

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest."

St. Ann Family,

December 17th, 2017

This week's All-School Mass was led by our 2nd grade class. We celebrated the feast day of St. Lucy. Fr. Nick talked to us about the traditions associated with the celebration of St. Lucy's feast day. The reading and Gospel passage both refer to the strength and grit we need to labor in our lives. In these final days of the year we're all pushing and working hard to finish what lies before us and make it to the relief and comfort that the Christmas season holds.

On Tuesday our 8th grade class visited St. Cecilia for the 2nd of 4 Faith in Action Masses. They were able to celebrate Mass with three other 8th grade classes and learn more about the school community of St. Cecilia. On Wednesday Fr. Nick hosted our 3rd-5th grade students for a special hot chocolate treat and a lesson on Our Lady of Guadalupe in church.

Students looking for service hours can help set up the church for the swiftly approaching Christmas season. The set up will happen today after 11AM Mass. Additionally, St. Ann is in need of one more server for the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, one more server for Christmas Day Mass at 10AM, and one more server for the New Year's Day Mass at 10AM. (These Mass serving opportunities are not for service hours.)

Our students will celebrate the start of Christmas break on Wednesday with an All-School Mass at 8:15 and classroom Christmas parties before dismissal.

Each afternoon the entire school pauses for a brief moment of prayer, reflection, and examination of self. We call this our daily Examen. It has its roots in Ignatian spirituality. St. Ignatius was the founder of the Jesuits and one of his main approaches to prayer was the practice of examining our lives and the habit of finding God in all things. The Examen helps us think about our successes and shortcomings and encourages us to thank God for each moment of each day. The Examen is read to the entire school over the intercom. Sometimes students lead it. Sometimes adults lead it. If your student would like to read the Examen over the intercom, they can volunteer. If you are a parent who would like to stop by and read the Examen, you can volunteer as well.

•If you still need to complete a Protecting God's Children Workshop, more sessions are available around town. The schedule can be found through this link:  
[http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg\\_list2.cfm?theOrgID=14498&theme=0](http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list2.cfm?theOrgID=14498&theme=0)

#### **FAITH Alive in the Home Program**

St. Ann Parish and School and Holy Trinity School are working to develop a pilot program to support parents of young children to grow in their awesome role as first teachers of the faith. At this time, this

pilot home visitor program (similar in structure to the PAT program, but focused on faith) is ready to begin inviting families to participate. We are starting with parents of two year olds for the pilot, which will begin in late January or early February and run through May, 2018. Sr. Maureen Martin, Program Coordinator, is also looking for parents, grandparents or educators who may want information on serving as home facilitators (or visitors).

For more about this exciting faith-filled program, or to register your family be a part of the pilot, please contact Sr. Maureen at St. Ann: 314-450-4873 or email [stannfaith@gmail.com](mailto:stannfaith@gmail.com).

Tuition payments and morning care & aftercare current status is being communicated to each family. Statements are being emailed. If this is not how you want to receive your statements please contact Eileen at 314-385-5090 ext. 852. With the end of the 2nd quarter coming to an end on December 20th, be sure to pay your balance or contact Eileen. We will be withholding report cards this time around and Educonnect will be disabled.

Mark Your Calendar

December 20th-Noon Dismissal-Final day of 2nd quarter NO AFTER CARE

January 2nd-First Day back after Christmas break

Blessings,  
Jacob Reft