

Hello St. Margaret Mary Community,

We are very busy decking the halls (literally, the hallways look pretty awesome right now!), spreading cheer and preparing for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus! This past Monday our Catholic Leadership Council lit the first purple candle (Hope) on our Advent wreath and led us through a beautiful liturgy. Today our Grade 6 to 8 students and staff are off to St. Jean de Brébeuf for their annual Christmas concert and tomorrow we begin our 12 Days of Christmas at St. Margaret Mary! Day 1 is door decorating and the kick off to our non-perishable food and grocery gift card drive. We will continue collecting items until Thursday, December 21.

**DAY TWO Thursday, December 7** - Chain of Gratitude (the whole school will be creating a huge chain of what we are thankful for) and each student will be making an anonymous Christmas cards for the DeMazenod Door at St. Patrick's Church. These cards will be handed out to those who receive food from the DeMazenod Door over the holiday season.

**DAY THREE Friday, December 8** - JOY DAY! Wear red, white and green! Students will be working on their Advent Night crafts. This day is also the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Nine months before the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 September), the Church celebrates the Solemnity of her Immaculate Conception. Pope Pius IX solemnly proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854: *"We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin"* (*Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854) Some good trivia to know: when we refer to the 'Immaculate Conception' it is NOT a reference to Jesus or Mary conceiving Him- it is a reference to Mary and her conception - she was the Immaculate Conception.

DAY FOUR Monday, December 11 - Second week of Advent Liturgy

DAY FIVE Tuesday, December 12 - Snuggle Up & Read Day - The Christmas Edition! **Wear your Christmas pjs!**

DAY SIX: Wednesday, December 13 - Christmas Name That Tune!

DAY SEVEN Thursday, December 14 - Advent Family Night from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in our school gym

DAY EIGHT Friday, December 15 - **Tacky Christmas Sweater and funky holiday socks day!**

**BIG BOX OF CARDS:** Thank you for your support - we raised \$2,700 which will go towards school activities support (helping to cover part of the cost of buses and field trips). We have 7 boxes available if you wish to purchase one. They are \$35 each and can be purchased with cash only. I have 6 Birthday boxes and 1 All Occasion remaining - first come, first served.

Remember to follow us on Instagram @stmmces

Have a great week!

Mrs. Coletto

