

ECHOES OF ANGELS

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Fa-La-La-La-La-La

This year's Christmas Band Concert will be on Monday, December 10 at 6:30 in the "Salti" Saltijeral Gym. All are welcome to come and enjoy the sounds of Christmas.

Colonial Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a restaurant night at Colonial on Thursday, December 13. All proceeds will support the school's Guardian Angel fund. Coupons are in the office if needed.

Sweatshirts

As a gentle reminder, hoodie sweatshirts are not a part of the uniform code even when they say "Holy Angels."

Santa Store

The school's *Santa Store* will be open for business starting December 11. Please check backpacks for information.



Take a Look at Them Now

The Illinois State Scholar Program publicly and personally identifies graduating high school seniors who possess superior academic potential. Students from nearly every high school in Illinois compete in the program. The Illinois State Scholar program is awarded to high school seniors based on ACT or SAT test scores and the sixth semester* class size and unweighted class rank and Grade Point Average (GPA). To be named an Illinois State Scholar is an outstanding accomplishment that will be a highlight of the recipient's academic record.

Nine students from our area high schools received their academic foundation here at Holy Angels. Congratulations to the following Holy Angels alumni: Ellie Bruss, Jonas Cebulski, and Jennifer Jasin from Aurora Central, Jake Coffman, Nathan Konen,





Church Security

In our continuing efforts to keep our students safe, we will be locking the church doors once the school Masses begin on Fridays. In addition, a staff member will be stationed in the narthex.

Chess Scholars

The new session for Chess Scholars starts on December 18. Please sign up if you have not already done so.

High School Events

West Aurora High School will be holding their placement testing Wednesday, January 16, 3:30-5:30. Call (630) 301-5530 to make an appointment. This is followed by *Parochial Student Course Selection* on Wednesday, January 23 from 3:30-5:30. Again this is by appointment only. *Incoming Freshman Orientation* is Thursday, January 24 6:00 in the Auditorium.

Fond Farewell

We wish a very fond farewell to our substitute PE teacher, Mr. Boyer. He has been a wonderful fill-in for Mrs. Wagner who returns on Monday. Best of luck, Coach Jim!

Gaspare Spizzirri, and Giancarlo Spizzirri from Marmion, Amanda DuVall from Rosary, and Maria Goheen from West Aurora. We are proud of your accomplishment!

On Santa's Lap

Due to a scheduling conflict at the North Pole, Santa will not be able to fly down to HA until **Monday, December 17**.

Therefore, all students in preschool - 2nd grade can wear their Christmas clothes on **Monday, December 17** for their pictures with Santa. Please return the order form if you would like to purchase these pictures.

Glad Tidings We Bring

One of the best glad tidings you can bring our teachers starts on Monday. A holiday tradition at Holy Angels is to show appreciation to our teachers in a monetary way. The Teacher Collection runs until December 17. Please feel free to donate to this very worthwhile cause - our teachers. They give of themselves each and everyday and they don't make a lot of money working in a Catholic school. It truly is nice for them to receive some extra cash to splurge on something for themselves for all their hard work and dedication. Any donation, no matter how large or small, will be divided amongst all the staff and is gratefully appreciated. Please send your donations to the office earmarked *Teacher Collection* if you'd like to participate.

Not only do many of you like to give cash, but you also like to pick up a small token of your appreciation at Christmas time. New this year is a *Teacher Favorites* tab on our website. You can scroll to any teacher and learn what kinds of things he/she likes such as color, candy bar, soda, places to shop, and favorite restaurant. Feel free to use this to make your shopping even easier if you so desire. On behalf of the teachers, thank you in advance for thinking of them.

Empower Illinois

We are thrilled share that the Illinois tax credit scholarship program has broken the United States record for the most dollars raised in the first year of the program of its kind! We are grateful for your partnership in helping spread the word about the program and making it such a successful first year. Over 6000 scholarships have been granted statewide across all areas.

Application reminders: Part one of the application will be available at empowerillinois.org on **January 15, 2019 at 7 PM**. The application is a two part process. Part one is a brief

reservation form which will time stamp applications. Schools and families will be notified when part two is available. Families can complete part two on empowerXchange and are encouraged to submit their application as soon as possible.

Next Week at a Glance

Monday - Teacher Collection Continues

Band Concert 6:30

Tuesday - Santa Store Opens

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday - Mass 8:15

Choir Sings at Paramount 7:00

Bringing Home the Faith

Advent

Advent can come as a surprise to us sometimes, beginning right after the busy Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. It's not unlike the surprise of Mary when she received news that she was pregnant with Jesus. Like her, we take the season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the baby Jesus.

History of Advent

The historic origin of Advent is not for certain; no evidence exists around the feast of the Nativity of the Lord before the end of the fourth century. Several homilies and synods made mention of a specific liturgical time before Christmas, but no rule existed until a note on the Mass parts appeared during the time of Pope St. Gregory VII from 1073-1085. Much like a Lenten period of fasting and sacrifice, the early Church urged Christians to dedicate this time to readying themselves for Christ. Their practices remind us that we are also called to be attentive to the message of repentance and the end times. This may seem unexpected considering the extravagant ways we eat, shop, celebrate, and rejoice as Christmas approaches!

Advent Traditions

The four weeks of Advent are popularly considered to symbolize the four thousand years of darkness before the coming of Christ. We set up Nativity scenes, light Advent candles, and decorate wreaths in our homes to signify Christ's presence coming in the darkness of sin and suffering. Four candles adorn an Advent wreath, one for each week. A fifth candle is sometimes placed in the center for the beginning of the Christmas season.

Advent colors are worn by the priests and deacons and decorate the church. They are represented in the candles that surround the Advent wreath:

Violet: royalty, repentance, and fasting (First, Second, and Fourth Week of Advent)

Rose: abundant joy (Third Week of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, joy in Latin)

White: light and purity (Christ Candle, center candle completes the season and begins Christmas)

Scripture and Prayers for Advent

During Advent there are three prevalent themes we see as we wait patiently for the coming of Christ. We long for the Messiah, are urged to be alert for Jesus' Second Coming, and meditate on Christ's presence in our lives now. The Scripture readings for the four weeks of Advent and the Liturgy of the Hours revolve around the first two of these themes. They encourage proper preparation, point to the grace and humility of Mary, show us how to adore God in the Incarnation, and recognize the glory of Jesus and how he frees us from sin and ingratitude. We hear from the prophet Isaiah and are drawn to the compelling message of John the Baptist in the Gospels.

It is important to consider how we can grow in spiritual wholeness during such a busy commercial season. Take time for silence and reflection each day with Scripture, a devotional prayer, or with an Advent calendar. Dwell with the scene of the Nativity. What is it like to imagine the journey of Mary and Joseph and to be with them as the baby Jesus comes into the world? St. Ignatius of Loyola had a deep reverence for the Nativity scene, as we see in the Spiritual Exercises. Consider praying with saints like him, with the Liturgy of the Hours, or with the O Antiphons the last week before Christmas. A prayerful journey with the Holy Family and the Church throughout Advent will lead to gifts of gratitude and joy when we enter the Christmas Season.
(Loyola Press)

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.

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