

Holy Rosary Review

Important

Dates:

December 2:

First Friday Mass/
Noon Dismissal/ End
of First Trimester

December 3-4:

Craft Show

December 5:

Second Trimester
Begins

December 8:

Immaculate
Conception Mass/
Santa Shop

December 9:

Dress Down Day \$1
to Support the Arts/
Santa Shop

December 13:

Arts Festival

December 20:

Christmas Pageant
11am and 7pm

December 21:

Sing A Long with Fr.
Quindlen 10:30am/
Ugly Christmas
Sweater Day/
Class Parties/
Noon Dismissal

December 22:

Christmas Break
Begins

December 25:

Merry Christmas!

January 1:

Happy New Year!

January 2:

Classes Resume

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<http://holyroaryregional.com>

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School Closing # 1385

From the Principal's Desk

December 1, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I watched the lighting of the Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center last night, I marveled at the fact that the entire ceremony actually celebrated "Christmas" and not the "Holidays" as our nation has come to adopt. It was beautiful, perhaps even more so because it felt so heartwarming to see the public display and celebration of the birth of Christ- the core of our Christian faith. Dating back to 1931 when workers at Rockefeller Center got together and purchased a 20 foot balsam, it is wonderful to recognize that as our secular prohibition of prayer expands, this national symbol of Christmas also has gotten larger, one as big as 100 feet in 1999. Did you also know it remains lit until January 6th, the celebration of the Epiphany?

Our celebration and focus this time of year should also be on Christmas and not the holidays. We should have tunnel vision if necessary to block out the consumerism and Santa hype to remind ourselves that Advent celebrates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to see this miracle to its end. According to current day scholars, their journey was 90 miles long, and with Mary being at the end of her pregnancy, they likely did not travel more than 10 miles a day. Even more interesting is the path on which that journey took them- along the flatlands of the Jordan River and across the Judean Desert where daytime temperatures would have been about 30 degrees coupled with severe rains and nights even colder. Furthermore, as they travelled through ancient Palestine, it is likely they were constantly on the lookout for lions, bears and wild boars. Could any of us even imagine such hardship?

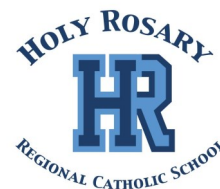
As we count the days to Christmas, may we think about the journey of Mary and Joseph. May we travel with them in prayer, penance, preparatory sacrifice, and good works. May we help our children to focus more on the crèche than the elf, and may we all give thanks and glory to the King!

I wish you and your families a very Blessed Christmas!

Peace,

Lisa S. Hoban

One Faith, One Family, One School





Did You Know...

Mrs. Koneski/Mrs. Pickering– Kindergarten: Kindergarten has been busy learning about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and how they celebrated the First Thanksgiving. They have been sharing with their class what they are Thankful for. They ended their week with their very own Thanksgiving Feast prepared by the awesome Kindergarten parents. It was delicious!

Mrs. Gilman—1st Grade: An election upset in First Grade??? The Great Cookie Election of 2016 in First Grade ended with the Milano cookie winning with 13 votes and the chocolate chip cookie tallying 12 votes. Soooo close! This was a fun way to learn about the election process.

We enjoyed a special day with our 7th grade prayer partners. We made colorful turkeys that sported pretty feathers that showed the things for which we are thankful. We shared a pizza lunch and loved spending time with our partners. Thank you 7th grade!

We were especially thrilled to be invited to a Christmas Party at Pope John Paul II High School. We were treated to a Holiday Show, Sing a Long, Disney characters, Santa Claus, Nativity and Arts and Crafts. What a wonderful day! Now we really have the Christmas spirit!!

Ms. McNally/Ms. Prieto/Mrs. Zoltek– 4th and 2nd Grades: During the month of November, 2nd and 4th grade were both studying Native American culture in Social Studies. On Friday, November 18th and Monday, November 21st, the two grades worked together to dye shelled noodles called Wampum. We practiced the Native American method of bartering and trading to get different shapes and colors. It was great fun working and learning together!



Ms. Morrow: The eighth grade members of the Youth Ministry Council volunteered at a soup kitchen on Wednesday, 11/16/16. **Heather Malarkey, Destynie Davis, Rylie Cox, Dennis Trowbridge, and Joey Petko** helped to prepare and serve the meal.

