Work of Christmas Begins

"When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...

And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.

The message of the Feast of Epiphany announces to all people, everywhere:

\[ \text{Rise up in splendor...your light has come,} \]
\[ \text{The Glory of the Lord shines upon you!} \]

Let the work of Christmas begin, and let it begin with you."

Post-Christmas Prayer:

"Long after the after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains.

The Child in whom we rediscover God’s great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate his selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world in love...

May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away;

May we welcome the adult Messiah and his challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the new year."

Wise Men, Return to the World

"...we are like the Three Wise Men who journeyed to Jesus. Now, like those Wise Men, we return to the world from which we came, to the everyday life where we will witness to what we have seen.

..."indeed it compels us to start out afresh on a new stage of the journey on which we become proclaimers and heralds....The Wise Men were in a sense the first missionaries. Their encounter with Christ did not keep them in Bethlehem, but made them set out anew on the paths of the world.

"We need to ‘set out anew from Christ,’ with the zeal of Pentecost, with renewed enthusiasm... to set out from him above all in a daily commitment to holiness, with an attitude of prayer and of listening to his word...to set out from him in order to testify to his Love by living a Christian life marked by communion, charity, and witness before the world."
Dear Parents,

January 5, 2015

Can you believe that we have begun another New Year? Time surely flies by… I think that’s what we say when we get older! I hope you had a very happy and blessed Christmas with your family and friends. I can say that I did! May 2015 be filled with God’s abundant blessings for your and your families!

I thank you for your prayers, warm wishes, and gifts this Christmas! I am always overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and generosity! Please know that you are remembered in my prayers of gratitude!

I found the reflections on the Epiphany and I thought that these are good for us to think about as we begin the New Year. As the one line stated, let us “radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.” What a challenge but yet what a wonderful opportunity! Are you ready to answer the call to be and bring Christ to others? If so, the last line of the first reflection is for you: “Let the work of Christmas begin, and let it begin with you (me).” May your and my efforts be blessed each day!

Have a great week! Happy New Year! God bless you!

Sister Catherine Irene, IHM

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Looking Ahead:

January 7  Open House, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
          YEARBOOK COVERS DUE TODAY!
January 8  Home and School Board Meeting/
          Uniform Exchange at 7:00 p.m.
          Sacrament Forum Make-Up at 7:00 p.m. in the CHAPEL
January 9  School Liturgy at 10:15 a.m.
January 10 District Math Counts: Thank you, Mrs. Louden and Mrs. Delio!
January 19 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday: No School
January 20 Mr. Chris Mominey and Mrs. Bernadette Dougherty from Office of Catholic
          Education visits our school today

January 22  Prayer for Life, 2:00 p.m.
January 23  Grade 4 Band Concert for Parents at 9:00 a.m. in the Cafeteria
January 28 and 29  First Reconciliation at 7:00 p.m. in the Church
January 25 – 30  Catholic Schools Week!
January 31  Confirmation Retreat for Grade 6

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Make-up for the Sacrament Parent Forum: If at least one parent was unable to attend the Sacrament Forum in September, then it is essential that at least one parent attends the Make-Up Sacrament Forum on Thursday, January 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We ask that you arrive by 6:55 p.m.

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Do you have family members or friends who value a Catholic Education? Do you have family members or friends whose children might want to come to St. Joseph School? Invite them to our next Open House this week, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, AT 9:00 a.m. AND 7:00 p.m.

Student Council Members will give tours and our Faculty Members will be available to answer questions, during the school day and in the evening. Parents are welcome to bring their friends in the evening as well! Thank you for all you do to promote our school to all you meet!
Registration News:
Registration for NEW Pre-Kindergarten and Grades K to 7 students will begin in January.

The requirements for NEW students are as follows:

**For All Grades**
- State-issued birth certificate
- Child's baptismal certificate
- Social Security card of child
- Up-to-Date Immunization records

**For Grades K to 7**
- Non-refundable Application Fee of $45.00 (Checks made payable to St. Joseph School)
- First Grade child must be six by 9/1/2015
- Kindergarten must be five by 9/1/2015
- Full- and Half-Day Kindergarten Offered

**Pre-Kindergarten**
- Non-refundable Application Fee of $60.00 (Checks made payable to St. Joseph School.)
- Children must use lavatory facilities independently
- Children must be three or four by September 1, 2015

**For Grades 2 and up:**
- Sacramental information & academic records are also needed

**Registration for NEW students for Pre- K and for Grades K to 7 will begin on Monday, January 12.**

- **Monday, January 12,** from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday, January 14,** from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- **Friday, January 16,** from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
- **Tuesday, January 20,** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the School Library.
- **Wednesday, January 28,** from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Re-registration materials for CURRENT families will be sent home and posted on the website.

Registration materials and applications will be available in the school office and on the school website by January 7th.

Tours will be available at the times of Registration.

