

# IC SCHOOL NEWS

DECEMBER 2017



*Where Christ  
is the Heart  
of Education*

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

This Sunday marks the first week of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. Advent is a special time that often gets overlooked. We tend to be preoccupied with getting ready for the family gatherings of Christmas and the extended festivities that happen throughout December. Advent allows us time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Not only the celebration of the incarnation, but also when Christ will come again. As we heard in the Gospel of Matthew just a couple of weeks ago; "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Each week of Advent focuses on a different virtue; week 1: Hope, week two: Peace, week three: Joy, and week four: Love. During these next few beautiful busy weeks I invite you and your family to make time for the preparation of the celebration; The Coming of Christ our Lord.

The following link has resources that your family may enjoy using.

[https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/advent-prayers/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA0vnQBRDmARIsAEL0M118YmbagPih0R0S1yxl-vHtFAE9BjCu7Emsnp6AkXwoSRfZVFSviPoaArH7EALw\\_wcBarents](https://dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever/advent-prayers/?gclid=Cj0KCQiA0vnQBRDmARIsAEL0M118YmbagPih0R0S1yxl-vHtFAE9BjCu7Emsnp6AkXwoSRfZVFSviPoaArH7EALw_wcBarents)

I have some personal news I would like to share with you. Over the Christmas break I will be getting married. When we resume classes in January, I will no longer be Ms. Alexander. My new name will be Mrs. Voege. I am sure this will be an adjustment that will take some time for the students. Many will continue to recognize me as Ms. Alexander and that is fine.

My fiancé and I will be traveling to Rome to have our marriage blessed by the Pope. While there we will remember Immaculate Conception Catholic School and its family in our prayers. I also ask for your prayers as we begin this new sacrament together.

Advent Blessings,

Ms. Sharon Alexander, M.Ed.



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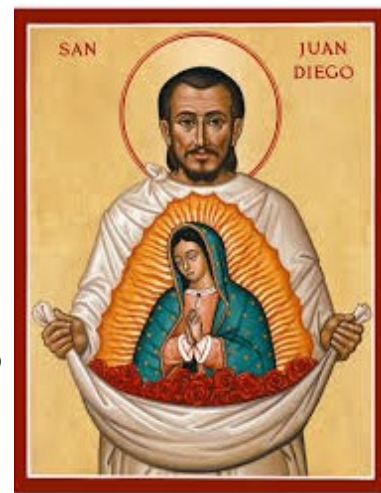
## FAITH

**Our highlighted saint for the month is St. Juan Diego. He was born in Mexico in 1474.**

St. Juan Diego was beatified on May 6, 1990 by Pope John Paul II and canonized on July 31, 2002.

He is said to have been granted an apparition of the Virgin Mary on four separate occasions in December 1531. The basilica of Guadalupe is said to contain the Tilma (cloak) of Juan Diego on which an image of the Virgin Mary appeared after Juan Diego carried flowers to the archbishop that he picked in the dead of winter.

St. Juan Diego became the first Roman Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas. His feast day is celebrated on December 9 and he is the patron saint of Indigenous people.



## KNOWLEDGE

Preschool students at Immaculate Conception are preparing for the Christmas season by talking about the legend of the Candy Cane. Did you know that the candy cane is a visual reminder of the true story of Christmas? White stands for the purity of the Virgin Mary & the sinless nature of Jesus. The red stripes symbolize the scourging that Jesus received and the blood shed by Christ to atone for our sins. Finally the candy cane is bent into the shape of a "J" for Jesus! If you flip it the other way around it also bears a resemblance to a shepherd's staff—shepherds were the first ones on the scene the night Jesus was born.

## SERVICE

Our service project for the month of December is our

**Polar Express Movie Night to Feed the Hungry on December 3rd.**

Show Times are at 2:00PM & 5:00PM

We will collect canned goods or non-perishable food items in place of admission. Hot chocolate & sleigh bells will be provided. Wear your pajamas and be prepared for a fun afternoon at the Riviera!

We are still in need of volunteers for this event; please sign up on the foyer bulletin board!



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Our December Saint Joseph Award recipient will be announced during the first Wednesday Mass of the month!

*If you know anyone that needs prayers please let the office know so we can pray for them!*

## Pope's Prayer Intention for December

### The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

## Important Dates:

**DECEMBER 1** UNIFORM HOLIDAY & POPCORN FRIDAY

**DECEMBER 2** ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY WITH BISHOP BRADLEY– at the Crowley Center (St. Augustine).

**DECEMBER 3** POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE TO FEED THE HUNGRY– Join us at the Riviera Theatre for an afternoon of fun & help us support the hungry in our community by donating a nonperishable item for admission.

**DECEMBER 5** VIRTUS TRAINING AT 6:30 every adult who wishes to volunteer at the school needs to take this training. Registration is online at [virtus.org](http://virtus.org). Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact the school office!

**DECEMBER 8** BISHOP VISITS IC SCHOOL! Bishop Bradley will be celebrating Mass with the schoolchildren at 9:00AM for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. All are invited to attend.

**DECEMBER 12** TR Partnership Skate Party at Skate Galaxy in TR (Elementary) \$5 per skater

**DECEMBER 15** POPCORN FRIDAY– popcorn fact #4 The US produces more corn than any other country!

**DECEMBER 19** CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 6:30PM– students should arrive by 6:15. Each family is asked to bring one dozen cookies for the social that will immediately follow the program.

**DECEMBER 22** HALF-DAY: Christmas Break Begins

**DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 5** CHRISTMAS BREAK

**JANUARY 8** SCHOOL RESUMES

## -Opportunities to see Bishop Bradley-



**December 2** St. Nicholas Feast Day celebration with Bishop Bradley at the Crowley Center on the grounds of the St. Augustine Cathedral. There will be games and refreshments for the entire family and Bishop Bradley will read the story of St. Nicholas. The event is free. Families are asked to consider bringing donations of mittens, socks or toiletries to benefit the Ark Shelter for Youth or a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.

**December 6** Immaculate Conception Feast Day celebration with Bishop Bradley at 9AM. Everyone is welcome to attend Mass with our students.

**Family Night is Friday, February 2nd!** The students have elected to have a Family Talent Show; mark your calendars for a fun-filled night & don't forget to start practicing on your acts!