

Due to 2 recess areas this year we need more parental participation. Parents will now be offered service hours for additional recess duties served beyond the initial requirement.

St. Mary of the Assumption School
Weekly Newsletter
www.stmaryum.org
office@stmaryum.org

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Monday, Dec 19th was the last day to order SCRIP before Christmas/New Years. Additional orders will not be processed until after the holidays.

The Great O Antiphons

Calendar of Events



Fourth Week of Advent

The "O Antiphons" refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil.

The importance of "O Antiphons" is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. (more info on page 2)

12/21 10:10 AM Mass
 12:30 Dismissal
No Aftercare

11/3 **School Resumes**

11/6 10:10 AM Mass
 Full Day

Recess Duty Schedule

12/21 No Recess

01/03 Qualls/Joy (4)

01/04 Patterson (7)
 Dearing (6)

01/05 Brown (7)
 Cyprain-Chiaha

01/06 Varner (3)
 Lewis (PK)

01/09 Smith (1)
 Jefferson (K)

01/10 T. Wilson (K)
 Jeffrey (4)

A Special Christmas Greeting To Our Parents

On behalf of Father Foley, Sister Joyce and Sister Myra and the entire faculty and staff of our school, we would like to wish all of our parents a heartfelt Merry Christmas and a faith filled, happy and blessed New Year.

We are grateful that you have chosen to send your children to St. Mary of the Assumption School to learn about the things of God as well as the things of this world. With God's help and your support, I'm sure 2012 will be another great year of learning at St. Mary's. Merry Christmas everyone!

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

On December 2nd, we introduced CROSS, Cornerstone Record Of Student Status. This is a parental access site detailing your child's school activities including academic performance, attendance, progress reports, and report cards. An email was sent out to parents of Grades 4-8 with your username and password. Please note that this is a pilot program; we appreciate your cooperation. If you have any concerns or questions, or did not receive an email please call the office or contact Mrs. Campbell @ tcampbell@stmaryum.org.

Praising the Names of Jesus: The Antiphons of Advent

It is especially in the final week of Advent that our attention is fixed on the messianic promises proclaimed by the ancient prophets of Israel. A distinctive feature of the Liturgy of the Hours in this week preceding the Christmas vigil is the antiphon sung at Vespers (evening prayer) before and after the recitation of the Magnificat. Originally incorporated into the monastic office in the Middle Ages, these antiphons, often called the "Greater Antiphons" or the "O Antiphons", are also echoed in the daily lectionary as the verse for the gospel acclamation during this week. They add a mood of eager expectation to the liturgy that builds throughout these seven days and climaxes at Christmas.

The O Antiphons have been described as "a unique work of art and a special ornament of the pre-Christmas liturgy, filled with the Spirit of the Word of God". They "create a poetry that fills the liturgy with its splendor", and their composer shows "a magnificent command of the Bible's wealth of motifs". The antiphons are, in fact, a collage of Old Testament types of Christ. Their predominant theme is messianic, stressing the hope of the Savior's coming. Jesus is invoked by various titles, mainly taken from the prophet Isaiah. The sequence progresses historically, from the beginning, before creation, to the very gates of Bethlehem.

In their structure, each of the seven antiphons follows the same pattern, resembling a traditional liturgical prayer. Each O Antiphon begins with an invocation of the expected Messiah, followed by praise of him under one of his particular titles. Each ends with a petition for God's people, relevant to the title by which he is addressed, and the cry for him to "Come".

The seven titles attributed to Jesus in the antiphons are Wisdom (*Sapientia* in Latin), Ruler of the House of Israel (*Adonai*), Root of Jesse (*Radix*), Key of David (*Clavis*), Rising Dawn (*Oriens*), King of the Gentiles (*Rex*), and Emmanuel. In Latin the initials of the titles make an acrostic which, when read backwards, means: "Tomorrow I will be there" ("Ero cras"). To the medieval mind this was clearly a reference to the approaching Christmas vigil.

Today the O Antiphons are most familiar to us in the hymn "O come, O come Emmanuel". Each verse of the hymn parallels one of the antiphons. In addition to their use in the Liturgy of the Hours and the gospel acclamation, they have been popularly incorporated into church devotions and family prayer. An Advent prayer service for use at home, in school, or in the events of parish life can be built around the singing or recitation of the antiphons, accompanied by the related Scripture readings and prayers. They can be prayed at family dinner times or with the lighting of the Advent wreath, with a short explanation of their biblical background. The titles can also be depicted by simple symbols - for example, on banners and posters or in bulletin illustrations - to help us to reflect on these Advent themes.

Confirmation News

CONFIRMATION NEWS



Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

First I would like to commend you all for your attendance at both the Dec 6 Penance Service and the Sun, Dec 11 Presentation of the Candidates. I am sure many graces were received by all which will strengthen us all for our faith journey.

SAVE THE DATE - IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONFIRMATION CALENDAR:

We have confirmed the date and time for our Confirmation Holy Hour:

- Friday, February 3, 2012 at St. Mary's Church
- 7:00p.m. Short talk (topic to be announced)
- 7:30p.m.-8:30p.m. Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament
- Tentative reception in the Church hall to follow – more details on that to come later.
- Music and Talk provided by: Mr. Brian Kissinger.

Background: Brian comes highly recommended by our former School Religion teacher and Parish Youth Minister Ms. Jill Bohacik. Brian is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Youth Minister at St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax and a speaker at various youth and young adult conferences and retreats nationwide. This past summer, Brian helped lead a pilgrimage of young people to Assisi, Italy and to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain.

