



**ST. MARY'S**  
Elementary School

December 20, 2018

## Virtue of the Month: Patience

Regis Catholic Schools pick a virtue every month to study and highlight in all subject matters. We learn all about the virtue and do our best to employ in our everyday lives. December's virtue at St. Mary's is Patience.

- ◆ Have patience with everything and everyone ~ especially yourself.
- ◆ All good things come to people who wait.
- ◆ Everyday you must work at patience.
- ◆ Patience is the art of hoping.
- ◆ The most important part of faith is patience.
- ◆ Listen joyfully when others speak.
- ◆ Practice patience when working with others.
- ◆ Rewards are great for patient people.

God has perfect timing. Never early, never late. It takes a little patience and lot of faith, but it's worth the wait. Amen.

Lessons Taught  
By LIFE

### PUPIL SERVICES WITH MRS. FOEGEN

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving, filled with prayer, family time, and relaxation time. We now enter the season of Advent and prepare for Christ's birth. This holiday time is hard on some students and causes them to act out in ways we do not typically see. This is due to fear, stress, anxiety, and excitement. Our patience needs to be in place to assist our students in feeling secure. Letting them know what to expect when they are not in school should be a priority. We also know the holidays are not happy for some so we need to keep that in mind and approach each situation with compassion. I encourage you to have your children go to Mass with you to emphasize this special holiday is when Jesus was born. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns I can help with.

I wish all of you a blessed holiday season. We are blessed to have your families with us and thank you for sharing your children.

May God bless you today and always.

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## PRESCHOOL & 4K WITH MS. WENDY

It's that time of year again! Registration for next year is just around the corner. If you have a child or someone you know who needs information on preschool or 4K for next year, please pass it on.

Preschool: Registration will open during Catholic Schools Week. There will be an open house to visit the classroom on February 7th from 4:00 - 6:00. If you are wondering what preschool is all about and want to have your child see the classroom, RSVP on the RegisCatholicSchools website.

4 Year-Old Kindergarten: Registration opens January 1st. If you are interested in 4K for next year, please go to the Altoona School District website and follow the prompts to register online. St. Mary's has one morning section and two afternoon sessions.

*The end of a matter is better than it's beginning.  
So it's better to be patient than proud.*

*Ecclesiastes 7:8*

## 4K WITH MRS. CHRISTIANSON

Mrs. Christianson's 4K class has started their "Ball Investigation Study". They will be learning about different types and uses for balls. They will be exploring the similarities and differences in balls as well.

In January they will then be celebrating their learning with taking a trip to Wagner's to try bowling.

## KINDERGARTEN KAPERS

Our main focus this month has been Advent. We read many books about Jesus, made our own stables, sang many related songs, and we even wrote about this special season. Our "Happy Birthday Jesus" gathering gave us a great opportunity to give to others. Thanks so much for your contributions! It is a real reminder of what Christmas is all about.

May this Advent season bring many blessings and have a "Merry Christmas"!

## FAITH-FILLED FIRST GRADE

During religion, we have been learning about Advent and things we can do to prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus. We led the second week of Advent service with the second graders; collected Socks for the Sojourner House; and made Poinsettias with our 4th grade buddies for the homebound parishioners.

In math, we are learning how to add numbers using several strategies, such as count on, doubles, doubles +1, number lines, counters, and drawing pictures. In science, we finished our Sound unit. We explored pitch, volume, and vibrations by using tuning forks, and making drums. In Daily 5, we are working on proper nouns, author's purpose, phrasing, and informative writing using topic sentences.

I'd like to thank all my parents for the 12 Days of Christmas gifts. They have been a fun way to start my day!!! I hope you all have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!! Mrs. Steinke

## THIRD GRADE THOUGHTS

**RELIGION** - We are preparing our hearts as we patiently await the birth of Jesus during this Advent season. Each student is an "Advent Angel" or "Prayer Pal" to another student in our class. Good deeds and prayers are encouraged during this season. Students should work on memorizing our bible verse with our virtue of the month.

**"Be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another."**  
~ Ephesians 4:2

**MATH** - We are continuing our unit on multiplication and division strategies and facts 0-12. Students are creating winter wonderland maps to show their knowledge of the multiplication strategies of: repeated addition, arrays, skip counting, and equal grouping.

**SCIENCE** - Plant Life Cycles are the main unit of study in science. We have observed how plant life cycles can be interrupted and how to grow a healthy plant that can reproduce. Each student was able to research a flowering or non-flowering plant and create a flip book of the life cycle.

**SOCIAL STUDIES** - Our block teachers from UWEC have been leading lessons on immigration. Students have been learning more about their own family histories and what might have pushed or pulled their ancestors to the United States.

