



# St. Michael's School Newsletter

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## Our Virtue focus for December – Hope

During the month of December, we celebrate the virtue of **Hope**. We believe that God comes to us as a real human who can show us the way of life. God has given us the Advent season year after year in order to focus our minds and our hearts on the good all around us.

### *A hopeful person is....*

- † Optimistic
- † inspired and inspires others
- † one who sees the good in the world

Sometimes in life, bad things happen to us that we cannot explain. During these times we tend to get mad at God for putting us through so much pain. We forget God is always there for us and He does not want to hurt us. When you feel sad and alone, remember to never lose **HOPE**, pray to Jesus and things will get better.

Let us pray for the grace and courage to be people of hope, people who can see, participate in and contribute to God's goodness emerging around us. Amen

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday we celebrate the first Sunday in Advent, the season in the Church year that gives us time to wait expectantly and joyfully for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Advent provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the way we live while we are waiting.



Today, more than ever it seems, we need peace in our world. Christ is the Prince of Peace. Christ is our own personal peace. Christ is our Life, and in Christ we are all one. There are no divisions in Christ. There is no "us" and "them". In accepting Christ, we also accept one another as important and loveable enough for Christ to die for. We have to get beyond our human greed and fear and jealousy and hate and

unforgiveness. We have to get beyond our obsession with wealth and power and prestige. We have to humbly kneel before the manger, together. If we all focus on the newborn King, the Prince of Peace, then peace will reign in our hearts and in the world.

## COVID NEWS

### **PHO order on province-wide restrictions:**

By order and direction of the PHO, all individuals, places of work and businesses in B.C. must significantly reduce social interactions and travel.

The order is in effect from November 19, 2020 at midnight to December 7, 2020 at midnight.

### **Social gatherings and events:**

No social gatherings of **any size** at your residence with anyone other than your household or core bubble. For example:

- Do not invite friends or extended family to your household
  - Do not host gathering outdoors
  - Do not gather in your backyard
  - Do not have playdates for children

### **Core bubble:**

For most people, their core bubble is their immediate household. An immediate household is a group of people who live in the same dwelling. For example:

- If you have a rental suite in your home, the suite is a separate household
- If you live in an apartment or house with roommates, you are all members of the same household

### **ADVENT WREATH PICK-UP**

Parents who have ordered advent wreath kits can pick up their wreath kits this **Friday November 27<sup>th</sup>** between **2:00-3:30 pm** in the area in front of the church.

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT INFORMATION**

#### **The Grinch!**

Our students are busy preparing for this year's virtual Christmas concert, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas", a story of a cynical grump who goes on a mission to steal Christmas, only to have his heart changed by a young girl's generous Christmas spirit.

#### **Costumes (Kindergarten - Grade Six)**

Students are encouraged to wear Christmas colours (Green, White, and Red) for their costume on the day of filming. They may also wear their Black Souvenir T-Shirts.

Although the delivery of the production will be different, the costs associated with putting on a concert remains. As we will not be able to collect admission donations "at the door" to help offset our costs, we ask that you please consider contributing an additional \$5-\$10 donation (per family) on your t-shirt order form. Even if you are not ordering a t-shirt, a "virtual admission donation" would be greatly appreciated.

#### **Virtual Performance**

Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no live performances. Instead, the concert will be **filmed**. Our Dress Rehearsal will be on Monday, December 7th and our filming day will be on Tuesday, December 8th. When editing is complete, the concert will then be sent as a YouTube link for families to watch.

The Youtube link is *unlisted*, which means that it cannot be searched for through Youtube. The link will be sent to families by email.

If you do not give the school permission to film your child for the Christmas concert, please send an email to [malberti@smeschool.ca](mailto:malberti@smeschool.ca). If you **do not** give the school permission, your child cannot be part of the Christmas Concert.

### **DECEMBER CALENDAR**

The December calendar can be found on the school's website.

### **AUCTION UPDATE**

The Auction is returning, but like everything else this year it's going to look different. To start, we're having an online mini-Auction from **Dec. 3-10, 2020**.

More details are coming about this mini-Auction and what's happening for the rest of the year, so stay tuned.

Check out the Facebook page for all the latest info:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsauction/>

### **CHICKEN SALE**

Cluck cluck! It's time for a Christmas chicken sale! Make sure to find the order form on the school website <http://www.stmichaelschool.ca/chicken-fundraiser-order-form/> so you can stock up on fresh and delicious Hallmark poultry. You're getting the freshest chicken, not the stuff that's been sitting on the shelves in the grocery store. Those who ordered chicken before Spring Break will tell you that

there's great peace of mind having a good quantity of meat available for your family. Place your order and rest easy knowing that you've got plenty of chicken in the freezer for the holidays! **Orders are due Friday, December 11 and pickup is Thursday Dec. 17 from 1:30 – 3:30 in the church driveway.** Safety protocols will be followed; please wear a mask and make sure to prepare your vehicle BEFORE ARRIVING (ex. Make space in the trunk and lay down newspapers or garbage bags).

### **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

Our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair was a success and we sold over 200 books! Thank you to all families, teachers, and students who participated, supporting our school while enhancing home libraries.

Your investment in your reader helped our school to earn valuable **Rewards** that can be redeemed for new books for our school and classroom libraries, as well as supplies and Education Resources to benefit our students.

Thank you for participating in our Scholastic Virtual Book Fair!

### **REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN 2021-2022**

We are interested in knowing our potential numbers for Kindergarten for the 2021-22 school year. If you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten next year (born in 2016), please let Mrs. Bird know as soon as possible. Please let your friends know that we are hosting an Open House on **Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm for any **NEW** family interested in having their child/ren attend St. Michael's School (any grade). There is no need to RSVP for the Open House. Application packages for new families will be available that evening.

### **WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS**

With the cold days of winter upon us, please remind your child(ren) to wear clothing appropriate for the weather, (**i.e. boots, warm jacket, mitts, toques**). If weather conditions are reasonable, students will go outside to get some fresh air during recess and lunch breaks.

In the event of inclement weather, such as snow, tune in to **CKNW AM 980 on the radio** for information regarding any school closure. Information can also be found on their web site, [www.cknw.com](http://www.cknw.com) or on our website [www.stmichaelschool.ca](http://www.stmichaelschool.ca). In the case of inclement weather in the morning, closures are usually reported every ten to fifteen minutes.

**You will receive an email to let you know if the school is closed.**

Please do not tie up the school and parish telephone lines by trying to call these offices. The radio station WILL NOT announce if the school is open; therefore, if you DO NOT hear the name of the school then the school is open. Likewise, if you do not receive a call from your class phoning parent then the school is open.

**All calls will be made by 8:00 am.**

**As traveling conditions vary depending on where you live, please use your own judgment regarding sending your child(ren) to school. The staff, however, will always work to keep the school open when safety is not in question.**

### ***Thought of the week...***

***"You can't go to Heaven hating somebody. Forgive now. Be compassionate now. Be patient now. Be grateful now. Love Jesus and Mary now. Accept God's will now."***

***~Mother Angelica***