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**Inspired by Faith Empowered by Knowledge United by Community**

December 10, 2021



“Advent is a journey toward Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man (Pope Francis).”

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Friday!!! During this, the second week of our Advent journey, we lit the **Bethlehem Candle** ... the candle that symbolizes **FAITH** and reminds us of the journey that Mary and Joseph took to an ordinary little town ... the town of Bethlehem. Jesus was born in that ordinary little town, in a stable filled with animals. Jesus comes to us in the ORDINARY ... in ordinary places, among ordinary people. And just as God set His star above Bethlehem that night, He fills our lives with His light. This incredibly precious GIFT was given to us intentionally. When we actively choose to share it, we help to make the world a better place.

“We always think of Jesus when He preaches, when He heals, when He travels, walks along the street, even during the Last Supper. But we aren't used to thinking about Jesus smiling, joyful. Jesus was full of joy. It is His internal joy, the interior joy that He gives to us (Pope Francis).”



On Sunday, we will begin the third week of our Advent journey ... where we will light the **Shepherd's Candle** ... the candle that symbolizes **JOY**. We are reminded that it wasn't the rich and famous who came to worship the infant Jesus on that first Christmas Eve. It was the

poor shepherds. God continues to remind us that, “as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me.” We are invited, as his beloved children, the “poor in Spirit,” to come into His presence and worship Him.

Moving forward ... please note the following:

❖ **COVID-19 Update:**

- News of a significant increase in the rate of transmission of COVID-19 in our area has moved us to the **ORANGE/HIGH level** on the state map.
  - Following CDC and NJDOH guidelines, all quarantine timelines now move from **10** to **14** days with **NO** test-out option.
- **A PCR test is the ONLY test accepted by Saint Raphael School.**
- **COVID FAQs** and resulting timelines can be found on our website to be used as a reference.
- **Per Saint Raphael School Policy:**
  - if someone in your house was EXPOSED to COVID 19, we should be notified IMMEDIATELY.
    - Upon being notified, we will calculate the OFFICAL timeline that will include the allowable dates for testing and return to school.
  - if someone in your house is being TESTED for COVID 19, we should be notified IMMEDIATELY.
    - Your child/children may **NOT** return to school until test results have been received.
  - If your child/children are being tested for COVID 19, we should be notified IMMEDIATELY.
    - Your child/children may NOT return to school until a **NEGATIVE** result has been received and a copy of the test results have been provided to the school.
  - If a child is sent home due to illness, the child must remain home for a **full 24 hours.**

- With families with multiple siblings in the school:
  - if one sibling goes home from school sick, all remaining sibling must go home as well.
  - if one sibling is absent from school due to illness, all remaining sibling must remain home as well.
- If your child/children are absent from school for **3 or more consecutive days**, a doctor's note is required.
- If you, as parents, have made the decision to have your child/children vaccinated, please report his/her vaccination status by providing a copy of the vaccination card to the office.

❖ **Travel Reminder:**

- The Christmas holidays are quickly approaching and many people are choosing to travel more than they have during the past two years.
- Saint Raphael School will **CONTINUE** to follow the **CDC and NJDOH guidelines** for quarantining and testing.
  - **Your honesty, transparency and adherence to our policy is EXPECTED. The health, safety and well-being of 200 + people are at risk.**
  - If you traveled outside of the state, excluding travel to NY, PA, and DE, you **MUST** quarantine for **10 FULL days** AFTER your return date.
    - Please contact us with your travel plans so that **we can calculate the official timeline** that will include the allowable dates for testing and return to school.
  - Quarantine may be **shortened** if you test on **Days 5 through 7**. You may return to school on Day 8 with a **NEGATIVE** test result.
    - **NJDOH recommends testing on Day 7 for GREATER accuracy.**
  - For **VACCINATED** domestic travelers, **NO** quarantine is required. We ask that you monitor for symptoms and get tested if any symptoms develop.
- **Remote Instruction is NOT available for those traveling or going on vacation. All work will be made up when your child/children return to school.**
- Remote Instruction is **ONLY** available for confirmed **POSITIVE** exposures and **POSITIVE** test results.

❖ “Dressing for the Weather” Reminder:

- Winter temperatures have begun to set in. As a result, it is VERY important that we dress accordingly.
- Students **WILL** continue to go outside for recess unless it is raining or the temperature falls below 32 degrees. They need the FRESH AIR.
- Classroom windows are open to maintain proper ventilation.
- Students are encouraged to wear their SRS sweatshirts or fleece in the classrooms.
- PLEASE send your child/children to school with a winter coat. Hats and gloves are strongly recommended.

**2021 – 2022**  
**Honor Roll ~ Trimester I**

The following students have earned no grade lower than an **85%** in their **academic subject** and no grade lower than a **3** in their **Enrichment classes**.

Grade 6

Dylan Brachelli  
Amaya Keephart  
Mia Nunziato  
Brett Prester  
John Redfern

Grade 7

Veronica Anabaronye	Darlene McAnaney
Preston Bahani	Selorm Tweneboah
Dorine Florestal	Patrick Verde
Matthew Hollendonner	Lena Williams
Katherine Kerwick	Luca Witzel
Zoie Layaguin	Ariana Zomparelli
Brian Le	



Grade 8

Marissa Browning  
Nadia Figueroa  
Shane Gorman  
Aden Jackson  
Ayana Jackson  
Josh Klana  
Anna Nezezon  
Jamie Werdal

## 2021 – 2022 First Honors ~ Trimester I

The following students have earned no grade lower than a **93%** in their **academic subjects** and no grade lower than a **3** in their **Enrichment classes**.



### Grade 6

Luke Colter  
Lily Kraemer  
Mikkela Ola  
Xavier White

### Grade 7

Sophia Clugston

We congratulate these students on this tremendous accomplishment!

### Please take note of the following **CALENDAR UPDATES**:

- ❖ **Mon., December 13, 2021 ~ Confession for students in Gr. 6 – 8**
- ❖ **Thurs., December 16, 2021 ~ “Jesus Means Christmas to Me” Virtual Christmas Play Presentation featuring our amazingly talented students in Pre-K through Grade 4 at 7:00 pm**
- ❖ **Thurs., December 16, 2021 ~ Last Day for Adopt A Child Gift Program**
- ❖ **Mon., December 20, 2021 ~ Confession for students in Gr. 3 – 5**
- ❖ **Mon., December 20, 2021 ~ Christmas Spirit Day #1: Christmas Accessory Day**
- ❖ **Tues., December 21, 2021 ~ Christmas Spirit Day #2: Christmas Socks/Slippers**
- ❖ **Wed., December 22, 2021 ~ Christmas Spirit Day #3: “UGLY” Christmas Sweater Day**
- ❖ **Wed., December 22, 2021 – NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE**
- ❖ **Thurs., December 23, 2021 – Christmas Spirit Day #4: Festive Christmas Outfit Day**
- ❖ **Thurs., December 23, 2021 – 12:30 Dismissal; NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

As I have stated before ... and I will state it again. **God IS GOOD ... ALL THE TIME!!! He is with us in ALL things!** When we look at the total picture as of today, December 10th ... there are NINE school days that we need to navigate through until we break for Christmas vacation. **With your help ... We can ABSOLUTELY do this!**

May God continue to bless and protect us.

I wish you God's peace.

God Bless.

Mrs. Cwirko