Who should attend? Candidates and at least one parent must attend. Family members are welcome and well as Sponsors.

SO.....PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Friday, Feb 3!!! THANK YOU!

A copy of the *revised* Confirmation Calendar can be downloaded at the Confirmation Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/stmaryofassumptionre/confirmation>

or Go to www.stmaryum.org, click on *Sacraments*, click on *Confirmation*

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry and Blessed Christmas where you are filled with much peace and the wonderful gift of family.

Regina Piazza

Minister of Religious Education

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From the Library . . .

Thank you to the following students and/or faculty who joined the AR Quiz Club: Coach (in Memory of her godfather, Ben Kirby), Paul Burch (Gr. 7), Taylor Smith (Gr. 7), Kennedy Cyprain (Gr. 7), and Jordyn Pettiford (Gr. 5). The new AR quizzes will be ordered today and will be ready for use when school reopens on January 3.

Update on Special Collection for Sisters Servants of the Lord

Gift cards totaling \$190 in value were collected for the Sisters Servants of the Lord. Thank you to those families who were so generous.

SCRIP

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



FASHION GIFTS

Aeropostale
American Eagle
Gap/Banana Republic
JCPenney
Kohl's
Macy's
TJMaxx



DAD STUFF

Ace Hardware
Home Depot
Lowe's
Outback
Sears



TOYS FOR ALL AGES

Best Buy
GameStop
PetSmart
Shutterfly
Staples
Toys R Us



ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Bass Pro Shops
Cabela's
Dick's Sporting Goods
Lands End
LLBean



BUSINESS GIFTS

Chipotle
Harry & David
Honey Baked Ham
See's Candies



STOCKING STUFFERS

AMC Theatres
Claire's
Dunkin' Donuts
iTunes
Regal Entertainment



COOKS & FOODIES

Bed Bath & Beyond
Omaha Steaks
PF Chang
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Williams Sonoma



FOR TEACHER

Barnes & Noble
Borders
Shutterfly
Waldenbooks



IF YOU'RE STUMPED

Amazon.com
American Airlines
Chili's
Marriott
Panera Bread
Starbucks



SCRIP

St. Mary of the Assumption School Scrip Order Form

Orders sent into School will be filled on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**

Your name: _____ Daytime phone number: _____

If you are sending this form to School to have order returned home, please complete the following:

Student name: _____ Student's Grade: _____

Retailer (percentage earned by St. Mary's)	Card Value	# of cards	Total
Grocery/Warehouse Stores			
BJ's Wholesale (2%)	\$100		\$0
BJ's Wholesale (2%)	\$25		\$0
Giant (5%)	\$100		\$0
Giant (5%)	\$25		\$0
Food Lion (5%)	\$100		\$0
Food Lion (5%)	\$25		\$0
Safeway (4%)	\$100		\$0
Safeway (4%)	\$25		\$0
WalMart/Sam's Club (2%)	\$100		\$0
WalMart/Sam's Club (2%)	\$25		\$0
Target (2%)	\$100		\$0
Target (2%)	\$25		\$0

If you do not see what you are searching for on this form, there are **over 400 businesses** listed online at www.glscrip.com! Please note that special orders will take a bit longer to fill.

Restaurants			
NEW!! Domino's (8%)	\$10		\$0
Dunkin' Donuts (4%)	\$10		\$0
Chili's/Macaroni Grill/On the Border (9%)	\$25		\$0
Chipotle (10%)	\$10		\$0
Bonefish/Outback/Carrabba's (8%)	\$25		\$0
Panera Bread (9%)	\$10		\$0
Red Lobster/Olive Garden/Longhorn (9%)	\$25		\$0
Starbuck's (9%)	\$10		\$0
NEW!! Subway (3%)	\$10		\$0
Wendy's (4%)	\$10		\$0

Retail			
Barnes & Noble (9%)	\$10		\$0
Kohl's (5%)	\$25		\$0
Kohl's (5%)	\$100		\$0
iTunes (5%)	\$15		\$0

Gasoline			
Shell (2.5%)	\$100		\$0
Shell (2.5%)	\$25		\$0
Wawa (1.5%)	\$25		\$0

Special Orders: (fill in retailer and card value)			
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0
			\$0

Total amount of SCRIP purchase **0**

Please check payment method: Cash Check number _____

Thank you for supporting St. Mary of the Assumption!

There is a \$30 fee for all returned checks.

Please make all checks payable to St. Mary of the Assumption

Catholic Youth Organization

JV GIRLS

The team would like to thank those that came out to support us at the game this past weekend. The JV Girls (JVG) had to maintain their defensive strategy tightly in the first half of the game. This helped them to lead at the half 5-3 against St. John the Evangelist. Our opponent managed to defeat us 23-10. The game was extremely competitive throughout. The girls are showing great progress with their game. More girls scored than in any other game so far - Keep it Up JVG! The entire team, which includes Logan Rice, Sommer Goodman, Nicole Veney and Erin Hursey, supported the following scorers: Denise Dearing-1, Rayna Shields-1, Samaiah Sivills-3, and Kira Royster-5. Our next game is Jan 7 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Jerome in Hyattsville, MD. Come out and cheer us on to victory!

--Coaches: Renee Dearing and R. Hursey

JV BOYS (TOUR)

Congratulations to the JV Boys(Tour) who came from a 5 point first quarter deficit to defeat the Holy Family Knights 21-17.

Next Game: 1/7/2012 at 10am at Holy Family in Hillcrest Heights, MD.

--Coach Troy Cartledge