## FANTASTIC FOURTH GRADE

During this blessed season of Advent, fourth graders have been preparing their hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas! By hearing the Bible readings that go with the Jesse Tree, they are learning about Jesus' family tree and many of the accounts from the Old Testament.

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the Stockings for St. Nicholas service project. When the socks were delivered last week, there was so much gratitude from the people waiting at Sojourner House. As I walked in, I was greeted with surprised comments like, "Are those really for us?", "Did you bring us presents?", "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!", "I am wearing a pair of socks like that and they are so warm!" Warm feet and prayers will surely help warm their hearts!

Even with the excitement of Advent, December has been the month to work hard on academic skills. In math we had a heavy focus on multiplication and division facts. We even have begun division with remainders! Students continue to work on fluency and expression in reading while learning about the many types of verbs. We are doing a lot of writing including a Christmas narrative. In social studies students are learning about the early inhabitants of Wisconsin and what caused others to move to this great area of our country. In science, we are studying energy and creating circuits with a fun surprise for you!

I pray you will all experience the joy and peace of this Christmas Season. Enjoy the vacation celebrating and relaxing with family and friends!

## SECOND GRADE SCOOP

Toys-for-Tots was a great success. Thank you to all who donated to this Advent project. The second and first grade students did an awesome job with the second week of Advent Prayer Service. What great reading and singing!

With First Reconciliation just around the corner we have been focusing on God's love for us and how to be the Best-Version-of-Ourselves.

In math we are learning about ordinal numbers and in science we are learning more about matter.

Your children are truly a gift and I am blessed to be their teacher. I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a faith-filled New Year.



## FIFTH GRADE FUN

Fifth graders are finishing division in math. Our next challenge will be multiplying and dividing decimals. In reading, our class is completing a novel study which takes place during the Great Depression. It has been a great tool to deepen our comprehension skills. In science, we are moving into our energy unit. In social studies, our class has finished their explorer projects and will be moving toward colonization after break! In religion, we have enjoyed participating in the Advent prayer services and deepening our knowledge of the Advent season through readings and reflections.



## ART WITH MS. LAROSE

Kindergarten: Winter Cardinals

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Color Wheel

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Texture Bowls and Aquariums

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Coil Pots

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Emoji Plush: Recycling in Art

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Nativity Scene Collage and Empty Bowls

We have been having a great time working on winter and Christmas themed artwork lately. Students have been using lots of glitter so don't be surprised if we leave a little sparkle wherever we go on art days. As we wrap up our special festive projects, they will be making their way home for you to enjoy. Several classes are going to start working with clay before the end of the month. With such a messy project it is nice to have a simple and clean activity for students to engage with if they finish their clay project early. Sketchbooks are a great option for this time. This is a reminder that every student from first through fifth grade should have their own sketchbook/sketch pad which will be returned home at the end of fifth grade or when it is full. Fourth grade is starting a project this month that uses recycled materials to make an Emoji plush of their own design. If you have plastic shopping bags in the house, please send 10 to 15 bags with your 4th grader to school if you have not done so already. These bags will be the "stuffing" inside the Emoji.

<https://www.artsonia.com/>

If you have any questions about Artsonia please email me.  
hlarose@regiscatholicschools.com

## SPANISH WITH MRS. LARABEE

It is the holiday season. With that, in Spanish class, comes many fun cultural projects and lessons. A favorite song has been Feliz Navidad. Grades 3-5 have been reviewing and studying the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Her Feast Day is December 12 and is the "official" beginning of the Christmas Season in Mexico. Grade 3 read the book "Lupita" and colored roses, Grade 4 colored pictures of Nuestra Señora, and Grade 5 is working on small symbols of prayers called milagros. Check your school hallway for their display.

Grades 1-4 are continuing their grade level oral number timings and are working on pronunciation and speed. The competition is quite fierce between classes, especially in Grade 3. The leading class changes weekly if not daily. Grades K-2 have been continuing to work on color vocabulary and Christmas themes, vocabulary and lessons. Grade 2 has studied Las Posadas, Grade 1 The Legend of the Poinsettia, and K is starting to learn about Three Kings Day. We will see if the Three Kings have time to stop overnight to visit our schools. It is hard to know since they will be so busy delivering children's presents in Spanish speaking countries.

Have a very blessed Christmas and Epiphany!!

## GUIDANCE WITH MRS. ESLINGER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

It's hard to believe it's already mid-December; it's fun, but also a busy time of the year. This month in Kindergarten guidance, the teachers and I are working together to teach the difference between things that we "need" and "want". Look for the "Castle" activity booklet to come home with your student.