For more information, please call the school office at (610)269-8999.
Catholic Schools Week, January 25 to January 30

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.” The NCEA Marketing Handbook states, “The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of Catholic education. Not only are schools communities themselves, they’re part of larger communities of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are integral components of a Catholic education and the measures by which any Catholic school can be judged.”

Sunday, 1/25
- Noon – Liturgy to open Catholic Schools Week
- Open House and Tours of School will follow mass.
- Opening of the Science Fair
  All Science Fair Projects are to be brought to the Cafeteria between 9:00 and 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 25.

Monday, 1/26
- Science Fair: Judging and classrooms visit

Tuesday, 1/27
- Parents visit Science Fair in the evening.
  Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Please enter by the Cafeteria only
- Awards Presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/28
- Volunteer Appreciation Day (details to follow)
  sponsored by Home and School

Thursday, 1/29
- Faculty Appreciation Day: Luncheon in Parish Meeting Center

Friday, 1/30
- Student Appreciation Day: The Brain Show Assembly (two shows)

Due to Catholic Schools Week (CSW) activities, we will not have lunch in the Cafeteria on Monday, Tuesday or Friday of CSW, January 26, 27, and 30. We ask the homeroom parents to help get coverage in the classroom on those days.

We will have lunch in the Cafeteria on Wednesday and Thursday, January 28 and 29.
1. **Reception of First Reconciliation:**
   Wednesday, January 28, 2015, 7:00 p.m. (Students with last names beginning with A to K)
   Thursday, January 29, 2015, 7:00 p.m. (Students with last names beginning with L to Z)

2. **Science Fair Judges:** We are in need of judges for our Science Fair on Monday, January 26. If you have a science background or experience in judging a Science Fair, please contact Mrs. Louden at blouden@stjosephrc.org or leave a message for her at school. Thank you so much!

3. **Sick Children:** We had a lot of sickness before Christmas and a lot of sick children were in school at that time. It was especially evident when students came to school for the Christmas pageant and for the last day for their class parties. I know that children don’t want to miss out on the fun things of school nor can parents miss a lot of work. Nonetheless, it is important for children to stay home when they are sick. I encourage that with our faculty and staff as well. First, we want to make sure everyone has the proper rest in order to get better. Second, we want to reduce the amount of sickness that is passed around. You know very well that when your resistance is down, you can be more likely to get sick again. It takes even longer for you to get over your colds. Finally, everyone should be FEVER FREE for 24 HOURS before returning to school. I know that the doctors have told some of you that it is okay for your children to return to school, but please adhere to this requirement. It is best for everyone. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

4. **Inclement Weather:** While we have been pretty lucky so far, we all know that we might have a few days of bad weather this winter. Over the next couple of days, I will “practice” with our new alert system via My Students Progress. You might receive a phone call and/or text as I test the system. Thank you for your patience as we run through our new alert system.

5. **Mandated Reporters**
   Under Pennsylvania law, any person, paid or unpaid, who works, volunteers and/or comes into direct contact with children in a program, activity or service is a mandated reporter and must immediately report suspicions of child abuse or neglect. Within the Archdiocese, this includes all members of clergy, parish and school staff, and volunteers who are likely to come into direct contact with children.

   **ARE YOU A MANDATED REPORTER?**
   As part of our Catholic commitment to safe environments, the Archdiocese recently updated its policies and training curriculum for mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect. These new policies reflect the Church’s commitment to always do more, as well as the new Pennsylvania laws that go into effect on December 31, 2014. If you have direct contact with children, you are a mandated reporter. With the change in the law, you are now mandated to make a report to ChildLine yourself. Our Safe Environment Coordinators will be working with our parish in the coming weeks to educate mandated reporters about their responsibilities and how to properly report child abuse to ChildLine, PA’s 24-hour hotline. Information is also available at www.childyouthprotection.org. As we continue to do all we can to keep our children safe, also know that the Office for Child and Youth Protection provides services, resources and support.
toward healing for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and their families. Victim services can be reached at 1-888-800-8780 or via email at philavac@archphila.org.

St. Joseph School’s Spirit of Stewardship

During Advent, St. Joseph School students devoted their time, talents and treasures to strengthen our local communities through two school-wide service projects.

Mission Day
Mission Day has become a cherished St. Joseph School tradition. For the price of a canned good donation, students of every grade were admitted into the gymnasium where fun games awaited, for a minimal fee. This year’s event raised more than $1,600 to benefit the school’s charitable efforts. All donated canned goods were provided to the IHM Family Literacy Program in Coatesville.

Giving Tree
Our Student Council members coordinated the School’s efforts to support the parish’s Giving Tree program. Through the generosity of our students and their families, 27 gifts were purchased on behalf of each homeroom.

We are so proud of our students’ generous spirit as they become good stewards of the numerous gifts God has given them.

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God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love help our families
in every part of the world be united to one another
in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

2015 Philadelphia

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