DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019

December 2019- Principal's Statement

"Come, Let us climb the Lord's Mountain." (Isaiah 2:3)

As we anxiously prepare for the Advent and Christmas season, we ask God to bless and remind us of the reason for the celebrations during this eventful month. This month we will experience travel, cooking, gift exchanges, decorations, stocking stuffers, and other festivities more than any other month. Just as Daniel Groody points out in our first Daily Reflections for Advent, we must remember why we are climbing the Lord's mountain. The summit we desire to seek is the summit of the Lord. The mountain we climb may have unanticipated obstacles and through those challenges we must change ourselves.

"Only after I changed my approach to the journey was I able to climb higher and make it to the awe-awaiting summit." (Daniel Groody)

This morning, I witnessed the true joy that the season can bring as I attended the first grade Advent wreath activities. Seeing parents step away from their busy work schedules to celebrate with their child in this special blessing brought joy to the faces of the children and parents. As we evaluate our own journey this month, may we consider making changes to our lives that will last us beyond the holiday season. Changes within ourselves, our families, and our faith are important in climbing the mountain of the Lord. Our next two faith, family, fun nights will be held on December 4th and January 2nd. Please consider implementing an Advent activity during your December 4th family time. The school will have free Advent books available for your family if you would like to pick one up from the front office. We wish you a very joyous and merry Advent and Christmas Season.

Justin Matias
OLV Principal

Parish Tuition Rate

Reminder – In order to be charged lower in-parish tuition rates, a minimum donation of $400 must be made to the parish for 2019. The deadline for meeting this obligation is December 31, 2019. If needed, call the rectory office (575-4741) before December 23rd to verify donations to date. The rectory will be closed on December 24-January 1st for the holidays. Donations not dropped into the collection baskets at Mass or mailed to the church office can be dropped into the rectory front door mail slot when offices are closed. Please fulfill your obligation to the Church to avoid being billed higher out-of-parish tuition rates, retroactive, beginning August 1, 2019. There is also a $50 per month late fee for those wishing to continue paying in-parish rates but, not meeting the deadline of December 31 with their minimum donation of $400 for 2019. No notices will be mailed.

If you know of a family who has been attending Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and they are considering sending their child(ren) to OLV School next year, please let them know that they must be registered as parishioners prior to January 1, 2020, in order to pre-register as an OLV family in March and receive OLV tuition rates.

Christmas Program December 18th

The Christmas program for grades 5K-8th will be held on Wednesday Dec. 18th at 7:00 pm at the VISD Fine Arts Center. We will have only one show with all students participating in it. It is a large facility and there are no bad seats in the place!

We will have a dress rehearsal at the facility on the morning of Dec. 18th and more information will be given by email concerning the arrangements. Please read all the emails to stay on top of what's going on!!!

Children's Christmas Mass

We would like to invite the children of grades 4K-5th to participate in the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Mass for children on December 24th at the Cathedral. This is a special Mass for the children to take part as readers, gift bearers, and participants in the portrayal of the first Christmas. Practice at 10:30-noon on Monday December 23rd. If you have any questions, please call the school or church office.

NOTE OF THANKS

A/R New to You Book Sale:

Thanks to all who participated in the Book Sale, either by contributing books or buying them. It was a great success. Thanks to the volunteers who helped put on the sale. We will continue to collect books for the remainder of the school year, so if you are cleaning out bookshelves, please keep us in mind.

CHOIR NEWS

The OLV choir will be performing:

December 5: OLV Choir is singing for the Chick-Fil-A Winter Worship Concert. They are singing at 6:15pm
December 11: OLV choir singing Christmas carols at Sodalis Memory Care 10-10:30am.
December 13: OLV choir is singing at the First State Bank 12-1pm for their Christmas party.
December 18: Christmas program

After School Care News

There will be an Early Dismissal on Friday, December 6th. Please send a sack lunch if your child will be staying.

After School Care will be CLOSED for the Christmas holidays beginning on Monday, December 23rd - Wednesday, January 1st.

Please check your child's folder the first week of December for the After School Program Christmas letter for more details about how to sign up for care for December 20th, January 2nd and January 3rd.

Catholic Life Raffle: First Turn-In

First Turn-In for Catholic Life Raffle tickets is **Tuesday, December 3.** Families who sell a minimum of 15 tickets will have their name entered into the drawing for a $200 OLV Tuition Credit. The drawing will be held on Monday, December 9. Your name will be added for each additional book sold throughout the fundraiser. ALL names will remain in the drawing for a chance to win a second $200 OLV Tuition Credit. Each student in the family will have a *Spirit Dress Day* on Monday, December 16.

Remember this is OLV's only fundraiser that the school gets 100% of the proceeds. Our goal this year is $25,000 to go toward Teacher Compensation Package and Teacher Professional development. Sell your tickets and help support our wonderful OLV faculty.

If you have any questions or need additional tickets, please contact Denise Cooper at denise_cooper@ourladyvictory.org. Final turn in for all tickets will be January 24.

