



## Immaculate Conception/St. Joseph Newsletter

[www.boscocatholic.org](http://www.boscocatholic.org)

December 14, 2017

The Bosco Catholic School System provides students and families with academic, spiritual, moral, and sacramental formation so that they are prepared to be faithful disciples who are the light of Christ in the world.

### ***Christmas Caroling***

Our 3rd graders went Christmas Caroling at Bertch Cabinets, our Partners in Excellence today.

### ***K-8 Christmas Choir Concert***

The K-8 Christmas Choir Concert is on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00pm in the Don Bosco gym. The students should meet in the following classrooms at Don Bosco: Kindergarten and first grades will meet in room 109. Second and third grades in room 107. Fourth and fifth grades gather in room 106. Sixth and eighth grades in room 111 and seventh grade in 113. Please have your student in the assigned classroom by 5:40 so we can have them lined up and ready to go. Remember to dress nicely, no jeans or sweatpants. Student's coats should be kept with their parents because students will not be allowed back in the classrooms after the concert.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [sbergan@boscocatholic.org](mailto:sbergan@boscocatholic.org). I hope to see you all there! Thank you! - Mr. Bergan



All homerooms met their Box Tops goal and earned a jean day with their spirit or uniform shirt Wed., Dec. 20.

### ***Merchandise Pick Up***

Tuesday, December 19 from 5:30-6:30pm - Wrestling, Basketball and Toddler merchandise.

Friday, December 22 from 5:30-6:30pm - Football Champion merchandise. Both in St. Mary Center.

### ***Thank You***

Thank you to Brian & Natalie Hershberger and Brian & Patti Nie for the books donated to teachers and the St. Joseph library.

### ***Christmas Break***

Christmas break is December 22-January 2. School will be dismissed at the regular time on Thursday, Dec. 21. Classes resume Wednesday, Jan. 3. The school offices will be closed for the Christmas break.

### ***Volunteer Hall of Fame Nominees***

Its purpose is to honor those people who have given and sacrificed through the years to sustain Catholic education. There are many ways these wonderful people have given their time, talents, and treasures because they value and support the Catholic education. These people have offered years of service as faculty, staff personnel, or volunteers. They have gone above and beyond in giving of their time and/or helping support financially.

If you know of someone who fits this description, please provide the name of the nominee and include a letter explaining why you think this person would be an outstanding choice. A committee then votes on the nominations based on the above criteria. Deadline for nominations is December 27. Please send nominations to [bschares@asiowa.com](mailto:bschares@asiowa.com).

The inductee will be recognized in January during Catholic Schools Week.

### ***Nurse's Notes***

No one wants to be sick, especially this time of year, so what are some of the best ways to avoid all the illnesses going around? Wash your hands should be the top of the list. Wash with soap and water for 20 seconds. Did you know keeping your hands moisturized will also help prevent illness? When your skin is dry you get little splits and cuts that allow germs to enter your system. Use a unscented moisturizing lotion. Other tips include not smoking, eating a healthy balanced diet with a variety of fruits and vegetables and get enough sleep. Also continuing to make time to work out. Even a short walk will boost your immune system. Marianne Hickey RN

**All IC/St. Joseph students and staff may be out of uniform in Christmas colors Thursday, December 21.**

***Please send all newsletter items to [icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org](mailto:icsjnewsletter@boscocatholic.org) by 3:00pm on Wednesday, December 20.***

### **Paper Collection Trailer**

Remember when recycling Christmas packaging - NO styrofoam, no pizza boxes, no plastic bags. Please do not leave packing styrofoam or plastic in boxes. PLEASE NO GARBAGE.

Mason City Recycling pays us for collecting paper or cardboard that they use to produce insulation products. (They want mostly paper. If you do bring cardboard, be sure it's broken down.) A semi trailer is parked in the north end of the Gilbertville campus parking lot. We ask that you walk up the stairs and take your paper as far back into the trailer as possible. The better we pack the truck, the more money we'll get! Thank you to everyone who contributes to this successful fundraiser for our school.

### **Bosco Booster Club Help Needed**

The Don Bosco Club Kids Wrestling Tournament is being held on Saturday, December 30, 2017, and we need help filling spots for the concession stand. Please contact Christi Larson if you can help. Christi's cell phone is: 319-296-9301 or email is [larsonc@waterlooschools.org](mailto:larsonc@waterlooschools.org).

The Don Bosco Volleyball Tournament is being held on Saturday, January 20 and Sunday, January 21. We need help filling spots for the concession stands. Shift times are two hour shifts.

### **Catholic Order of Foresters News**

The COF youth members Christmas party will be held Sunday, December 17 in St. Mary Center from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. Santa will arrive around 6:10. Each child will receive a bag of goodies and can visit with Santa.

### **Vacation Bible School**

We have a group interested in hosting a week-long IC/St. Joseph Vacation Bible School this summer for students going into PK4 through 5th grade. This would take place at the IC center. We are looking for middle school and high school students to help as well as adults. We would ask you to complete the survey at this link <https://goo.gl/forms/wzHEuHzQolRzFL8c2> if you are interested in your children participating in Bible School or your older children would like to help.

### **Colder Weather**

All students will spend some time outdoors unless the air temperature or wind chill is below 0, so please be sure they have coats, hats, and mittens. A reminder to please label your child's hat, mittens, lunch box, etc.



### **Sunday's Word - Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 17**

#### **Synopsis**

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet said, I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me."

#### **One-Minute-Homily**

- As a general rule, we don't much appreciate advice, but there are times and people who seem to understand things in a different and more helpful way, who have a kind of insight or wisdom which we value more than advice.
- Like John the Baptist, these people are the voices crying out in the deserts where we find ourselves confused and afraid.
- As people of faith, our challenge is both to hear these voices and to be these voices for others, people with encouragement and hope, who believe that there is something better -- SomeOne Better -- revealing God's love in the midst of an imperfect and unfinished world.
- Eucharist is a Word of hope too, the celebration of SomeOne Better who is present among us, renewing the deserts in our lives.

#### **For Discussion or Reflection**

Question for Children: Who is someone who helps you feel better when you are sad or worried? Do you think of them as Jesus?

Question for Youth: Where do you find encouragement and hope in the midst of all the confusion and uncertainty of life-as-a-young-person?

Question for Adults, Families and Faith Communities: Do people see us as agents of hope and encouragement? Do we act like people filled with despair or hope?