

# ECHOES OF ANGELS

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

## Santa Pictures

Our very special guest is expected to arrive from the North Pole tomorrow. Santa Claus will be here to visit with our PK-2 classes. If you would like a picture of this event, please be sure to return the photo order form to your child's teacher.

## Girls Basketball

If your 5th-8th grade daughter would like to play basketball, please sign them up through our Athletics portal found on our website. Our numbers are currently very low for participation so please register as soon as possible so we can get our team rosters to the league.

## Placement Exam

If you missed ACC's placement exams last weekend, there is another chance to take it on Saturday, December 14 from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Rosary and Marmion will be hosting their entrance exams on Saturday, January 11 beginning at 9:00 AM. Please register online.



## The Spirit of Christmas

Most of us are probably not even aware of how much work goes into the maintenance of our fifty-year-old building. Mr. Fernando Viveros is here everyday helping Mr. Richard keep the building in tip-top shape. He is a hard worker and does every task with a smile for the children. A few weeks ago, he received some distressing news about his mother who lives in Mexico. She was diagnosed with lung cancer. To have a parent that is ill and so far away has been difficult for him. Aside from our prayers for healing and peace, let's show our support in another way. We will be having a Spirit Wear Day on Friday, December 20. For \$1, students may dress in their



## West High Registration

If your child is interested in attending West Aurora High School in the fall, please complete an online registration and then schedule a registration appointment (630-301-5050.) Placement exam for English and Math is set for Thursday, January 16 from 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM. Orientation will be on Thursday, January 23 from 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM>

## December Sale

Schoolbelles is offering 40% off backpacks and lunch bags and 30% off uniform pants, polos, doll dresses, belts, shoes, and hair accessories from December 12-14. ([www.schoolbelles.com](http://www.schoolbelles.com))

## Empower Illinois

Reservations for the 2020-21 Empower Illinois tax credit scholarship will open on Wednesday, January 15. This year, the reservation form will be available at 6:30 PM to give families time to enter their information before submission at 7:00 PM. The reservation will have two pages. Page one is for entering basic information. Page two is the review of this information to click to submit. Only after clicking submit on page two will you receive your first come, first-served timestamp. To apply: [empowerillinois.org](http://empowerillinois.org)

Holy Angels spirit wear. All the proceeds from this fundraiser will be given to Fernando to help with medical expenses. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Glad Tidings We Bring

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." Grades K-2 will perform their Christmas program on Monday, December 16 at 6:00 in the Mates Fieldhouse (gymnasium.) Our preschoolers celebrate the season for their parents and grandparents on Thursday, December 19 at 9 AM in Connor Hall. Finally, our 3rd and 4th graders will perform the Archangel Gabriel play in Connor Hall on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30. All are welcome to enjoy the sounds of Christmas with us.

In addition, the Seraphim Ball Committee will be available in the lobby after school on Monday and prior to and following the Christmas program for parents to be able to purchase tuition raffle tickets as well as tickets to the Ball.

## Christmas Blessings

Our annual Christmas Collection continues until Monday. This *Home & School* event gives you the opportunity to show your appreciation for our hardworking teachers. We always welcome large contributions but because we serve children and families even the smallest donation will go a long way in instantly making a difference in the lives of our faculty and staff. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Lady Luck

It's *Super Raffle* time! The *Super Raffle* is our only mandatory fundraiser. It requires each family to purchase or sell a minimum of \$150 worth of tickets. Tickets are \$10 each. The grand prize is \$3,500 and first prize is \$500. There is also a \$100 prize for the most tickets sold as well as an Early Bird Drawing on January 22. Information and tickets will be coming home on Monday. All money must be turned in by 2:30 PM on January 30. The drawing will be held on January 31 at the Catholic Schools Week 8th grade vs. teachers volleyball game. Should you choose not to participate in selling tickets, this mandatory fundraising fee will be added to your February tuition statement.

## Annual Appeal

Back in 1973, the Aurora Catholic Education Fund was established to “support all facets of private Catholic education in the Aurora area as well as supplemental religious instructional for Catholic students in the public school and adult education.” As the principals representative for this group, I can attest to the amazing things this group has accomplished. To date they have distributed \$3,333,427 to this cause and are the only remaining endowment fund in the Diocese to continue in this particular type of endeavor. Each year money is allocated to the Aurora elementary schools, religious programs, and the three high schools. This year we received \$23,491 from them. This money helps us to maintain our standard of academic excellence and is greatly appreciated. ACEF is in the process of their Annual Appeal for donors to this fund. Donations will be added to the principal of the Fund. Attached is a donation form if you would like to contribute to this endowment fund.

## Next Week at a Glance

**Monday - End of Teachers' Christmas Collection**

**K-2 Christmas Program 6:00 Gym**

**Tuesday - Archangel Gabriel Play 6:30. Connor Hall**

**Wednesday -**

**Thursday - PK Christmas Program 9:00 Connor Hall**

**Friday - Spirit Wear Day**

**Mass 8:15**

**Hot Lunch BWW**

**Christmas Break December 23-January 3**

## Common Catholic Questions

**What is the history of Christmas trees?**

The history of Christmas trees goes back to the symbolic use of evergreens in ancient Egypt and Rome and continues with the German tradition of candlelit Christmas trees first brought to America in the 1800s. Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness. It wasn't until the sixteenth century in Germany that trees were brought inside and decorated.

Continue the tradition by gathering together and blessing this special symbol. You may bless the tree as soon as you put it up, or you can wait until after you have decorated it. When you are ready to do the blessing, gather everyone around the tree and designate someone to lead the following prayer.

You will need water or holy water (if available) to celebrate this blessing.

**Leader:** Loving God, we stand before you once again. We stand here ready to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus.

(Have everyone extend a hand in a gesture of blessing. Sprinkle water or holy water on the tree while praying the following prayer.)

**Leader:** Bless this tree, this sign of life and freshness and perseverance in our midst. It stands as a reminder that you are born anew in us each day. Bless our family and friends as we celebrate this joyous season. Keep us safe in our travels, kind in our conversations, and gracious in our giving and receiving. We ask you this in confidence, because we know you love us.

**All:** Amen.

(Join in singing a favorite Christmas carol, such as “O Christmas Tree” or “Joy to the World.”)  
([loyolapress.org](http://loyolapress.org))

*Mass Times: Saturdays 4:30*  
*Sundays 6:45, 8:00 (Extraordinary Form, Latin, 1st & 3rd Sundays), 9:30, 11:00*

*Confession Times: Sunday after 9:30 Mass*  
*Tuesday after 8:00 Mass*  
*Wednesday 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM*  
*Friday after 6:30 AM Mass*  
*Saturday after 8:15 Mass and 3:15 PM - 4:00 PM*

### **Mission Statement**

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Holy Angels School is committed to spiritual formation, which nurtures the Catholic faith and inspires its practice. It is committed to academic excellence, which fosters the growth of each individual. Holy Angels School strives to meet the intellectual, social, and ethical challenges of living in a technological, global, and culturally diverse society.

### **Education Commission Members**

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*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

