



SAINT RAPHAEL PRESCHOOL

Weekly Memo: November 30, 2016

Dear Parents,

Advent has arrived! Much of the next few weeks will be spent preparing our hearts, minds, and homes for our Savior's birthday. During Music classes and in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, children will sing and learn all about the first Christmas. You will surely hear about it at home and see the preparations in the classrooms. There are many opportunities this month to enrich your own faith. You could attend the Advent Family Festival this weekend, participate in a Advent Reconciliation service at St. Raphael or another parish, or help those less fortunate by donating food to Catholic Parish Outreach. Holiday planning and events can be hectic and stressful, so it's important to take time to focus on the true spirit of Christmas. As Pope Francis said, ***"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women."***

Many other exciting activities have been going on at the Preschool lately! Classes celebrated Thanksgiving last week, and some classes attended a special nature themed puppet show presented by Out-back Learning Safari. Classes who didn't attend last week will have their chance later in December. We learned a lot about possums, skunks, owls, and porcupines through songs, stories, and puppets. Students and teachers really enjoyed this fun and informative science themed presentation! In the office we have been busy preparing for registration for next year. 2017-18 registration will begin in January, and parents will now have the option of registering on-line from home rather than filling out the paper form and returning it to school. We hope this option will be more convenient for our busy families.



Many blessings,

Molly DeAngelo

Free Classes for Prospective Preschool Students

We are offering two free parent and child classes for prospective students! These classes are open to children ages 18 months- 4 years who will be preschool age for the 2017-18 school year (age 2-5 by 8/31). Younger siblings of current Preschool students who plan to enroll here are welcome to attend! Please RSVP at least one day prior to the class by contact our marketing and enrollment coordinator, Sarah, by phone (919-865-5725) or e-mail (srapp@saintraphael.org). Please share this opportunity with your friends!

- Wednesday, November 30th: Music with Ms. Susan, 10:15-10:45am
- Tuesday, January 10th: Creative Movement with Ms. Sadler (time of class depends on age of prospective students, as they will join in a 2, 3, or 4 year old class with current students)

Holiday Gift Bags

Thank you to all who purchased Holiday Gift Bags! To ensure they are ready for delivery, please return your bag(s), filled with unwrapped gifts (small toys and one clothing item size infant to 4T), no later than December 1st.

Advent Family Festival

Join fellow Saint Raphael families in celebrating the wonderful season of Advent this Saturday, December 3rd, from 9:30am until noon in Ignatius Hall. You can register on-line at https://secure.accessacs.com/access/eventlogin.aspx?id=VxaPcTC5/p7pUyQP9RQt2w==&site=90056&ReturnUrl=events%2fwz_people.aspx&ChurchID=1384&EventID=122275&sn=90056

4s and 5s Christmas Music Program

The 4 and 5 year old classes will perform a Christmas Music Program for families on Friday, December 16th at 11:30am in the church. All are invited to attend!

2017-18 Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin in January. Current Preschool students and their siblings will have first priority for choosing classes for next year. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held in mid-January and will offer an opportunity to discuss your child's placement for the upcoming year. Child care will be available for a nominal fee during conferences.

Thank You to Troop 314

The beautiful Christmas tree that greets you as you enter the Preschool was donated by Boy Scout Troop 314. We are so thankful for their continual generosity to us. You, too, can pick up a beautiful live tree and support our scouts. Their Christmas Tree Sale continues this weekend on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day, occurs on Thursday, Dec. 8. The Preschool is not in session on this day. Masses will be held at 7am, 9am, 12:10pm and 7pm in English. There will be an Immaculate Conception Vigil in Spanish on December 7th at 7pm.

Calendar Change!

Father Phil is planning a spiritual retreat for all parish staff (schools included) on March 9th. Because of this, we will be changing the Preschool Teacher Work Day that is currently on the calendar from March 24th to March 9th. We hope by giving plenty of notice this change will not be inconvenient for our families. **So please note on your calendar that there will be no school on Thursday, March 9th but that the Preschool will be open on Friday, March 24th.** Thanks for your flexibility!

An Invitation from Mothers in Faith

In this blessed season of Advent, let's have a personal encounter with our Blessed Mother Mary. Join Mothers in Faith on Thursday, December 8th at 9:30am in Room 112 as we welcome Kathi Ambrose and Patricia Perez. They will discuss the beautiful life of Mary and share a testimony about trusting in Mary as she leads us to her Son. This will be followed by a potluck celebration! Join us at 8:30am (after SRCS carpool drop off) for the Divine Mercy in rm 112 or the adjacent nursery. Childcare is available in the adjacent nursery for \$5 per child or \$10 max per family. No one will be turned away because of an inability to pay. Please contact mothersinfaith@yahoo.com for more information.

Upcoming Events at St. Raphael Catholic School

Rising Kindergarten Parents: You and your rising kindergartner are invited to the next kindergarten sampler (library and technology) on Tuesday, December 6 at 5pm. Please RSVP for this event as space is limited.

Open House: SRCS is hosting its last open house of 2016 on Thursday, December 1 from 9-11am. Stop by to take a tour and visit classrooms.

Story Time: We have a very special story time coming up on Tuesday, December 6 at 10am in the SRCS library! Ms. Susan will be on-hand to read and sing with the little ones.

For more information or to RSVP to one of these events, please contact Mary Morgan at mmorgan@saintraphael.org or 919-865-5754.

Ignatius Fund Update

Thank you to all who have already contributed! Every donation to the Ignatius Fund is tax-deductible and goes to where the need is greatest. Please support the fund that supports your child! **For all donations between now and December 31st, an anonymous donor will match the amount up to \$3,000!** Learn more about the Ignatius Fund and donate on-line through our website: <http://straphaelpreschool.org/ignatius-fund/>



Their future is created by what we do today.

Goal: \$75,000 with 100% participation by SRCS and Preschool families and staff
Raised to date: \$25,199

Important Upcoming Dates

December 8: Preschool closed for a teacher work day

December 16: 4s and 5s Music Program at 11:30am in the church

December 20: Noon dismissal for ALL classes- no Extended Day

December 21-January 3: Preschool closed for Christmas break



Out-Back Learning Safari Presentation

“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.” ~ Pope Francis