

Parent Newsletter – December 2019



St. James School Giving children WINGS to fly!

400 W. Lisbon Street in Waynesburg, OH 44688
330-866-9556
Website: stjameschoolwaynesburg.org
Email: stjameselem@youngstowndiocese.org

Dates to Remember:

12/13 Mass 9am

12/18 Christmas Program
6:30pm

12/20 Mass 9am
Caroling at Sarchione
10am

Christmas Dance
11am
Noon Dismissal

12/21-1/1 Christmas
Break

1/2/21 Classes resume

Principal's Message

Dear St. James Families,

This Advent season has been a time of prayer as we reflect on the presence of Jesus in our lives. The children have learned about reaching out with their heart light and touching others with kindness.

During this joyous season, we want to share our gifts and talents with others. This week we will be doing just that. We are collecting hats and mittens all week for Helping Hands Network to distribute to children in the local area. On Wednesday evening the children will share their musical talent as they present "Christmas is Jesus" in the church at 6:30pm. On Thursday, they will travel to the House of Loretto to sing carols for the residents and give the Fruit of the Spirit bead chains they made. On Friday, they will go caroling at Sarchione's to thank the owners and employees for the wonderful support they offer to St. James throughout the year. We would like to take a tray of cookies too, so if anyone would like to contribute please send a dozen cookies on Thursday.

Please keep Fr. Joe and Deacon Dave in your prayers. They are both dealing with medical issues.

May you have a blessed Christmas, enjoying the company of family and friends, Kathy Kettler

A little child,
A shining star,
A stable rude,
The door ajar.
Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all
The world was
born.

Anonymous

*Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY*



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Come have breakfast with Santa this Saturday, Dec. 14 at 9-11am. Breakfast is free, compliments of Flying Pig BBQ. Bring your camera so you can get photos with Santa!

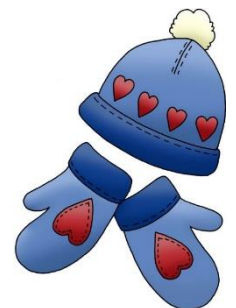
SPREAD THE WARMTH

It is a tradition at St. James School to bring in donations of hats and mittens to decorate the tree in the hallway. The hats and mittens are given to Helping Hands to be distributed to children in the local area.

The children can bring in hats or mittens for the tree from December 16 - 20.

LET'S BE JOLLY

We would like to spice up our clothing each day next week. Here's the line-up:



Monday, Dec 16 – Wear a Christmas tie, scarf or shirt with uniform pants

Tuesday, Dec 17 – Wear green like the Grinch or red like Santa

Wednesday, Dec 18 – Wear a Christmas accessory (necklace, head band, bracelet, socks) with your uniform

Thursday, Dec 19 – Wear a Santa hat with your uniform

Friday, Dec 20 – Wear Christmas dress clothes

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children have been preparing a musical Christmas program to be presented on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30pm in the church titled “Christmas is Jesus.” The children in K-6 should wear Christmas dress clothes and report to the cafeteria at 6pm. Mrs. Cordes will send papers for students who will have costumes.



DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our December Students of the Month! We thank them for being great PAX leaders!

Kindergarten: James Paulin because he is always willing to help classmates. He even brings in extra snacks.

First Grade: Bella Paulin because she takes her schoolwork seriously and always does her best work. She takes an active part in all her classes.

Second Grade: Daniel Friedman because he likes to help his classmates with their work and he is a great teacher’s helper. He works hard in class, comes up with creative ideas and has been working hard to befriend a new class member.

Third Grade: Mea Edwards because she helps her classmates and teacher. She tries hard in all subjects and sings through her school days. She follows school rules and is always smiling.

Fourth Grade: Irvin Roman because he follows school rules, is helpful and kind to everyone.

Fifth Grade: Lilly Rine because she helps with fundraisers and Sunday dinners. She also helped prepare and deliver food baskets for Thanksgiving.

Sixth Grade: Mason LeMonte because he has been working very hard in class and is kind to everyone he meets. Mason has a big heart and sees the good in everyone.

JESSE TREE

You may have noticed a small tree in the sanctuary with yellow ornaments displaying the symbols of the Tree of Jesse. The students in grades 3, 4, and 5 colored the symbols that adorn the tree.

The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus’ birth. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

Pictured decorating the tree are fifth graders, Owen Mucci and Aaydyn Wilkin.



LIVING ADVENT WREATH

The second graders, with the help of some first graders, led the Advent procession into Church for the children’s Mass on Friday. Three of the children wore purple choir robes and one wore a rose color. They carried candles and wore a wreath around their neck. The sixth graders made signs representing the theme for each week in Advent: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Love.

The sixth graders explained the custom of the advent wreath. They recited scripture and led the advent prayer. It was a beautiful way to help the children connect with the season of Advent as they prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Pictured: Lacey Allen, Aidyn Kerns, James Kelleher, Daniel Friedman, Andrew Bolanz, Bella Paulin, Alice Jones, Emilie Edwards & Hunter Morris.



BAPTISM CELEBRATION

On Friday, December 6, the children witnessed the baptism of their classmate, second grader, Lillyan Wade, and her brother, Peyton Clark.

Baptism is a sacrament of initiation, cleansing, strengthening, and welcoming. Baptism welcomes us into the community of Christian believers. It offers us a new life in which we become the adopted children of God, followers of Christ, and temples in which the Holy Spirit dwells. It gives us a new identity, connects us to a new community of believers, initiates us into a new way of living, and provides a clear mission in life.

We are very happy to welcome Lillyan and Peyton into our faith family at St. James!



RELIGION CLASSES

Sister Clara has shared what the students are doing in Religion class:

In this second quarter of the school year, the students are studying Advent, the liturgical season that prepares us for Christmas. Students in first and second grade put a small manger together to prepare for Jesus birth. Each day of Advent they place in the manger a tiny paper straw for each good deed, kind word, prayer they have performed. They put three straws in if they attend Holy Mass. At Christmas they will place a small picture of the Infant Jesus on the straw in their manger.

Sister Judith's fifth grade students turned teachers and taught the first graders the history and meaning of the Christmas Candy Cane.

A candy maker began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White symbolizes the sinless nature of Jesus. The candy was hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation



of the church. He formed the candy into a “J” for Jesus our Savior and the staff of the good shepherd. The three small red stripes represent the scourging received prior to Jesus crucifixion. The red band reminds us that Jesus shed His blood for us. Its peppermint flavor is similar to the hyssop used for purification. Its taste is sweet, as it is sweet to walk with Jesus

Each child was given a candy cane, a bookmark telling the meaning of the candy cane and a tiny coloring book to help them remember the meaning.

Pictured is Sister Judith, fifth grade “teacher” Bray Jones and first graders Eli Hunt and Kali Hamilton.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Winter has arrived! It’s time to get out the winter coats, hats, mittens and boots. Please be sure to send your children to school dressed according to the weather. We will go outside for recess if the weather is above 25 degrees.

SNOW DAYS

When Sandy Valley Schools are closed due to bad weather, St. James is closed. You will receive a text from St. James, normally by 6:30am, alerting you that we are closed. If the text doesn’t come through or you are wondering if we are open, check our facebook page at St. James Catholic School – Waynesburg for the latest school closing info. If we are open but Malvern, Minerva, or Carrollton are closed it is up to parents to bring your children, depending on your assessment of the safety of the roads in your area. Please call the school if you decide not to bring them so we know they are safe with you.

SCHOOL STORE

Don’t forget to go to schoolstore.com for your holiday shopping. Our user name is: st james
Every purchase will contribute cash to the school.