



ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The official e-newsletter for St. Andrew Tigers!

Follow us:



Christmas Wishes

As we begin the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ at Christmas. Advent is a time of hopeful waiting; a time when we answer the call to prepare ourselves: "Be vigilant at all times." May our prayerful observance of this season of Advent draw us nearer to our loving and merciful God. This is also the time that we reflect on the blessings and values that permeate our school. Thank you for your continued support, loyalty and dedication to our mission. Thank you for your generosity in volunteering, for always being available, and answering the call to serve. Thank you for choosing Catholic Education. Your support of our school is a blessing that allows our students and staff to grow in the love of Christ. It is truly a sacred privilege to serve you and I thank you for your support as we move forward.

I hope that during your celebrations you find time with your family to attend Mass. The real reason for Christmas is not Santa Claus but the day celebrates the birth of Jesus. The Christmas Vigil Mass schedule is 4 PM (English Family Mass), 6 PM (English), and 9 PM (Spanish Family Mass). The Christmas Day Mass schedule is midnight (English), 8 AM (English), 9:30 AM (English), 11 AM (Spanish), 12:30 PM (English), and 2 PM (Spanish).

As you begin your well deserved holidays, I would like to thank you for the blessings each of you provides to our students and each other. Take time to truly celebrate the season. Take time to spend with your loved ones. Take time to relax and rejuvenate. And finally, take time to reflect on the blessings that God has bestowed on each of us.

On behalf of Fr. Gonzalez, the faculty and staff, and our school board, we extend our gratitude for all you do for our school community, and our wish is that you may know the joy, hope, and peace of the Nativity this Christmas Season. We share with you the words of St. Luke, and hope you find strength in the words of the angel: *Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

Have a Merry Christmas filled with peace, joy and love. May God abundantly bless you and your family in the coming new year.

Sincerely,
Rocky Domingo, Principal

SAVE THE DATE

- 12/2-18/19
Spark of Love Toy Drive
- 12/9-13/19
ACRE Testing:
Grades 5 & 8
- 12/12/19, 8:15AM
School Mass: Feast of
Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 12/13/19
Santa's Workshop
- 12/13/19
Spirit Dress Day: Ugly
Christmas Sweater
- 12/18/19, 8:15 AM
First Trimester Honors
Assembly
- 8:30 AM
Santa Visit
- 3:30 PM
Christmas Concert
- 12/19/19
No School
Faculty and Staff
In-Service Day
- 12/19/19, 7:00 PM
Parish Advent
Reconciliation Service
- 12/19/2019-1/3/2020
Christmas Break
- 1/6/20
School Resumes

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- SAVE THE DATE FOR SPARK OF LOVE TOY DRIVE
- THE ST. ANDREW NOVENA
- ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Schoolwide Service Projects

TIGERS AT WORK

St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Drive!

Thank you to our families for supporting our Can Food Drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We truly appreciate your generosity for people in need.

Due to the overwhelming support from all our families we were able to supply much needed food items to the St. Vincent de Paul

Society Food Pantry!



Save the Date: Spark of Love Toy Drive!

We are asking each child to bring a new unwrapped toy for children in need.

All toys will be collected on
December 18th!

Please support this wonderful cause.

DONATE HERE!
New toys & sport equipment or go to abc7.com

abc7
SPARK OF LOVE
FROM ABC7 & SOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

THE ST. ANDREW NOVENA

The Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is often called simply the "Christmas Novena" or the "Christmas Anticipation Prayer," because it is prayed 15 times every day from the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas. It is an ideal Advent devotion; the First Sunday of Advent is the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Andrew.

While the novena is tied to the Feast of Saint Andrew, it is not actually addressed to Saint Andrew but to God Himself, asking Him to grant our request in honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas. You can say the prayer all 15 times, all at once; or divide up the recitation as necessary (perhaps five times at each meal) Prayed as a family, the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena is a very good way to help focus the attention of your children on the Advent season.



Hail and blessed

BE THE HOUR AND MOMENT IN WHICH
THE SON OF GOD WAS BORN
 OF THE *most pure Virgin Mary* AT
 MIDNIGHT IN BETHLEHEM IN THE
 PIERCING COLD. IN THAT HOUR,
 VOUCHSAFE, OH MY GOD, I BESEECH
 THEE TO *hear my prayer* AND
GRANT MY DESIRES.

(STATE INTENTIONS HERE)

THROUGH THE MERITS OF OUR SAVIOR
 JESUS CHRIST AND OF HIS
 BLESSED MOTHER.

Amen.



SAVE THE DATE ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

DECEMBER 18, 2019 AT
 3:30 PM

DOORS WILL OPEN AT
 3:00 PM



Advent is Almost Here

Advent is almost here. We know it's coming, but yet it seems to sneak up on us every year. Add the seemingly endless to-do lists, school and family activities and obligations and the true meaning of this time of anticipation and joy can get lost.

As parents of Catholic school students, there are ways to keep the season's religious traditions alive and to connect with our children and restore the hope and joy of the season.

Creighton University has a website called Praying Advent. It contains prayers, resources and activities to bring joy to others during this holy season: <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>; and Busted Halo has tips on making Advent more spiritual than secular, <https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/5-tips-spiritual-advent>.

While some Advent practices might at first seem to be very old style, remember that they are timeless ways to

carve out family time and echo what is taking place at school during this season of anticipation, prayer and hope.

