

ST. LAURENCE SAINTS

SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

DECEMBER 7, 2016

ST. NICHOLAS DAY VISITED SLCS YESTERDAY!



Click [HERE](#) or on the picture to take a peek at St. Nick's visit!

A GREAT BIG THANKS GOES TO MR. AND MRS. CLAUS FOR A FANTASTIC ST. NICHOLAS DAY!

Our ECC students enjoyed sitting on Santa's lap and sharing what they wanted for Christmas. Luckily, all our ECC and Elementary students were good this year, so they received a special treat in their shoe that was left outside the classroom!!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Dear Parents,

We are now in the second week of Advent and if you are like me, you are probably feeling a little stressed about getting ready for Christmas, whether it is shopping for gifts or decorating. There are a lot of special things happening at school as well with performances, special events and exams. Now, it is more important than ever to pray and focus on the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. Children will feed off of your anxiety and look to you for guidance and reassurance. I thought it might be interesting to share this link [HERE](#) with information about the Advent Wreath and Candles if you are

interested and looking for ideas to celebrate the season.

This week and next are filled with wonderful examples of our Catholic identity as we celebrate both the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. What a blessed time of year and how wonderful it is to be able to participate in our sharing our faith with our St. Laurence community.

Happy Advent!

Mrs. Barto

IMPORTANT DATES

12/8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception All School Mass – Wear your official uniform NJHS Meeting NEHS Meeting
12/9	Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration All School Mass - Wear your official uniform
12/12-12/14	7 th and 8 th Grade Exams
12/13	Leo Club Meeting PTO Ornament Exchange 1:00 p.m. School Board Meeting
12/14	Jean/Spirit Days-pink accessories for Advent ECC Christmas Program 8:30 -10:00 a.m. Parish Hall Band Concert 7:00 p.m. School Gym Saints Family activity in the afternoon
12/15	Middle School Retreat 1 st Grade Service Project
12/16	All School Mass Led by 7A Christmas Caroling and Parties End of 2 nd Quarter Early Dismissal 10:45/11 a.m.
1/3	Students Return

CHRISTMAS MUSICALS

12/14	ECC Christmas Program in the Parish Hall 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. PreK 9:15-10:00 p.m. Kindergarten
12/14	Band Concert 7:00 p.m. School Gym



SCHOOL BOARD CONNECTS



DID YOU KNOW...

How blessed we are to be part of a school community with the Holy Spirit at its core! The Faith Committee of your School Board joyously invites students and families to share in the beauty of this new liturgical year, the season of Advent. Amid the demands of a busy holiday season, we encourage you to pause, reflect, pray, and discuss within your family, how Advent is a time of preparation. In preparing for the arrival of baby Jesus, we are given the opportunity to grow in spirit, find renewed hope, and perfectly align our commitment to Him through our Catholic faith.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!



A NOTE FROM YOUR PTO



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Following Mass, Friday, December 16th, the students will enjoy Christmas caroling and classroom parties. Elementary parties will serve snowballs (white cheese balls), a sugar cookie, candy cane, and a juice pouch. If your child has a food allergy, please click the link with photos of all of the ingredients [HERE](#) and decide if an alternative snack is necessary. Early dismissal 10:45/11:00 a.m. Have a blessed Christmas and we will see you back at school on Tuesday, January 3rd!



NEWS

QUESTION REGARDING SHARING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

We are working on a new carpool plan due to some upcoming construction and need to know if you would like for us **NOT** to share what neighborhood you live in. If you would like to opt **OUT** of this information going to other families, please let us know by Monday, December 12th.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MID-TERM EXAMS

Seventh and eighth grade students will be taking exams during the week of December 14th - 18th. Seventh grade students take three core exams and eighth grade students take six core exams. The schedule is as follows:

	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
Mon., Dec. 12	English	Religion / Math
Tues., Dec. 13	Religion	English / Science
Wed., Dec. 14	Social Studies	Literature / Social Studies

In May, the seventh grade students will take the three remaining core exams (Science, Literature, and Math). Eighth grade students will take all six end-of-the-year exams in core subjects.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS

Middle School students will be attending a day of retreat on Thursday, December 15th at the following locations:

5th and 6th grade – St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Sugar Land

7th grade – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Richmond

8th grade – St. Catherine's Convent, Houston

Please pray for our middle school students that they have safe travels to/from the retreat sites and that they have a meaningful retreat experience.

STUDENT COUNCIL SERVICE PROJECT

Super Kids-Super Sharing! Start Collecting NOW! Please donate NEW and GENTLY used books, games, school supplies, and sports equipment; also bring no longer used cell phones- these will be refurbished and donated to shelters. The Student Council is coordinating this service project sponsored by the NFL and the Houston Texans to help children in our community. As you shop for Christmas or receive new items think about donating to children in need this Christmas. Start gathering items at home and we will collect all items the week of January 9th-13th when we return from break. Thank you for your generosity!