Letter from The Governing Board of Pastors

Fr. McCreedy—Pastor of St. Paul's Parish

December, 2016

Dear Holy Rosary Family,

During this holy season of Advent, our minds already are rushing to thoughts of Christmas. While making all the necessary preparation for the joyous holiday, it would do us well to reflect a little more on the spiritual (or rather... REAL) aspect of what's celebrated.

If you really delve into the reason for Jesus' birth, some startling realities come to light. Most notably, reason leads us to discover that the condition of humanity apparently was so deteriorated... so many souls apparently weren't getting to heaven at the completion of their life's journey... that God Himself, literally, had to "put on his boots," "come down" and help us. That's how bad things had gotten!!! He had to come and rescue us from ourselves and from the power of the Devil, who, otherwise, was raking -in souls. The Lord didn't come because all was well, and He didn't come to give us heaven on earth. As He said before Pilate, "My Kingdom is not of this world." He came to rescue us from all the temptations that were keeping us out of heaven, as life was leading us nowhere in which we'd delight.

Watching how multitudes celebrate Christmas... and observing what little affect it has on their lives during the rest of the year, it's no wonder there is rarely any "peace on earth" in peoples' lives. You'd think Jesus was Santa Claus, just a jolly old gift giver with no strings attached... someone who has come to be everyone's good luck charm in life. No, He had a specific purpose in coming: to correct our ways, to bring us to heaven.

The Gospels give us insight to what Christmas is all about. Notice the emphasis on Christ's birth in the darkness of night. This darkness symbolizes the condition of the humanity to which He had come. He came to disperse the darkness of our sins. He was the Light, as St. John calls Him. And notice how He rejects everything people value so much: comfort, wealth, luxury, convenience, the "good times," "party-party" mentality that so many pursue. Instead, he comes in poverty, with no place to stay, in the cold of night, and with no extended family around.

The Gospels give us so many other insights into the night He came. Imagine! The first time the world laid eyes on Him, He was lying in a feeding device (a manger, the trough from which the animals were fed). And, He was born in Bethlehem, which means "House of Bread." Any thoughts of the Eucharist coming to your mind? It's obvious that the real Jesus is the Jesus of the Eucharist, the Jesus we experience at Mass where and when we receive the Bread of Life He offers us. Remember, as He matured He said "I am the Bread of Life... whoever eats this bread will live forever" ... and "the bread I will give you is my flesh for the life of the world." (Read John's Gospel, Chapter 6).

This holy season of Advent is a good time to reflect on whether you and Jesus are on the same page. Are you both going in the same direction? Are His interests yours? Will Christmas have the impact in your life that it should when all the partying has died down?

Let's all think a little more this Christmas... and get that "peace which the world cannot give" (John 14:27).

Christ's peace to all of you!

Father McCreedy

Craft Show

Only 3 days to go until our largest fundraiser! We greatly appreciate everyone for doing their part to help make this year's show a success! We still have a few spots open for volunteers if you want to come join fun and we always need as many baked good items as we can get! If you haven't sign up to drop off an item for the bake table, please copy and paste the Sign Up Genius link below to sign up.

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C4FAFA828A2F94-holy

Raffle Ticket Pre-Sale is Now Open! Take a chance on some great prizes!

Raffle Tickets for our fabulous prizes are on sale! Enter to win a TV, XBOX, MAMMA MIA TICKETS, TICKETS for FLYERS, TEMPLE and ST JOE's plus other great prizes!

Added Bonus – purchase your chances before Thursday, December 1st and receive 20% more tickets. Put our elves to work and get your tickets filled out for you! You can tell us where to allocate or pickup your pre-filled tickets and allocate yourself!

Copy and paste the link in your browser to purchase your chances and see all of the amazing items that are available! Forward the link to anyone you know that may be interested! <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07edgxbw7k895919ae&llr=nxgquweab>

Santa Shop

On Thursday, December 8th and Friday, December 9th during school hours, HASA will be hosting a Santa Shop for all students! The Santa Shop is an opportunity for your children to purchase Christmas gifts for their family and friends. Many items with “mom” and “dad” on it will be available. There are even gifts for aunts, uncles, dogs and cats! Most items range in price from 25 cent to \$12.00.

Every grade will be assigned a time to come shop. A flyer with more information and an envelope to send in spending money will be sent home next week. (Unfortunately, we are not able to accept checks for this event)

We are also looking for parent volunteers who can come in to assist the younger children with their purchases, if you would like to volunteer, please sign up via the Sign up Genius link below. (*All volunteers for the Santa Shop must have all clearance on file in the office*) If you have any questions, please contact Beth Fish at thefishheads2@verizon.net

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4fadab29a31-santa>

Amazon

Ho! Ho! Ho! Please help Holy Rosary earn some free dough! The holiday shopping season is quickly approaching. Why not shop from the comfort your home on Amazon. Simply start your Christmas shopping from, <https://smile.amazon.com/>

You can sign in with your existing amazon log in. Once signed in be sure to select the drop down arrow on the left side of the tool bar to find our school. Once selected you will see on your Amazon homepage, Supporting: Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School.

