



Dear Parents:

December 16, 2024

Yesterday was Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for rejoice. **As we begin the third week of Advent, let's remember the source of our joy; the incredible love of Jesus.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob. Philippians 4:4-6

If you can spare 15 minutes, I encourage you to listen a great homily by Bishop Barron explaining how to attain the peace that the world can't give.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyrBgRrY1Tg>

Attached to this email you will find a letter from Ms. Walsh and myself announcing the great news that **St. Mary's School has been approved to receive an afterschool program grant!** This grant will help us provide enrichment activities after school hours starting January 6. The name of the grant is Out-of-School Time grant (OST) 2024-2025. In the attached letter you will find detailed information on how the grant works and about the different activities that we are planning to offer for the students who register into the afterschool program.

Keep your eyes opened for an email within the next couple of weeks with a schedule of events and activities for the children to sign up. **Students will be accepted on a first come first serve basis as the capacity of our afterschool program license is only for 54 students.**

In order to make room for some of these new and innovative activities, we need to clean and declutter some areas in our school. The old computer lab which was dismantled several years ago and replaced with chrome books, is stored in the corner of one of the basement classrooms. **We have 20 flat screens that we are giving away to families. Please call or email Tina in the office if you are interested.** We also need to repair the plaster inside a storage closet. Please let us know if this is something you can help us do during the Christmas break or soon after.

This Thursday is our Christmas program and the students are so excited to sing for you and share this year's Christmas Around the World theme. We have a performance at 1:00 PM and the evening performance at 6:00 PM. Please have your children report to their classroom no later than 5:45 PM.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends, and let us always remember that first Christmas that brought us the hope for our joy. In Christ love,

Mrs. Farney