ECC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM INVITATION

You are invited to attend our annual Early Childhood Campus Christmas Program, Wednesday, December 14, in the Parish Hall. Pre K program begins at 8:30 a.m. and Kindergarten will begin at 9:15 a.m. Students are asked to wear their Christmas church attire and be sure to have them get plenty of rest the night before. We will have Sweetwater Video there to capture the fun moments; please see the order form [HERE](#). There will also be forms available in the Parish Hall that day. These videos make wonderful Christmas gifts for those who cannot attend. Thank you for sharing your precious little ones with us. It is a blessing to serve them and St. Laurence Catholic School! See you soon!!!!

BOX TOP\$ DUE TOMORROW

Please send your BOXTOP\$ and labels to school with your child, or you can drop them off in the office marked with their class for our collection contest. Our next collection day is December 8th! We will recognize the top three classes December 15th!

EARLY DISMISSAL REMINDER

Reminder! Early dismissal **must** take place before 2:45 p.m. (Page 36 of Family Handbook) Please do not contact the front office after that time and ask for your child to be sent to the office or change carpool arrangements.

BLOOD DRIVE AT SLCS BENEFITING RICHARD STONE!

Many of you know Richard Stone, our longtime Band Director. He is currently traveling to MD Anderson each day for blood and platelet transfusions as he battles cancer. One thing that we can all do to help him and MD Anderson is to donate blood and platelets. Donations are down from their usual levels at this time. If you are willing and able to help, please consider making a blood and/or platelet donation. Mr. Maklary is organizing a local blood drive that will be coming to St. Laurence on Saturday, January 7th. Click [HERE](#) to schedule your appointment and for the details! Thank you in advance!

ANNUAL FUND THANK YOU!

SLCS is grateful for the support in which we have received for the **Annual Fund**. Our mini directories are sent home last week in red folders to those who gave a gift. If you have not pledged or contributed, there is still time and directories, as the annual fund is a yearlong campaign!!! Check to see if you need additional tax deductions for 2016, and make SLCS your charity of choice...join us in supporting OUR students! If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Byrne in the Advancement Office.

SHARE PICTURES FOR OUR YEARBOOK USING THE BALFOUR APP!

Our Yearbook photographers can't be everywhere! If you've got great photos of school events, or you and your friends just having fun, please share them with us. The more photos you share, the better our yearbook will be for everyone! Download the Balfour App and share them from your cell phone. Our project number is #720467. Questions? Contact Adriana Gutierrez at agutierrez@stlaurence.org.

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT FAMILY CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Consider purchasing the 4th Annual SLCS Family Retreat for your family this Christmas season! Early Bird registration will be available beginning next Wednesday, December 7th, through Friday, March 10th. Look for the registration form in next week's Wednesday folder and/or a link in next week's newsletter. The retreat brings SLCS families together to share community, fun, and practical wisdom as we endeavor together to foster the domestic church in our homes. Enjoy spending quality time with your family the weekend of March 31st, 2017. Contact Debra Haney at dhane92@yahoo.com with questions. The retreat facility holds approximately 30 families so space is limited to a first-come, first-served basis.



1.28.17 2:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE! WE NEED YOU HERE!

We are so blessed to be celebrating 25 years as a parish school! Please mark your calendars for our Mass & Celebration on **January 28, 2017!** It will be a fun family day at the school with scavenger hunts, photo booth, food trucks, reminiscing and fellowship! We will conclude our day with Mass with the Cardinal and our very own Father Drew! If you would like to assist in making this a day to remember, please contact the Advancement Office at advancement@stlaurence.org or 281.980.0500.

DRIVE FOR 25!

Save your quarters and make plans to participate in our Drive for 25, January 25, 2017 in honor of our 25th anniversary on the 100th day of school!!! We will have a student quarter drive to assist a local school and a 25 hour online giving day! Stay tune for more details but until then save those quarters!

Take a **Stroll Down Memory Lane!**

SLCS THEN AND NOW: A TR+ADITION OF SERVICE!

SCHOOLS



St. Laurence Catholic School sixth-graders Chiara Mercado, Katie Rose and Justine Hensey have been visiting Margaret McKinney of Sugar Land each week.

St. Laurence students give gift of time

It seems during the holidays that people have no time. Yet that is just what the sixth-graders at St. Laurence Catholic School give each week to residents of two Fort Bend specialized-care facilities.

On Monday afternoons, during regularly scheduled class time, 13 students visit Mariner Health of First Colony, a nursing home. On Thursday afternoons, another 13 students visit Colonial Oaks, an assisted-living facility. The same students arrive each week to talk, to play and to entertain the residents. Because of the continuity that the program provides, many of the students and residents have formed friendships and look forward to the time they share together each week.

New to the sixth-grade curriculum, this "service unit" is led by Maria Sodek, a Spanish teacher at St. Laurence School.

"The students gain so much from this experience," said Sodek. "They have learned to see life from another viewpoint, one that is quite different from their own. As a result, they seem to have a truer understanding of abandonment . . . and of accomplishment."

