



Holy Name of Mary School



Father David Regan, Pastor

Mrs. Marcia Velasco, Principal

11/26/2023

Dear Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving. The next few weeks leading to Christmas will go by quickly. We have different theme days and a few activities coming up. Please look at the dates and themes below in order to prepare your child in advance.

Tip of the week: Three Tips for Making the Most of Advent & Christmas

"If your life is anything like mine, Christmas is a whirlwind of business, anxiety, and overspending. The distractions play so loudly; they often drown out the true spirit of Advent. However, when we are busy, we more easily fail to be the people we want to be and think we are. Cultural expectations concerning what we "must do" and "must have" and our skewed vision of the "perfect Christmas" can often spoil the purpose of the season—and fail to bring us real joy and connection with others and God.

Here then are three ideas that have helped me emphasize what matters most to my family in the Advent season:

1. Shifting the focus to relationships and the real meaning of Christmas.
2. Shifting the focus to experiences over stuff.
3. Shifting the focus away from the stressful and the nonessential."

Resource: <https://gulfcoastcatholic.org/three-tips-making-most-advent-christmas>

Safety Drills and Evacuation Drills: We had a successful evacuation drill last Wednesday. We practiced part of our Safety Plan. We evacuated the school building and went into the church. If we ever had to evacuate the school and could not return to the building - the church is our meeting place with families. You would receive a school messenger letting you know that there was an emergency, we evacuated and the meeting place would be the church. We have one more required drill we must complete legally prior to December 31, 2023. The final drill will be a lockdown drill. Teachers will talk to the students in the days leading to the drill in order to prepare them. Before June 2023, we will complete the final four drills needed for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Safety Patrol: Students began their jobs last week! They were responsible, assertive and redirected students when necessary. This week, they will receive specific safety training on how to best help during an emergency in and out of school (get an adult immediately, never move the injured person etc).

***Thank you to all of the parents that volunteered to help supervise the students in the morning while Staffgiving occurred.**

***Thank you safety patrol for being responsible! Please make sure to get your hours signed off the week that you work.**

***Thank you to the NJHS, Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Carberry for the food drive. It was amazing to see all the food donations that were given to our parish outreach office.**

This week at HNOM:

Monday, November 27, 2023- Pretzel Money is due.

Breakfast with Santa money is due (tickets will NOT be sold at the door)

Please send in raffle basket items

Girls basketball 4-6

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 Boys Basketball practice 4-6

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 - Pretzels will be distributed

Thursday, November 30, 2023 - Nursery and PreK ONLY Dress down Black and White Day

Trimester I Ends

Friday, December 1, 2023 - Trimester II begins - Pizza Day \$3 per slice, 2 slices for \$5

Saturday, December 2, 2023 - Breakfast with Santa! ***Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.***

Sunday, December 3 - Advent begins

Next week:

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 - Feast of St. Nicholas - Students can wear red and green.

PTL Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2023 - STEM Night

Friday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception - *Holy Day of Obligation* - Pizza Day

Coming Soon:

Wednesday, December 13 - PTL Meeting

Friday, December 15 - PJs and Polar Express Day! Pizza Day!

\$3 dress down pajamas donation (no slippers)

The Polar Express will be shown after lunch in the gym - cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

Monday, December 18 - Christmas Sweater Day! Please wear a Christmas themed sweater OR your uniform.

Tuesday, December 19 - Christmas Hat Day

Christmas Concert at 7 pm (location change - now in the gym NOT the church)

Wednesday, December 20 - Christmas socks day!

Half day dismissal

Thursday, December 21 - Wednesday, January 3 - Christmas Break - school is closed

Monday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary - holy day of obligation

New Years Day - Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 4 - School reopens School mass

Please continue to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. The easiest way is by emailing me mvelasco5578@hnomschool.org or calling the main office (516)825-4009.

Peace and Blessings,

Mrs. Marcia Velasco

Principal