

ECHOES OF ANGELS

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Santa Shop

The *Santa Shop* has become a wonderful Christmas tradition for our younger students (grades PK-5) to purchase gifts for their loved ones. Students can preview the gift selection on December 10 and purchase gifts from December 11-13. Please check backpacks for the flyers. Please contact Myra Michels (myrarn15@comcast.net) for more information.

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



Making Spirits Bright

A holiday tradition of our Home & School Association is to sponsor a Christmas collection for our faculty and staff. Teachers don't make a lot of money teaching in a Catholic school so it has become a tangible way for families to show their appreciation for their efforts. Please feel free to make a monetary donation in the lobby. The collection runs through Monday, December 16. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Qualifying Scholarship

All three area Catholic high schools will be hosting their entrance/qualifying scholarship exams on Saturday, December 7. ACC's test begins at 8 AM. Marmion's and Rosary's begins at 9 AM. Students must preregister for this test through the school's website.

Girls Basketball

If your 5th-8th grade daughter would like to play basketball, please sign them up through our Athletics portal found on our school website. Thanks.

St. Anne Cookie Faire

The annual cookie faire will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 7:30 - noon in Connor Hall. All proceeds from this sale of delicious homemade cookies benefit the many programs supported by our parish's St. Anne's Society.

Drop Off Night

Enjoy a night of Christmas shopping while your child is cared for by our incredible staff. Drop Off Night is Friday, December 13 from 5:30-8:00 PM. Please return the reservation fee to your child's teacher.

Santa Pictures

We are expecting a very special visitor on Friday, December 13. Santa Claus will be here to visit with our PK-2 classes. Please return the photo form if you'd like to purchase these pictures.

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.

Jingle All the Way

We have several upcoming musical concerts to celebrate the Christmas season. Our school choir concert will be at 7:00 PM at Rosary High School on December 12. We are changing our primary concert this year so that preschool can be their own stars. They will perform on Thursday, December 19 at 9 AM in Connor Hall. Grades K-2 will perform on Monday, December 16 at 6:00 PM in our Mates Fieldhouse gymnasium. 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.

Tutoring Opportunity

Aurora University provides a tutoring program specifically designed for students in grades one through twelve who have difficulties in the areas of reading and/or writing. Tutoring takes place on the Aurora University campus at **no cost** to families. The program runs from mid-January to the end of April. Tutoring is held twice a week on Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM.

Individuals who provide tutoring are enrolled in graduate studies at Aurora University and have had multiple classes related to instructional methods that are appropriate for students that struggle in reading and/or writing.

Please call Pamela Garriott at 812-396-8707 if you are

interested in having your child attend this one-on-one tutoring opportunity. There is an application for admission that we have in the office if interested.

Change Your Life with a Clean Record

The laws have changed and now tens of thousands of men and women in Kane County are eligible to change their life. A criminal record will no longer keep anyone from things he/she deserves. Thomas M. Hartwell, Kane County Circuit Clerk Illinois Sixteenth Judicial Circuit invite you to the Change Your Life with a Clean Record Event on December 11 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM at 1885 Lin Lor Lane in Elgin. This seminar is free. Everyone deserves a second chance.

Next Week at a Glance

Monday - Santa Shop opens

Teachers' Christmas Collection continues

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday - Choir Concert Rosary 7:00

Friday - Mass 8:15

Santa Pictures

Drop Off Night 5:30

Common Catholic Questions

Who is St. Nicholas?

Children all over the world know him and love him. In Germany, he's Kriss Kringle. In France, he's Pere Noel. British children call him Father Christmas. Of course, you know him as Santa Claus.

He's got another name, you know. It's an ancient one that goes back hundreds of years. It's one of the very first names people called him: St. Nicholas. Children tell lots of fun stories about Santa Claus, Pere Noel, or Kriss Kringle. All of these stories remind us of how much we're loved and of how happy we are when we give. The earliest stories we know were told about St. Nicholas, the bishop of Myra.

