie Brown. He's wondering whether or not Christmas has become too commercial. He is looking for the real meaning of Christmas. Linus steps forward at the rehearsal and speaks....

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flocks by night. And Lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them and they were sore afraid, but the angel said unto them, Fear not for behold I bring you tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord, and this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest and on Earth peace, good will toward men." Linus turns to Charlie Brown and says "That's what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown." At that moment, there is a change in Charlie Brown and his friends. It is true for all of us that at the moment of the birth of Christ all of our lives were changed, forever.

Many blessings,
Bette Faxon