

ECHOES OF ANGELS

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Christmas Blessings

On behalf of the faculty and staff, thank you for supporting our annual Christmas collection. Yesterday's luncheon provided by Home & School was also fantastic! Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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.

Angel Wings

Please be sure to check backpacks for your Angel Wings gift cards and call us right away if you do not receive your order tomorrow. We would hate for you to miss out on your cards over Christmas break.



Angelic Attitude Awards

Christmas seems the exact right time to recognize several students who have exemplified Christ-like behavior. Congratulations to Sarah Beggs, Alyssa Knott, Raegan Swann, Victor Martinez, Liam Schwartz, Jack Swiatek, Lucas Orozco, Braeden Powell, and Henry Kopec. Sarah "always offers to help during class once she finishes her assignment to keep the class' homework organized and will offer to help hand back and distribute materials" for her teacher. Alyssa and Raegan "show great reverence for the Mass every week." Victor, Liam, and Jack "graciously helped with morning curb service during the wet weather." They can be counted on to



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 everything from January 2 - 7. Shop at 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

“open doors despite the rain and snow.” Lucas, Braeden, and Henry are “always willing to help out after school.” They “organize the classroom and stack the chairs.” Congratulations to all of our *Angelic Attitude* recipients.

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. 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.



Our Renovated Teacher's Lounge

Thank you to Shanna Torres who donated the new chairs in our teacher's lounge. We love them!

Next Week at a Glance

School resumes January 6, 2020

Monday - Schoolspeak will be unavailable to parents.

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday - Mass 8:15

End of 2nd Quarter

Common Catholic Questions

Is it really just a gift exchange?

The days of Advent are winding down, and soon we will gather with family and friends to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. After all the frenzy that comes with the weeks leading to Christmas, Christian churches will be filled with young and old dressed in their finest, gathered to worship the babe in the manger, Emmanuel.

The word Christmas is derived from the Greek Christos—anointed one—and the Latin Missa—to send. In other words, the anointed one is sent, the divine to the worldly. We celebrate the Incarnation; God has taken on human form and come to dwell among us. Dictionary.com defines Christmas as “the annual festival of the Christian church commemorating the birth of Jesus: celebrated on December 25 and now generally observed as a legal holiday and an occasion for exchanging gifts.” Well, sort of . . . I suppose.

Is it really just a gift exchange? We may feel a bit conflicted with the distortion of religious beliefs by the typical holiday extravaganza. Have we forgotten that Christmas is not just a giant shopping spree and opportunity for overindulgence? Nonetheless, regardless of our beliefs and practices during the rest of the year, many will take time on this one day to enter a church and pause to reflect on the Christmas story. We hunger for something more. Deep down we know the purpose for this season lies there in the straw.

What is it we come looking for within the walls of the sanctuary? What is so important about this event that we prepare with such energy, misguided or otherwise?

To simply say that love is at the heart of it would be insufficient. Indeed much of our Christmas busy-ness involves some expression of love. We exchange gifts. We send greetings. We spend time together. We make an effort to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. We look for opportunities to heal damaged or broken relationships. We remember those we have lost.

Yet the love at the heart of this feast is more than we can possibly imagine. The love we seek is the indescribable love God has for all humankind, the reason God sent a redeemer to bring us back to where we belong. It is agape—unselfish, self-sacrificing love without strings or implications. It is a love with no memory of past mistakes.

We yearn for something beyond what we are humanly capable of giving or receiving. Our restless spirits seek some way to grasp at something we can only find in the divine. And so we come to church to rest quietly in the presence of that which we seek.

When we gather to offer ourselves in worship, God sees our hearts longing to receive the greatest gift of all. Regardless of the intensity of our religious faith or the amount of preparation we have done, we humbly acknowledge that we are all the same, restless souls in need of a God who loves us unconditionally.

A blessed, peace-filled, Spirit-filled Christmas to all!

(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.

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