In grades 1-5 we are continuing to meet in the small groups which began in November. The small group topics include: friendship, social skills, growth mindset, and listening. The small groups will continue until Christmas vacation.

During the month of December we also have our annual Safe Environment training for the students. The Diocese of La Crosse requires that all students receive this Safe Environment Training each year. On Monday, December 10th, Officer Jon Lauscher presented to all of the students at St. Mary's and on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> Officer Nate Ollmann presented to all of the students at St. James. The Officers presented important safety rules including Check First and No, Go, Tell. After their presentations, I follow up with curriculum from the Diocese that reinforces these important safety rules through the Catholic perspective. Hopefully you had a chance to read through the paper that was sent home with your child. Please use this as a tool to communicate with your children about these important safety rules.

Thank you for partnering in your child's education! Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing break!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns by calling St. Mary's or e-mailing me at [deslinger@regiscatholicschools.com](mailto:deslinger@regiscatholicschools.com).

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION WITH MRS. HOESCHEN

Merry Christmas! May the simple joys of Christmas warm your heart, fill your home, and last a lifetime.

All grades have been enjoying the sweaty and aerobic jump rope unit. After Christmas break, there will be a jump rope contest during PE class to determine who qualifies for the St. Mary's school wide competition. Those that qualify will compete during the school wide Jump Rope Contest on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Grades first - fifth will be determining which boys and girls have qualified to go to the Bloomer (WI) Jump Rope Contest on Saturday, January 26, 2019. More details on this fun event will be available after Christmas break.

Congratulations fifth grade...Our Golden Sneaker Award winner! The trophy is displayed in the 5th grade classroom so be sure to stop by and congratulate them. All the classes are working hard to earn the trophy in their classroom. Please help your child remember to bring gym shoes and change of clothes for 5th graders.

Here's the PE schedule:  
K,1,5 Monday and Thursday  
2,3,4 Tuesday and Friday

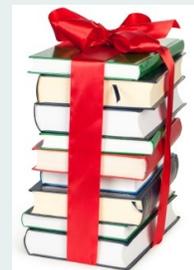


## LIBRARY WITH MS. HOFFMAN

As the year ends and thoughts turn to resolutions for the coming year, here are some ideas to encourage and foster reading in your children.

1. Have books everywhere.
2. Let them see you read.
3. Celebrate books.
4. Give books as gifts.
5. Introduce new books and authors in addition to those well-loved favorites.
6. Make going to the library an event. And, if you are not in the habit of going to the public library, get a library card and go. There is so much available and it is all free!
7. Help them find books related to their interests.
8. Bedtime reading can be a wonderful way to relax and share.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas Break!



## HALO Awards

HALO stands for  
Helping And  
Loving Others.

The following  
students in K through  
5th grade have received  
HALOs since our last  
newsletter.

Braxton Albee  
Bryndel Anderson  
Jane Black  
Josie Black  
Landon Bollman  
Chase Brogelman  
Tanner Chilson  
Ellie Crow  
Adam Eaton  
Oliver Frank  
Keylany Juarez Solis  
Ryder Hadt  
Sylvia Harris Gore  
Elliette Hurlburt  
Armahni Introwitz  
Zoey Justice  
Dextyn Kaiser  
Keeli Kassing  
AnaLyn Kostka  
Casey Kostka  
Adam Madsen  
Lyli Mago  
Alexis McCrery  
Gabbie Oemig  
Caleb Olatunji  
Esther Peterson  
Lucas Rosener  
Jacob Rubenzer  
Easton Schrader  
Hayden Schwebach  
Brady Schwerdtfeger  
Brayden Smiskey  
Elsie Stearns  
Liam Strahm  
Chase Walker  
Cambrie Wold  
Tenley Wold  
Ronin Wood

## COMPUTER SCIENCE WITH MR. HARDY

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kindergarten - Letters to Santa - typing in a form field

First Grade- Microsoft Word letters to Santa

Second Grade - Ornaments in Tux Paint or Microsoft Paint

Third Grade - Ornaments in Microsoft Paint

Fourth Grade - Christmas Envelopes in Word from the template

Fifth Grade - 12 Days of Christmas Presentations

## MUSIC WITH MRS. MECIKALSKI

We have been working hard on our songs for our Advent program. Our program this year is "Waiting for Jesus!". Students will be singing, playing tone chimes, other instruments. Our Program is tonight at 6:30 p.m. All students need to participate!



Fifth grade collected items for Bob's House for Dogs for their Advent Project. Poppy and Peter visited them on Wednesday to say thank you!