You will still be eligible for your Prime benefits and the school does not receive any personal information on your purchases, just a percentage of the sale. This Holiday season remember to start your Amazon shopping with a smile! Share the smile link with your family and friends too!

Claire's Gourmet Tuition Raffle Winner

Congratulations to the family of **Raynah O'Connor** (3A) on winning the tuition credit raffle.

Huge thank you to all our families who participated in Claire's Gourmet Sale! We hope everyone enjoyed their items!

Box Tops for Education

Help our school shine!!

There will be many participating products used during this holiday season.

Make sure you are clipping Box Tops.

When inviting your family over during the holidays, why not ask them to bring along their box tops to help support the school. When families and friends work together to collect Box Tops coupons, the money adds up fast.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful holiday season and Happy clipping!

Continue clipping for the next contest in the spring!

Any questions, please contact **Luisa Kelly** at Aidank1@msn.com

Student Spotlight

CYO Youth Football Wins Second CYO Varsity Championship



Congratulations to the Gladiators for winning the Archdiocese of Philadelphia CYO Division I Football Championship. The Gladiators won with a 57-18 victory over Bucks Catholic Warriors.

Congratulations to the entire team and coaches, and especially to Holy Rosary team members **Justin Kormos, Brian Stagliano and Roman Donovan.**

Also congratulations to **Brian Stagliano** who was chosen to represent his team at the 2016 CYO All Star game- Congrats, Brian!

Another awesome championship was won by our JV Football team over St. Francis of Delaware County!

Logan Kerper Selected for Philadelphia Area Honor Band

Congratulations to one of Holy Rosary's musicians, **Logan Kerper**, who was chosen for the Philadelphia Area Honor Band! This is a very competitive competition and a tribute to his musical talent!

Student Council News

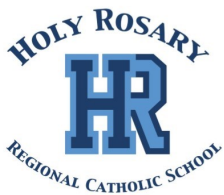
A special thank you to all the Holy Rosary Families. From our November Dress Down Day, we were able to feed 9 families with a turkey dinner and send 4 boxes of canned goods to the Sisters of Charity. Everyone was extremely appreciative. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

December Lunch Menu

← December 2016 →

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				Chick-fil-a Lunch 1	Noon Dismissal	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Pizza Day w/Fruit	Hot Dog/Cookies or Fruit	Beef Taco (2)/Ice Cream or Fruit/Milk	Steak Sandwich Day	Grilled Cheese/Gogurt/Milk	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Pizza Day w/Salad	Burger Day/Tater Tots	Chicken Noodle Soup/Ham & Cheese on Honey Wheat Bread/Milk	Chick-fil-a Lunch 2	Bacon, egg and Cheese on a Bagel/Apple Sauce/Milk	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Pizza Day/Pot luck snack	Hot Dog/Sweet Corn/Milk	Noon Dismissal	Christmas Holiday	Menu Not Assigned	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Menu Not Assigned	Menu Not Assigned	Menu Not Assigned	Menu Not Assigned	Menu Not Assigned	

2015/2016 Home & School Association Board Members



Executive Board

- President – Beth Fish
- Vice President – Anthony Garcia
- Treasurer - Lisa Salamone
- Recording Secretary - Athena Lahatto
- Corresponding Secretary - Nicole Coey

Committees

- Fundraising -
Kim Taglieber & Sharon Rupprecht
- Beautification-Nicole Marino
- Hospitality– Katie Leahy
- Lead Homeroom Parent -Melissa Dollarton
- Marketing – Amy Porter

December Calendar

December 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 "D"	2 "E" First Friday Mass Noon Dismissal End of First Trimester	3 Craft Fair- come support our biggest fundraiser
4 Craft Fair0 come support our biggest fundraiser	5 "A" Second Trimester Begins	6 "B" Grades 3-5 to Franklin Institute	7 "C"	8 "D" Immaculate Conception Mass 10 AM Santa Secret Shop	9 "E" Dress Down for the Arts \$1.00 donation Santa Secret Shop Report Cards	10
11 Candy Cane Sale All Week Regular: .25 Fancy: .50	12 "A" Reconciliation Gr. 2-5 1:30 PM	13 "B" Reconciliation Gr. 6-8 1:30 Arts Festival 7 PM Band, Chorus, etc.	14 "C"	15 "D"	16 "E"	17
18	19 "A"	20 "B" Christmas Pageant 11:00 AM & 7 PM 6 th Grade Ministry to Sisters of Charity	21 "C" Sing-a-Long with Father Quindlen 10:30 AM Ugly Sweater Day/Class Block Parties Noon Dismissal	22 No School	23 No School	24
25 Merry Christmas!	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 Classes resume January 3, 2017 It will be a "B" Day!

