



SVMS MISSION STATEMENT

St. Vincent Martyr School is a catholic parish elementary school dedicated to developing a strong spiritual and academic foundation for all students.

Recognizing God's importance in the education process, caring teachers provide a nurturing environment where each individual is respected, loved and challenged to achieve his/her potential.

December 16, 2018

Dear Parents,

As we embrace the third week of Advent and Christmas so soon upon us, we find ourselves in what is probably the busiest time of the year! Things at St. Vincent's are no exception! Each morning we light our advent wreath as a school community to keep us centered on the true reason for the season. When you walk the halls you hear our children eagerly learning while our teachers work on keeping them focused on all that is asked of them. During the day the sound of music is alive in our school gym as our students prepare for the Christmas concert, and in the evening the gym continues to be alive with the bouncing of basketballs as our teams practice, practice, practice!

I graciously thank all of our children for their hard work for our annual Christmas concert! We were all very proud of them as they stood on the stage and sang their hearts out! A very special thanks to Mr. Guastella for his amazing ability once again to produce a concert where the children have fun and perform well. Thank you for all the beautiful art work that hung on the walls in the gym. All were products of the SVMS students and our art teacher, Mrs. Mary Coviello. Thank you also to the students in our middle school who portrayed the nativity in the tableau scene. The show itself offered a happy time for all as we experienced the magic of Christmas right there on the SVMS stage.

Don't forget to support our Student Council tag day on Monday, December 17th. Donations will go to Josephine's Place, a drop-in center for poor women in Elizabeth. It is run by Sr. Judy Mertz, a Sister of Charity. Tomorrow's tag day donations will be used to buy food gift cards for

these women to help them make their Christmas less stressful. The children are to wear festive Christmas colors.

Also on Monday the students in grades 3-5 will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This will be a time for the students to reflect on how they can be more like Jesus by recognizing what they have done wrong, and to ask for God's forgiveness. Grades 6-8 celebrated the sacrament last Tuesday, Dec. 11th.

This coming Tuesday SVMS will be hosting the Dance Caravan Recital. Students in our kindergarten classes will be performing under the direction of their dance teachers. Throughout the year the students have been developing their coordination skills through dance. I had a sneak preview of this exciting event and it is definitely something you do not want to miss. The recital will begin at 1:30 pm in the school auditorium. Hope to see you there!

Before we know it the final day of school before Christmas break will be here, and we will really feel the Christmas spirit at SVMS. Next Thursday afternoon students will enjoy their class parties under the supervision of the class moms with festive games, treats, and crafts. It is also a free tag day for all of our students.....wearing red and/or green!

Next Friday we will begin our day with a special prayer service at 8:45 am and end with the traditional SVMS candy cane races. For the first time Pre-School 4 will kick off the races at 9:30 am. Grades K-3 will race at 10:15 am and grades 4-8 will race at 11:15 am. Thank you in advance to Mr. Bertos and Mrs. Plunkett for organizing this fun event. Students from grades 4-8 are to remain in their homerooms during the first race and students in grades K-3 are to remain in their homerooms during the second race. We cannot accommodate watching sibling(s) racing due to all the visitors who come to cheer on our students. As in the past, I am sure each race will be very spirited and loud.

Lastly, I remind you that dismissal for pre-school classes next Friday, Dec. 21st will be at 11:30 am, and 12:20 pm for grades K-8. **Please note that aftercare will not be held this day.** School will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 8:15 am for all grade levels.

As we approach this great Feast of Christmas, the season of God gives us the most precious gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. I wish to personally express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you. May God, Giver of all things, bless you this most holy time of the year. May Jesus, the Light and Savior, lead us into the New Year with an even stronger faith, hope and love of God and for one another.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

Sincerely,
Anne Marie Gisoldi
Vice Principal