The students have been awed by stories that the residents share about their lives; What it was like to emigrate to the States as a young child, the wonder they felt when they saw their first television set, the pride of being a World War II veteran and how 10 cents could buy an ice cream cone.

Often, the residents will offer sage advice to their young visitors: "You have got to study, the whole world is in front of you. Go to school, get your education . . . and do something!"

But the students also have come to recognize what true loneliness is. Some residents get few visitors, some get none at all. This realization has affected every student, especially those whose grandparents and great-grandparents live in another state or in a care facility.

Said Sodek: "I have witnessed the transition these children have undergone over the past 12 weeks. They have shared a real human experience and each has grown in some way."

The idea for a service program as part of the curriculum for middle school students came from Assistant Principal Germaine Guedry and

Principal Nancy Taylor, who attended the National Catholic Educators Association convention together last year. At that convention, Guedry was moved to action by a nun/school principal speaker who stressed the importance of young people giving in a significant way to their community.

"Service projects are nothing new to the students of St. Laurence," said Guedry. "For instance, each month a different grade level sponsors a fund-raiser that benefits St. Vincent de Paul in Guatemala. In addition, the school supports a number of food and clothing drives throughout the year. The difference is that through this program, our students are directly serving their own community in a very hands-on way. Making it a part of the curriculum clearly communicates to our students the important we place on community service."

When the new semester begins in January, these 26 students will return to the classroom for keyboarding instruction. They will be succeeded by students who mastered the computer skills in the fall and now will learn how to better serve the world around them.



AUCTION NEWS

FABULOUS AUCTION OPPORTUNITY

For the first time in our 25 year history you have the opportunity to support your auction with sponsorships that will directly defer the expenses of this fabulous event and give you a tax write off in 2016! Don't delay! Click [HERE](#) to see what is still available. Please note sponsorships are separate from underwriting. Sponsorships are a great way to advertise your business and help the school at the same time. Underwriting information will be sent home to all families in January. Questions? Contact one of the 2017 Auction Chairs.



ALUMNI NEWS

Once a Saint, Always a Saint

ARE YOU AN ALUMNI?

We would like to invite you to be included in our next edition of the Saints' Scoop. We want to know what our Saints been up to! Please share any information you might have on any alum [HERE](#)! Please be sure to include the graduation year in your description. Please send your questions or pictures to Adriana Gutierrez at agutierrez@stlaurence.org. Thank you!



SAINTS SPORTS SCOOP

SPORTS UPDATE

BASKETBALL

The basketball teams continue their winning ways! Congratulations to the boys Varsity team for winning the St. Thomas High School Invitational and to the girls Varsity team for winning the Kinkaid Classic Tournament.

All three boy's teams play at St. Vincent DePaul on Wednesday and then will take a break for exams and Christmas break.

All three girl's teams play at St. Vincent DePaul on Thursday. The Varsity girls will play in the St. Agnes Tournament on Friday and Saturday before beginning their break.

BASEBALL

There will be a parent meeting for all 5th-8th grade boys interested in participating in St. Laurence baseball in the spring. The meeting will be on Tuesday, December 13th at 6:00 PM in the school dining hall.

SPRING SPORTS

Registration for baseball, softball and track is open on the athletic website. Please go to stlaurenceathletics.org to register. Please contact Betsy Brown, bbrown@stlaurence.org or Glen Fucik, gfucik@stlaurence.org with any questions.

BOOSTER CLUB SPIRIT STORE! Find the Booster Club forms [HERE](#)!



PARISH NEWS

WANT TO CONTINUE LEARNING ABOUT YOUR FAITH WITH OTHER ADULTS?

Our Adult Faith Formation team has some amazing opportunities for our parents. Click [HERE](#) for the upcoming opportunities and speakers. There is truly something for everyone!



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

ST. AGNES/STRAKE JESUIT MIXED CHORUS

The St. Agnes/Strake Jesuit Mixed Chorus will present their signature event of the year, "Messiah" on Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10, both starting at 7:30 p.m. There is no better way to get into the Christmas spirit and start off your holiday season! The First Act includes Christmas Holiday music and a festive rendition of the 12 days of Christmas. The Second Act features Handel's "Messiah" concluding in the traditional fashion with a joyous "Hallelujah" chorus. This highly entertaining event will leave you with goose bumps and includes feature performances by singers from our All State, Regional and Performance Choirs.

The concert is held at the Strake Jesuit Parsley Center beginning at 7:30 pm and lasts approximately two hours. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. Please plan to arrive early as late seating will not be allowed. Patrons who arrive after 7:30 pm will be escorted to the back row until the intermission. Out of respect for our performers and in consideration of those around you, "Messiah" is not recommended for children under 5. Tickets can be purchased at: st-agnes.org/tickets

MISSION STATEMENT

As a pastoral instrument of the Church, St. Laurence Catholic School educates and develops the whole Christian person in body, mind, and spirit through the trinity of parent, child, and educator.

CONNECT WITH US!



St. Laurence Catholic School

| 2630 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX. 77479

| 281- 980- 0500