



December 14, 2019

Dear St. Mary's Families,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful week! Yesterday St. Mary's fifth graders presented a short play about the life of **Juan Diego** and **Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Many thanks to Mrs. Margie Black for the getting the students ready for the play, and for the fifth graders for presenting the play to our school community. As the Patron Saint of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance shows us that "Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples" ([www.franciscanmedia.com](http://www.franciscanmedia.com)). St. Mary's enjoyed another special performance yesterday as juniors and seniors from McAuley played dreidels with Ms. Lawson's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, enjoyed having lunch with 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and then preformed two short Reader's Theatre stories that were engaging and fun. Special thanks to McAuley teachers Mrs. Beranek and Mr. Fethers for organizing the fun events and finding time during busy high school days for a visit to our school.

Speaking of performances, please do not forget that this coming Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, **Early Learners - Kindergarten** students will have their Christmas program at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Mary's Parish Hall. There will be special seating for family members and the students from the elementary grades will also attend the morning performance.

**St. Mary's High School Youth Group** will be serving breakfast this Sunday morning from 8:30-10:15am in the St. Mary's Parish Center. Scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, breakfast burritos, fruit, coffee, juice and milk will be available. We also expect a special visitor—**SANTA** and one of his elves will be there! You can have a picture taken with Santa, and we will email it to you so that you can make as many copies and enlargements as you wish! Donations are accepted for breakfast and pictures.

Thank you to everyone who donated Jell-O/gelatin for the **Newton Co. Food Basket Brigade!** We had several donations come in on Friday. We even had a few cases come in the mail from places as far away as Indianapolis and Las Vegas, bringing our final count to just under **ONE THOUSAND** boxes!! Thank you so very much for your generosity and willingness to help those in need!

We have received word that St. Mary's played a part in setting a **new Guinness World Record** by participating in the Stack-Up Event on November 14<sup>th</sup>! Our students in Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade were among the 638,000+ people who were also stacking cups on that day! It's not every day that you break one world record and set another—way to go, St. Mary's!!

Next Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> is **Free Dress Day and Ugly Sweater Day** at St. Mary's! Students and Faculty may wear either free dress clothes and/or a festive Christmas shirt or sweater help celebrate the holiday season.

**Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** is an early out day with school dismissing at 11:00 a.m. There will be no after-school care or afternoon bus service on this day. Our school community will celebrate Friday Mass at 8:30 a.m. and gather in the Commons for Christmas caroling afterwards. Classroom Christmas parties begin at 10:00 a.m. There are Christmas party sign-up sheets on many of the bulletin boards next to classrooms, so please take a peak to sign up to bring treats, needed supplies, and/or lend a helping hand. Classroom parties are always more fun when lots of parents can attend to enjoy the day as well!

Thank you and take care,

Joanne Lown

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**Important Dates to Remember:**

Monday, December 16 <sup>th</sup> Program, 10:00 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Hall	Early Learners-Kindergarten Christmas
Rangeline Pizza Hut	Pizza Hut Fundraiser, all day at the
Wednesday, December 18 <sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00 a.m. in St. Mary's Parish Hall	Early Childhood's Polar Express Party,
Thursday, December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Free Dress Day and Ugly Sweater Day
Friday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Friday Mass and Christmas Parties Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
	<b>NO AFTER-SCHOOL CARE</b>
	<b>NO AFTERNOON BUS ROUTE</b>
December 21 <sup>st</sup> – January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Holiday
Monday, January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Classes Resume