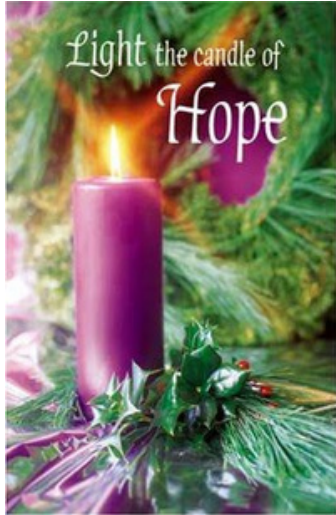




# SMCS NEWS



**“The season of Advent, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God’s Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty.”**

**Pope Francis**

## **Next Week:**

**Sunday, December 3:** Breakfast with Saint Nick in the PLC Cafeteria

**Monday, December 4:** Middle School Science Fair/ Fort Walton Beach Christmas Parade at 6:30 pm (come out and support SMCS’s band and color guard)

**Tuesday, December 5:** Student Council at 7:15 am

**Wednesday, December 6:** Life Runners at 7:40 am

**Thursday, December 7:** All-school Mass at 8:15 am

**Friday, December 8:** All-school Mass at 8:15 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

*Due to limited space this year in the PLC, we are having a scaled back Christmas program (not a performance) for the students on Wednesday, December 20 in the Church from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. The program is called “Lessons and Carols” and will include all the students (not solely K-5). Lessons and Carols is a program based on Sacred Scripture and traditional songs aligned with it. This program dates back to the late 19th century. In the service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of the Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Parents are welcome to attend but space may be limited to standing room only. Students will be sitting with their classes.*

## **Help needed- Cafeteria Monitor**

**Contact Janice Seilhan, [janice.seilhan@saintmaryschool.net](mailto:janice.seilhan@saintmaryschool.net)**



For the next few weeks we are journeying to Bethlehem to get ready for the birth of Jesus. We want to Make Room in our lives, let the Lord create in us a New Heart, be Joyful People along the way, and Say Yes to the Lord when we arrive.

Advent is short this year; it's really only three weeks. But even three weeks is still enough time to make room in our hearts and souls for the birth of Jesus. Let us not get caught up in commercialism and neglect our spiritual preparations for Christ's birth.

Every prayer, every act of generosity, every sacrifice we make, big or small, is a step on our journey to Bethlehem.

## Thoughts for Reflection

- Am I making room in my heart and soul for the birth of Jesus?
- Do I get caught up in commercialism and neglect my spiritual preparations for Christ's birth?
- Have I neglected my faith and relationship with Christ?
- Am I spiritually preparing myself for Christmas?

### What is Advent?

A season of **hope**, preparation, EXPECTATION & celebration

Advent is made up of four weeks, divided into two periods:  
**1** First Sunday of Advent until December 16  
 focus: Christ's second coming at the end of time  
**2** December 17 to 24  
 focus: Preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

The **ADVENT WREATH** is a popular symbol used as the focus of prayer throughout the season

Through prayer, spiritual reading, acts of charity, and participation in Eucharist, Advent helps us to expand the meaning of our lives, **so that we are not ends in ourselves, but a people who seek Christ as our hopeful end and joyful fulfillment**

Our prayer at Advent is one of hope and love:  
*Come, Lord Jesus!*

CANDLES mark the steps in our Advent journey

Advent is more than the preparation for Christ's birth. It also celebrates the three-fold coming of the Lord:  
 • Remembering the events that surrounded the Lord's coming long ago  
 • Celebrating his coming among us today  
 • Looking forward to his final coming in glory

Archdiocese of Toronto | www.archtoronto.org  
 #AdventTO

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SOLEMNITY: DECEMBER 8

#### What it is

- It is the **conception of Mary**. Through a special grace from God, she was kept free from Original Sin and lived her whole life free from sin in order to carry out her mission as the Mother of Jesus.
- It is an **ancient Church teaching**. While it was defined as dogma by Pope Pius IX in 1854, the Church has held it as point of faith for centuries before.

#### What it is not

- It is **not a virgin birth**. Mary was conceived like any other person.
- It is **not the conception of Jesus**. We remember the conception of Jesus on the Feast of the Annunciation, which is celebrated on March 25.

#### Why we celebrate

Because it is a **gift** that Mary said "yes" to God and bore his Son, Jesus!