Tuition Assistance Opportunities for Holy Rosary Families



There are several sources of tuition assistance available to Holy Rosary families. These opportunities are made possible through the generous support of various businesses and foundations. A number of these opportunities require interested families to go through an outside application process. Other opportunities become available because of direct donations to Holy Rosary from generous parishioners of affiliated parishes.

The available opportunities and related application processes are outlined below. In cases in which Holy Rosary decides who the recipients will be, Holy Rosary will only consider families that have completed the application process for all funding sources for which they would qualify. Any cases of extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

If you have individual questions on applying for financial assistance, contact **Beth Hallinan** in the school office, bhallinan@holyroaryregional.com , 610-825-0160.

EITC & OSTC FUNDS

Much of the available tuition assistance is made possible through **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)** and **Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC)** business donations to non-profit organizations interested in promoting education. To be eligible for EITC or OSTC funding for the 2015-2016 school year the adjusted gross income for a family with one dependent must be \$90,000 or less. For each additional dependent, the adjusted gross income threshold increases \$15,000. Below is a listing of the organizations that provide EITC & OSTC funding to Holy Rosary students and an explanation of how to apply for funding from each organization. Please note: all eligible families do not necessarily receive funding. Awards are dependent on the amount of scholarship money available each year.

Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping families afford Catholic education. Holy Rosary students received almost \$32,000.00 in BLOCS funding during the 2016-2017 school year.

BLOCS applications for the 2016-2017 school year will be available in the fall at www.blocs.org.

Tuition Assistance for Holy Rosary Families

The Bridge Foundation is an independent non-profit organization that provides scholarship opportunities to Pennsylvania low-income families. Families must apply directly to the Bridge Foundation between May 1st and June 30th each year. Applications are only accepted during this window. Applications are available online at www.bridgeedu.org. Families who receive Bridge funding must complete a 40-hour community service requirement.

The Henkels Foundation supports benevolent, religious, educational, charitable, scientific, and literary undertakings throughout the United States.

If funds become available through the Foundation, Holy Rosary determines how to distribute the funding. Only families that have completed the BLOCS application, and who meet the eligibility requirements for EITC funding, will be considered for available Henkels funds.

Other Funding Sources

The Kremer Foundation provides Catholic elementary schools with tuition grants for children from financially challenged families. The Foundation's grants are given directly to the schools; school principals select which students receive the tuition assistance. Holy Rosary received \$10,000 from the Kremer Foundation for the 2014-2015 school year.

To qualify for assistance, a family's adjusted gross income cannot exceed the federal food program's maximum family income for reduced priced meals. The 2016-2017 guidelines are not yet available. To qualify for the 2015-2016 school year, a family of four's adjusted gross income had to be less than \$43,568; the qualifying amount was increased by \$7,437 for each additional family member.

If Holy Rosary receives a grant from the Kremer Foundation for the 2016-2017 school year, Holy Rosary will notify families of the application process in the spring. All applications will be submitted to Holy Rosary.

THE APPLICATION FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018 IS NOW OPEN. HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

- WHEN UPLOADING DOCUMENTS TO SMART AID, PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, AND ANY OTHER PERSONAL INFORMATION THAT COULD COMPROMISE YOUR IDENTITY IS BLACKED OUT
- YOUR APPLICATION WILL NOT BE COMPLETED OR CONSIDERED UNTIL **AFTER** YOU SUBMIT YOUR 2016 TAXES. YOU MAY OR MAY NOT BE CONTACTED BY SMART AID ABOUT THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION AND/OR ABOUT MISSING DOCUMENTS THAT NEED TO ACCOMPANY YOUR APPLICATION. MAKE SURE YOU LOG ON TO YOUR ACCOUNT ONCE YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR 2016 TAXES TO FINISH YOUR APPLICATION
- OUR SCHOOL CODE IS 12730