



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

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament. During the Advent season, we take time to reflect on our lives, the blessings and the challenges. It is tempting to face these unevenly. Sometimes we dwell exclusively on the challenges, the sacrifices, the pain. We can become immersed in victim-think, oblivious to our blessings. Other times, we deny the pain and jump to joy with a quick bypass. Denial is powerful; it takes prayer and reflection and courage to overcome its hold on us. We need Advent to get back to balance. With faith in God's amazing grace and love for us, we are called to face the realities . . . the pain, the downturns . . . within the context of the joy that God's gift of Christmas brings and will always bring.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. As we do so, let us pray together,

"Loving God, we open ourselves to you.

Prepare our hearts that we may walk in the joy of the light of the Christ who comes. Amen."

PICK UP SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Dear Parents, the church collection envelopes can be picked up from the rectory between 2:30 and 3:30pm **TODAY**, December 10th. Please pick up your envelopes.

COVID NEWS

With the increase in COVID numbers in the province, the safety committee has decided to add an additional layer of protection by implementing the wearing of masks in certain circumstances.

Please note the following:

- Masks are to be worn by students in the morning once they are dropped off and as they enter the school building and when putting away their belongings in the hallway. Masks are to be worn at dismissal time when students are retrieving their items in the hallway and when they are leaving the school building to go home.
 - Masks are to be worn in the hallways and in washrooms at all times.
- Masks are to be worn when physical distancing is not possible in the classroom, ie. centres' time.
- Students are strongly encouraged to wear masks when working at their desks if they are able to tolerate them.
 - Students do not wear masks when they are eating or drinking at their desks.
- Students do not need to wear a mask when playing outside during recess and lunch or when participating in PE. When transitioning from the classroom to the gymnasium, the students will be supervised by a teacher to ensure proper physical distancing and, therefore, no masks are needed.

We appreciate your cooperation in supporting the school and we thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

Students will be dismissed for the Christmas holidays on **Friday, December 18th at 12:00 noon**. Thank you for making arrangements to have your child(ren) picked up at that time. School will reopen on **Monday, January 4th, 2021**.

DESK CLEAN-UP

All students are asked to bring in a large, sturdy bag next week. Students will be cleaning out their desks and bringing all items home for the holidays as the janitors need to move the furniture in order to polish the floors. Students must return the items to school after the holidays.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Last week was the final week for book checkouts before Christmas break. A reminder to please return **ALL** library books by tomorrow, Friday. We will check out library books again in the new year.

NON-UNIFORM DAY

Thursday, **December 17^h** is our "**Crazy Christmas Cheer**" **Non-Uniform Day**. Remember to dress up in your most festive Christmas colours and instead of cost donation, please bring in **non-perishable food** for our food bank. Thank you for your continued support.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the St. Michael's Families who supported our T-Shirt Fundraiser, we raised a profit of \$2423.50! A special thank you to the families who went above and beyond with their generous contributions. Your donations allowed us to cover the costs of putting on the show (videographer, editing, technology, costumes, etc), as well as invest in some items for future productions!

Sincerely,
Team Alberti

A special thank you to Ms. M. Alberti, Ms. A. Alberti and Mr. Da Silva for all their hard work in putting together the Christmas concert! The video is now being edited and will be available for viewing sometime next week.

ADVENT WREATH – THANK YOU

A special thank you to the Lara and Castres families who made all our Advent Wreaths. Even though the Castres children have graduated, they are still very much a part of our community. I am forever grateful to ALL our families for the countless hours and support for our school

LEADERSHIP TEAM

As we begin Advent, our school will be supporting the "Giving Truck" (<https://givingtruck.ca/>) over the course of the next few weeks. As a school, we will be creating care packages for those in need living in the Downtown Eastside. The student leadership team is asking that families donate the items listed below if at all possible. We hope that these care packages will bring the light of Christ to those who receive them.

The following chart shows the requested items for each grade:

Grade of Child	Items to be collected
Kindergarten	Toothbrush (adult) and toothpaste
Grade 1	Shampoo
Grade 2	Comb/Hairbrush
Grade 3	bars of soap, sensitive facial cleansing wipes (fragrance-free)
Grade 4	Deodorant (mens, adult)
Grade 5	Toque
Grade 6	Gloves
Grade 7	Socks (adult)

Please have your child bring items for donation to school by the 16th of December. The student leadership team will then assemble the packages and organize their delivery.

Thank you for supporting those in need in our community.

PURDY'S FUNDRAISER

Thank you for supporting our Purdy's chocolate fundraiser. We raised \$4,809.79 for the school. **We still have chicken for sale!**

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 WEEKLY ORDER REMINDER – RC249384

Reminder Scholastic Orders are now completed online!

Sign up for emails with Scholastic to receive digi-flyers/email promotions directly.

November paper flyers will be distributed for K-Gr7.

Remember orders can be completed at any time in the month from both the November and December flyer.

Quick summary to order Scholastics:

Go to [scholastic.ca/clubshop](https://www.scholastic.ca/clubshop)

Create an account or log in to existing account, place order.

Very Important! Enter school code **during checkout** (RC249384).

Orders will ship direct to your home to reduce handling.

Shipping is free when you spend over \$35 and enter the school code!

Orders may be received prior to Christmas if ordered soon; however, there are no guarantees.

Thanks for your support of this school program!

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MINI ONLINE AUCTION FUNDRAISER!

ONE OF THE ITEMS IS A RESERVED PARKING SPOT!!

Mini Online Auction: Imagine This



Just imagine...

You're relieved that work is over and it's finally time to relax with the family. After you all enjoy a delicious meal of a cheesy beef and rice casserole, easily made using your Instant Pot, you browse through your newly expanded wine collection to pick out a nice vintage to enjoy. One of your children is giggling at a video on their iPad while the other is playing the latest Mario game on the Nintendo Switch Lite. Your spouse sighs while melting into a relaxing massage using the Homedics Shiatsu Pro Plus massager and sipping from a glass of single malt scotch whiskey.

Later, the family gathers around to activate the light within the **Christmas cookie house** while the **Amazon Alexa smart speaker** plays classic Christmas songs. You all gather around the kitchen table and work together to assemble the **Harry Potter Wizarding World 4D puzzle** until it's bedtime for the kids. After they're asleep you listen to your favourite Spotify playlist through some **Beats Solo 3 wireless headphones** until it's time for you to hit the sack.

Thanks to the Mini Online Auction, you don't have to just imagine the scenario above — all of the items highlighted in bold (plus a few more) are available in the Auction. It all ends on **Thursday, December 10 at 11pm**, so get your bids in now!

<https://www.32auctions.com/stmichaelsBEEauction>

All Mini Auction items are brand new (donated by our St. Michael's community), and the Mini Auction is open to everyone so feel free to pass it along to your family and friends. The winners will be notified after the Mini Auction closes.

The main Auction is still happening in 2021, stay tuned for more details to come. Check our Facebook page for all the latest info:

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

Thank you for your support!
The Auction Committee

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 or on our website 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 an email from your school administration email allparents@smeschool.ca then the school is open.

All emails 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...

"My faith will not be shaken because God is with me everywhere I go."

~St. Mother Theresa