OLV Annual Fund:

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School 2019-2020 Annual Fund is underway. Our goal is $75,000. These funds go toward OLV's *Beat the Heat Project.* This project is aimed at installing air conditioning units in the bathrooms, improving water fountains and providing shade for the playgrounds. We need 100% participation from all our school families to reach this goal. If we all do a little it adds up to a lot. You can help by making a tax-deductible contribution any time until June 30, 2020. We would like to acknowledge our current parents, faculty and staff who have contributed to the Annual Fund:

The Flynn Family
John & Dorothy Gehrke
Dr. Bryan & Suzanne Janssen
Wade & Krista Meismer
Jason & Joan Mikeska
John Pierce
Lauren & Joey Tagliabue

Save the Date: OLV 7th Annual Gala:

Mark your Calendars for the 7th Annual OLV Gala, *Fiesta*, on **Friday, February 7, 2019** at The Cathedral Center. Letters have been mailed out for Sponsorships and auction items. If you would like to be a Sponsor or donate an item, please contact Sarah Merritt (361-541-0126), Sara Trojacek (361-550-3406), or denise_cooper@ourladyvictory. Invitations will be mailed out in early January so be watching your mailbox!

The Gala is our largest fundraising event that benefits the school, but most importantly Our Children! Look forward to seeing everyone on February 7th!!

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Basketball Game OLV vs St. Joseph Yoakum There	3 **Mass**-3K-4th Grade Basketball Game Here OLV vs Victoria Christian	4 Patriots Day *Faith Family Fun Night* Principals Meeting	5 **Mass**-5th -8th Grade Christmas Program ECC 10:30am Gym	6 All School **Mass** - 7th **12:15 Dismissal** **Faculty Meeting**	7
8	9 **ALL SCHOOL MASS** ***Feast of the Immaculate Conception***	10 **Mass** -3K-4th Grade Spelling Bee 2pm	11 Choir Trip Basketball Game OLV vs NA at St. Joe Gym	12 **Mass** -5th- 8th Grade	3rd Grade Field Trip Choir Trip	14 Stroman Basketball Tournament
15	16	17 **Mass**-3K-4th Grade	18 Practice Fine Arts Center Christmas Program 7pm Fine Arts	19 **Mass** -5th- 8th Grade End of 2nd 9 weeks	20 Bad Weather Day No School	21
22	23 **NO SCHOOL**	24 **OR**	25 **AFTERCARE** 	26 	27 	28
29 	30 	31 				

December Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Chicken Fried Steak on Bun or BBQ on Bun German Potatoes Baked Beans Rosy Applesauce	Chili Mac or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Corn Bread Chocolate Pudding	Beef Stew or Ham & Cheese Sandwich Green Beans Cornbread Apple Cobbler	Chicken Nuggets or Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes Salad Peaches & Strawberry	Early **Dismissal**
9	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**
Chicken Patty on Bun or Tuna Sandwich French Fries Salad Pineapple Tidbits	Grilled Cheese Sandwich or PBJ Substitute Sandwich Carrot Sticks Chips Oreo Cookies	Nachos or Ham & Cheese Sandwich Spanish Rice Pinto Beans Jell-O	Meatloaf or Turkey Wrap Green Beans Macaroni & Cheese Mixed Fruit	**Potluck**
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
Salisbury Steak or Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes Corn on the Cob Apple Cobbler	Chicken Spaghetti or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Green Beans Breadstick Banana Pudding	Sack Lunch Ham & Cheese Sandwich Apple Pickle Chips Graham Cookie	Domino's Pizza Pepperoni Slice Salad Orange Christmas Treat	**No School** **Christmas Break**
23	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**
No School **Christmas Break**	**No School** **Christmas Break**	**No School** **Christmas Break**	**No School** **Christmas Break**	**No School** **Christmas Break**
30	**31**			
No School **Christmas Break**	**No School** **Christmas Break**			

Reclaim Family Time

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" – Psalm 133:1

FAITHFAMILYFUNNIGHT
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 4TH

Mike and Alicia from Messy Family know first hand how hard it is for families to keep traditions alive or to find fun ways to bring Christ into this great season. They have created an Advent Book that shares, step by step, the traditions and rituals that they use within their home to pray around the Advent Wreath, recall the story of salvation using Jesse Tree ornaments, and honor the "Christmas saints" of St. Nicolas and St. Lucy. They have even included their own ceremony of blessing your door on Epiphany!

As our gift to you, OLV Catholic School is offering this book to the first 100 families! All you need to do is come by the office or email youthdirector@olvcathedral.org for your FREE Advent Book!

May you all have a blessed Christmas!

Vern Crockett, Campus Minister

FAITH FAMILY & FUN!

Family Movie Night

Clay and I stumbled upon this movie the other night. What a fun and faith filled story it was. I won't divuldge too much, but it is an incredible story of how praying with expectant faith is so powerful. We laughed, cried, and cheered...it's one you have to see. And it's on Netflix, so that's a plus!

Pray Together: Keep a list of your family's prayer intentions on a piece of paper or a dedicated dry erase board. This is a great opportunity to make a connection to the Mass. Using the same format that is used in Mass, have a leader say, "For (intention), We pray to the Lord," and have the rest of the family respond, "Lord hear our prayer." Make that list the focus of your prayer time every few days by reading through it together.

Fun Together: The Advent Wreath is a wonderful Catholic tradition that helps us to focus on the coming of Christ during the Christmas Season. This Advent create a wreath together. Check out Pintrest for great ideas.