Hundreds of years ago, Nicholas lived in a seaside town named Myra, which is in the country we now call Turkey. Ever since he was a small child, Nicholas loved God more than anything. He studied hard, prayed often, and followed Jesus by helping the poor. The people of Myra loved Nicholas so much that when their old bishop died, they immediately elected Nicholas to replace him. He served them well for a long time. Nicholas was loved for one

reason. He loved. He loved God and God's people so much that he would do anything for them.

Here is a story about Nicholas that has been passed down through many generations. There was a man living in Myra who was very poor. This man had no wife, but he had three grown daughters who lived with him. In those days, when a young woman got married, she had to bring money or property with her into the marriage. This is called a dowry. If a woman didn't have a dowry, she would never marry. This man was so poor that he had no money for his daughters' dowries. And he didn't have enough money to support them either. He had, he believed, only one choice: to sell his daughters into slavery. Nicholas heard about this terrible situation. Late one night, Nicholas crept to the man's home and threw something through the window. It was a bag of gold—enough to pay the dowry for his oldest daughter. The man was overjoyed, and his daughter was too. She married, but her father was still left with a problem. Two, to be exact. What about the two younger daughters? Sadly, he prepared to send them away.

Nicholas returned one night and again threw a bag of gold through the window. The father rejoiced. But he wondered who was helping him and why. Of course, Nicholas didn't want the man to know. He knew that it's best to help others without letting them know we're helping them. If we help others in this way, we help because we truly want to and not because people will praise us for it. But the father was determined. He had one daughter left and no money for a dowry. He certainly hoped he would be helped again, especially because he wanted to find out who was doing it. So he locked the windows and watched out the door. Nicholas still wanted to help, but he didn't want to be seen. So, in the back of the house, far from the father's sight, he dropped the bag of gold for the third daughter right down the chimney.

Other stories are told about Nicholas. It's said that God worked through Nicholas's prayers to raise children from the dead—some who had been killed in a fire and another child who had drowned. All of these stories tell us the same thing about St. Nicholas. He lived for God, which means that he lived for love. If people were in need and he was able to help, St. Nicholas gave them hope and strength. St. Nicholas never paused for a minute to wonder what he should receive in return for his help. He only thought about what he could give to those who needed him.

Stories about St. Nicholas spread from his home in Turkey up to Russia, where he is still a very popular saint. Through the centuries, people passed on stories of him across the most northern parts of Europe, then to Germany, France, and England, and finally to the United States. The children in every country gave St. Nicholas a name in their own language, and ours is Santa Claus.

Christmas is a fun, exciting time, isn't it? It's fun because of all the time we get to spend with our families. It's fun because we do a lot of celebrating. It's fun because we get to think, sing, and pray about Jesus, who was born into the world to save us. Christmas is also fun because we get to give. We can show our family and friends how much we love them by giving them special gifts that we make or buy. We give because we're thankful. We're thankful for

friendship and love and for all the people who take care of us. We're thankful to God for giving us life.

St. Nicholas was thankful too, and that's why at Christmastime we try to be just like him. He was so grateful for the life God had given him that he just couldn't stop giving joy and hope to others—no matter how far he had to travel or how many roofs he had to climb!

St. Nicholas showed his gratitude for God's gifts by giving to others. What gifts can your family share with those in need? (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

Deacon Tim White twhite007@comcast.net

Bridget Stanislo bstanislo@holyangelsschool.net

Jeff Roberts jeff.eroberts@yahoo.com

Stephanie Hipp hippsteph3@gmail.com

Nathan Powell nathan.powell@goosehead.com

Michael Minnihan 2minnihan@comcast.net

Dominico Villalpando nvillalpando@yahoo.com

Becky Barr beckyarbi@yahoo.com

Jill Holubetz (jaholubetz@hotmail.com)