The Miraculous Medal also known as the Medal of the Immaculate Conception has this prayer inscribed:  
*"O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee."*

Archdiocese of Toronto | www.archtoronto.org

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH  
DECEMBER

GENEROSITY

GIVING WITHOUT COUNTING THE COST

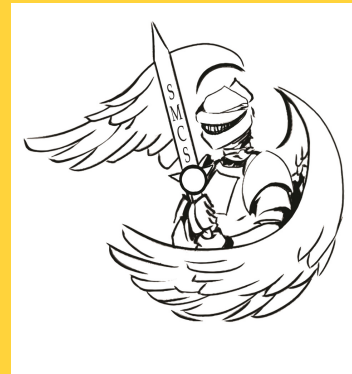
WEEK OF December 4, 2023

## FROM THE OFFICE

### FLOCKNOTE

Are you receiving our text messages? We highly recommended signing up for our Flocknote for important information. <http://www.saintmaryschool.net/>

Tuition/Facts questions? Contact Kristin White,  
850-243-8913. [kristin.white@saintmaryschool.net](mailto:kristin.white@saintmaryschool.net)



Lord, help us to remember that Christ dwells within and among each of us on our team and that we have a responsibility to be Christ for each other. St. Theresa of Avila reminds us that "Christ has no body now on earth but yours. No hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes, which look out with Jesus' compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless others now." Help us Lord to see when our teammates are down and to walk over to them to provide encouragement. Remind us to high five each other as a sign of our friendship and to huddle together in solidarity and brotherhood/sisterhood to always play for God's glory.  
Amen.

## Archangel Sports

### Soccer

12/5 vs Davidson at Meigs  
boys 5:00, girls 6:30

12/7 vs Shoal River at Meigs  
girls 5:00, boys 6:30

### Basketball

12/6 vs. Ruckel at Ruckel MS  
6:30

**Let's go Archangels!**

## Welcome, John Reaves!

Mr. Reaves, is Saint Mary Catholic School's new Athletic Director. Mr. Reaves has an extensive background in coaching, teaching, and as an Athletic Director and has one child at Saint Mary's.

Please welcome him when you see him around.

*Dedicated to Catholic values, Saint Mary Catholic School is a Christ-centered educational community committed to academic excellence, spiritual growth, individual responsibility, and service to others.*

# PTO CORNER



## BREAKFAST WITH SAINT NICK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023  
SAINT MARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

### **PURCHASE TICKETS**

SAINT MARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
\$7 PER PERSON

SESSIONS BEGIN AT  
8:30 & END AT 11:00.  
PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE IN  
ADVANCE.

**TINYURL.COM/  
SAINTNICKPTO**

### **VOLUNTEER**

WE NEED MANY HELPING HANDS  
TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.

SIGN UP TODAY TO EARN  
VOLUNTEER HOURS!

**SIGNUP.COM/GO/  
WDSBWDP**



HOSTED BY SAINT MARY PTO

No December PTO Meeting

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintmarypto>





# WEIGHT LIFTING

## INTRO TO WEIGHT LIFTING

HELLO,

To inform youth on how to use proper technique, what exercises work different muscle groups, how to avoid fitness-related injuries, and the importance and usefulness of this information.

NEW AND  
USED ITEMS  
WANTED

OR

**VIEW OUR  
WISH LIST**

Goal is to begin on January  
9th!

**CONTACT  
US NOW**



Jenna Beaty  
(850) 243-8913



jenna.beaty@  
saintmaryschool.net



[Click for more  
information](#)

## WISH LIST



### DONATE USED ITEMS

Equipment in good used condition listed on our needs site happily accepted

Must be working, with no rips or tears, not in need of repair or a lot of maintenance



### PURCHASE NEW ITEMS

Visit our school website for a list of needs

[Intro to Weightlifting](#)

Click here to see our Amazon wishlist that will be delivered directly to the program

[Amazon.com Wishlist](#)



### MONETARY DONATIONS

Checks and cash are accepted! VISA and AMAZON gift cards are welcome

**Donations are tax deductible!**

**HELP US EXPLORE**

# **CHRISTMAS CANDY CANE GRAMS**

**Sale Begins: November 29th**

**Sale Ends: December 13th**

**Cost: \$1.00 each**

**Classroom Deliveries: December 15th**

Buy a Candy Cane Gram to spread a little extra Christmas cheer this season!

**Sponsored  
by  
Student Council**



**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION (OPPORTUNITY!)**



## *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*

**SAINT MARY CHURCH MASS TIMES**

**Dec 7th Vigil 4:00pm**

**Dec 8th 6:30am, 8:15am, & 6:00pm**



**Parish Advent  
Confession Service**  
**Monday, December 11th**  
**at 6:00pm**  
**in the church**

*Come & receive the Merciful Love of Jesus! Nothing is impossible for  
God, no matter how long it has been. Come!*

*Saint Mary Mass Times for*  
**CHRISTMAS**

**December 24th 5:00PM & MIDNIGHT**

**December 25th 10:00AM**



*Saint Mary*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH