

News You Can Use from the Principal



December 3, 2018

Happy Advent! We started our day lighting one purple candle on our Advent wreaths representing Hope. We prayed in thanksgiving for the humble beginnings of Jesus who became one of us in our messiness to show us the Way. Our Lord gives us unending hope for life eternal. Without hope, we have nothing.

- Instead of weekly Mass this week, we'll have our annual Advent penance service at 9:50 a.m. We'll begin with a prayer service with time for students to go to individual confession with our local priests who are always wonderful to come and work with our students and faculty. Deacon Denzil Lobo will be here with a presentation while students are waiting their turn for reconciliation.
- I want to extend an extra thanks to everyone who donated during Giving Tuesday through iGiveCatholic. We raised almost \$9,200 toward a bus, and we're well on the way to acquiring one. It will be so helpful in transporting students to athletic events, retreats and other events. Renting a bus is around \$600 for **each** event. We hope to offer commuters from St. Richard a ride before school in the mornings. That's a goal for next school year.
- Since this is Advent, I've emailed the students to let them know that for the next two weeks, they can wear purple with their uniform bottoms. Purple is the color of Advent, and it'll keep it in the forefront of our minds.
- x2Vol sent an email letting us know that they're having trouble with outgoing verification emails. I think many of you had figured that out. Give them a couple of days before entering any information. We'll let you know if and when they notify us that everything is fixed, but their email said it should be fixed today.
- We have a *Bruin Break* tour day scheduled for tomorrow from 9 to 2. Please pass the word. Attached is a list of talking points that some parents shared with me from when they spoke at the parishes. It's a great read, and I'm grateful to those who speak about your love for this fabulous school. Thank you!
- *High School Movie Night* fundraiser for BruinThon is scheduled for this Friday at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
- The Spirit Steppers sell Chick-fil-A chicken biscuits on campus every Tuesday morning for \$3.
- The exam schedule is located at the back of the handbook online. No exams will be administered early.
- Mark your calendars for *Gifts of the Season* Dec. 14 and Dec. 16. Check the *Buzz* for times.
- Uniform reminder: boys should be clean shaven with hair above the ears, collar and eyebrows.

God bless,
Mrs. Kinsey

BRUIN SHOUT OUTS

- The following 7th graders won their class spelling bees and will be competing at the school level this Friday: Jameson Clancy, Adam Gammill, Cy Stephen, Lillian Boggan, Meredith Morrow, Collins Coleman, Anna Williams, Parker Davis, Adrianna Terrazas.
- Girls soccer beat defending state champs Sacred Heart Saturday morning 3-2.
- Kiland Harrison was named to the Mississippi High School Football Coaches All-State Team.
- Seniors created decorations for the St. Joe tree on Main Street in Madison.

We are St. Joe!!

St. Joe Points of Interest to Share

There are great things happening at St. Joe and you will see a lot of growth within the school in the coming years. St. Joe is soon to celebrate its 150th year in 2020....think about that, 150 years serving the community. It is a sacrifice to send your children to St. Joe particularly when we have such good teachers and programs here in Madison County. The difference is St. Joseph provides the same academic rigor, athletic excellence, technological advancement, and extracurricular variety that the area schools provide, but they are all infused with daily life of discipleship of Jesus Christ and the teachings of our Catholic faith. Mass is conducted weekly at St. Joe and the school provides caring teachers and a nurturing environment designed to help students become the leaders of tomorrow and the followers of Jesus always.

St. Joe's staff to student ratio is about 8:1, our standardized test scores are 30% higher than the state average, we won a state championship in baseball, soccer, and swimming last year (and basketball made it to the big house), swim just won another state title, and the football team went to the playoffs. St. Joe is the only school with a working broadcast radio station on campus, they are the only school with an all-student broadcast team on Friday nights for football games, and they have an award-winning news program you can view on YouTube. The newspaper has won state wide awards for multiple years, and twice a year St. Joe students put on wonderful productions in the fine arts theatre. St. Joe has a full-time Dyslexia Therapist on staff as well as a complete academic support system to help accommodate learners while enriching high performing students with 8 Advanced Placement courses offerings.