

Dear St. Anthony Families,

Welcome back from Thanksgiving break! We hope that you had a relaxing Thanksgiving week filled with happy memories with family and friends.

We are now officially in Advent, the season of joyful waiting for the birth of Jesus Christ. We are “Waiting in Joyful Hope”. Most of us aren’t accustomed to waiting. The demand for instant results is seeping into every aspect of our lives. Retail stores jump at the chance to put their Christmas decorations up, sometimes even before Halloween. Our “smartphones” allow us to do instant messaging and it helps us to not wait for most things ~ like getting a table at a restaurant, getting directions, or even instantly sharing pictures and videos. Movies and television shows also begin streaming in seconds. We can even download books without ever stepping into a library or bookstore. For some, waiting for someone or something can be slightly uncomfortable. Our preparations and activities throughout Advent will be to awaken our hearts and minds to grace-filled moments with the Lord.

We also associate the Advent season and the coming of Christmas with bright and colorful lights ~ lights in store windows, lights decorating our houses, and lights draped around Christmas trees. These lights are festive and have the power to lift our spirits. But there are other lights during this time, lights that shine more brightly than the ones on display. These are the lights of our prayers, service, and love that mark our Catholic faith.

Another example of colorful lights is shown in our Advent wreaths; a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity with four candles. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle (3 purple and 1 pink) represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. This weekend, the first purple candle is lit representing HOPE or the expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Waiting in Joyful Hope,

K. Stapleton

Principal



**Important Dates to Remember:**

November 30	Classes Resume
December 1	Carlitos Wine House Social
December 11	Santa Sitting
December 12	School Mass 5:00pm
December 16	Christmas Program
December 17	Santa Pictures
December 18	Early Release

**Information and Reminders:**

**Did You Know?** We are increasing becoming a more and more “green” campus. In an effort to save paper our monthly newsletter and calendar will be web-based only from this point forward. In the future, the lunch menu will also be uploaded to our website. Thanks for your support.

**Tree of Lights – ALL FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE**

This year SAS & Parish will be lighting a Christmas prayer tree after the school Christmas Program on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Every light bulb on the tree represents a prayer. Each class will be selling lights. 1 prayer light bulb = donation of \$1.00. 1 Luminary = donation of \$5.00

Lights and prayers will represent the students, their families, relative, friend, parishioners, and anyone needing a special prayer. The tree will represent a “Community in Prayer”.

**Update on the Construction at SAS:** We have patiently waited for the final brick to complete our new building and it appears we will be able to get the keys on December 15<sup>th</sup>. We plan to move over the Christmas break. God is good!!

**Save the Date (December 16) for our Annual Christmas Program:** Preparations have already begun for our annual Christmas Program on Wednesday, Dec. 16. We will be featuring all of our students in prayerful song and drama. We look forward to this very special program.

**Santa Sitting:** Take the evening without the kids and get some Christmas shopping done. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be providing movie night for St. Anthony students. Donations greatly appreciated.

**Mark your calendar!**

**Classes Resume – December 7**

**Christmas Program – December 16**

**Scholastic Book Fair Kick Off – February 1**

**Catholic Schools Week – February 1-6**

**SAS Parent Open House – January 31**