Advent Wreath – You can buy Advent wreaths at Catholic gift shops, online and at some local nurseries. But consider making an Advent wreath as a family and commit to lighting it, even if it's just once a week perhaps at Sunday night dinner. Whatever time you set aside, there are books that can entertain and educate, such as *We Light the Candles*, a guidebook of prayers and songs. Tips on making an Advent wreath can be found here: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=954>

Advent Calendar – There are many Advent calendars to be found, with doors and flaps behind which wait trinkets and chocolates. But maybe making one together would be a great family project, <https://prayingincolor.com/advent-calendar-templates-a-countup-to-christmas>. You could add a step by taking



and sharing pictures with family who live far as the calendar progresses.

Carols and Services – In addition to your own parish and school services and activities, think about attending a worship service with a friend of a different religion. There will be differences in content from your traditional Catholic “Christmas season” services, but also note the similarities. Christmas carols can lift a sagging spirit or add to the joy of the season. If you don’t want to join in singing carols, then go listen as a family to a group of carolers.

Acts of Joy and Kindnesses – Local charities need help with Angel Trees, food and toy collections and visits to those who might be alone during the season. One way to get everyone involved at home is through the Cross Catholic Box of Joy: <https://crosscatholic.org/boxofjoy/>.

Nativities – Instead of waiting until you decorate your Christmas tree or Christmas Eve, start putting up your Nativity set on December 1. Begin with the structure, if you use one, and each night or weekly add the shepherds, angels, animals, Joseph and Mary, ending with the manger in place by Christmas Eve waiting for the Baby Jesus. Your children can add small toys to the group over the weeks. I’ve heard stories of G.I. Joe, Polly Pocket and Peppa Pig along with superheroes waiting at the manger by Christmas morning. Don’t worry if you don’t have a Nativity or Creche, a family trip to find one is another way to share the real spirit of the season or make a manger with the next activity in mind.

Prepare the Manger – One lovely tradition, shared by a religious education teacher, is to prepare the manger during Advent. Each evening, parents and kids place a piece of straw (or cut up strips of gold construction paper) into the manger for each secret act of kindness done during the day – a simple offering to Jesus to prepare our hearts by preparing the manger. The hardest part of this is NOT asking your kids what they did and gently reminding them they don’t need to tell you, but to talk to Jesus about it. By Christmas there should be a nice bed of straw on which to lay the infant Jesus.

Pray as You Go App – Maybe this spiritual resource from a group of Jesuits can open up your teens to short daily devotions, accessible via a website or free app. It features Ignatian Spirituality with the Examen, an Ignatian exercise, adapted for children, teens and young adults. Seasonal digital ‘retreats’ pop up for Lent and Advent. Simply lighting an Advent wreath and pressing play on the Examen would be a profound Advent practice, <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/pray-as-you-go/id865934048>.



There are books that can entertain and educate your family. Children of various ages can appreciate *The Advent Jesse Tree: Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas*. If your family enjoys crafts, you might even try *The Jesse Tree: A Family Craft for the Story of Advent*. Also consider *A Catholic Family Advent: Prayers and Activities*. And younger children might enjoy the book *Advent Storybook: 24 Stories to Share Before Christmas*, which tells a story about a little bear on his way to see Baby Jesus.

Even if your kids melt into a screaming match over who gets to light the Advent candle, you now have some simple ideas to focus your hearts and minds on the Baby Jesus... born unto us with tidings of peace on earth and goodwill to men.

Have a joyous Advent and Christmas season.

By Margaret Kaplow, NCEA



Annual Giving Campaign

2019-2020

St. Andrew Catholic School Annual Giving Campaign

When you give you are investing in the future!

We ask you to support our \$100,000 campaign.

These funds provide educational opportunities and lasting memories for all our students. Thank you for making Catholic education a possibility for everyone in our community.

To donate today please visit www.saspasadena.com

St. Andrew Catholic School (PK-8th grade) has been inspiring young minds for over 120 years. Established since 1897, it is an urban Catholic elementary school located in the downtown area of Pasadena known as "Old Pasadena."

Mission Statement

St. Andrew Catholic School is a diverse, nurturing community that fosters faith development, intellectual curiosity, respect for others, and lifelong learning. St. Andrew graduates are poised to achieve their God given potential for greater things in service of Church, family and community.

When you give, you are investing in our future. We ask you to support our \$100,000 campaign. These funds provide educational opportunities and lasting memories for all our students.

Thank you for making Catholic education a possibility for everyone in our community.

Areas of Support

\$50,000 (Scholarships)

40% of our St. Andrew Catholic School families receive tuition assistance. The actual cost to educate a child at SAS is \$7,405 which leaves a gap of approximately \$1,740 per child per year. Even a small amount can make a significant difference in our parents' ability to send their child to St. Andrew. We invite you to support our student scholarship fund and assist us in making an impact in the lives of our students and their families.

\$25,000 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program Development

The IB model enriches Catholic education, which connects faith and reason, and develops mind, body, and spirit. The implementation of the IB program to our already rigorous curriculum will allow for a deeper understanding and promote critical thinking in students. We will be launching IB first in the primary grades in 2020-2021. Your donation will help cover the cost of continuing training for our teachers. St. Andrew will be the first elementary school in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to offer this program.

\$25,000 General Fund

Gifts benefit projects, programs and experiences for our students ensuring they continue to receive a quality Catholic education.



total goal \$100,000