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**ST. MARY SCHOOL**

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**DATE:** DECEMBER 15, 2016  
**TO:** PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
**FROM:** MS. LEPORE  
**RE:** WEEKLY MEMO

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Thank you to Barbra Rodi and her helpers for providing an opportunity for the students to do their Christmas Shopping! As always it was very successful and the students left with many presents!

**Students in Kindergarten – Grade 2 need to wear jeans and a green shirt for the Advent Prayer Service next Wednesday, December 21 at 1:00 PM.**

Attached to this memo are the following: our Honor Roll and Achievement Awards, a Feinstein Newsletter and Growing in Faith.

FACTS is now open for next year's financial aid.

**Thank you for your generosity in donating canned goods – we will be donating them to Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Food Pantry and Mr. Feinstein will give us a dollar for each item!**

Congratulations to our Christmas Raffle winners:

Mon	December 12	David Beeley
Tues	December 13	Anna DiSano
Wed	December 14	Michelle Costantini
Thurs	December 15	Audrey Marano

**Reminders**

Fri	December 16	January Lunch orders due Kindergarten – Gingerbread Houses
Mon	December 19	PreK Christmas Party
Tues	December 20	Candy Houses – Grade 4 8:15
Wed	December 21	Advent Prayer Service K-2 1:00PM IN GYM (Parents and Grandparents are welcome)
Thurs	December 22	School House Orchestra Christmas Concert for students only 9:00 AM

**Our Basketball Teams are playing this weekend! If you have a chance to go and catch a game they would love the support!**

Sat	December 17	9:00	BJD2S	St. Joseph	vs	St Mary	@	St Mary
		10:00	GJD2	St Mary Mansfield	vs	St Mary	@	St Mary
		11:00	BJB	St Joseph	vs	St Mary	@	St Mary
		12:00	GJB	St Mary Sacred Heart	vs	St Mary	@	St Mary

**Christmas Recess begins after school on December 22. There is no school on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

St. Mary's School lives the Gospel Values of Faith, Hope and Love through our kind thoughts and deeds.

## St Mary School

### Achievement Award 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester (Grades 4 & 5)

#### Grade 4

Dylan Bowry	Zachary Bradley	Jillian Colantonio	
Maree Dandy	Bryanna DeBritto	Santiago Harrington	Arianna Lima
Carmen Massemini	Matthew Massemino	Pamela Mendez	Gabriel Vilorio

#### Grade 5

Nicolas Cappalli	Cassidy Connetta	Ayla Flaherty
Talia Henebury	Luca Loffredo	Angelina McKeon
Elsa- Nicole Mendez	Grace Nassa	Tianna Reyes
Samantha Reynolds	Cyara Villa	Raya Wilson

### Honor Roll – 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester

#### Honors (85-89)

#### Grade 6

Nicolas Lisi	Giancarlos Villavicencio
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#### Grade 7

Ellie Buttaro	Marcus Colantonio	Adryonna Costa	Ryan Fonseca	Tessa Izzo
Ava Pagliarini				

#### Grade 8

Isabella Di Iorio	Gregory Manni	Dion Wilson
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### High Honors (90-95)

#### Grade 6

Devin Abeid	Angela Long	Emely Paiz	Jazmin Pierce	Ashley Piccolo
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#### Grade 7

Lily Davis	Arianna Rodi	Lily Schattle
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#### Grade 8

Raymond Beaumier	Christian Morataya
Emma Salzillo	Thomas Scorpio

### High Honors w/ Distinction (96-100)

#### Grade 8

Solanna Long
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St. Mary School

**Perfect Attendance – 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester**

**Kindergarten**

Adam Abrue Maddox Jimenez Joseph Ponte

**Grade 1**

Carolyn Abrue Leah Hodge Shea Hughes Ty Karten  
Ivana Mendez Jonathan Sepulveda

**Grade 2**

Giana Rendina Angel Santiago Emma Sechio

**Grade 3**

Angelina DiSanto Mya Gonzalez Angelina Hodge Isaiah Karten  
Lainey Nelson Nicole Silvestri

**Grade 4**

Americo Besachio Bernadette Pama Gabriel Vioria

**Grade 5**

Anna Buttaro Nicolas Cappalli Cassidy Connetta  
Talia Henebury Luca Loffredo Isabella Maggiacomo  
Elza Nicole Mendez Grace Nassa Raya Wilson

**Grade 6**

Carmine DiSanto Nicholas Lisi Angela Long Emely Paiz  
Ashley Piccolo Giancarlos Villavicencio

**Grade 7**

Ellie Buttaro Lily Davis Raymond Storti

**Grade 8**

Raymond Beaumier Sophia DelSignore Solanna Long Dion Wilson

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

December 2016

St. Mary's Church, Cranston

Rev. William J. Ledoux, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier was born to a Spanish noble family. He taught in Paris where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and joined the new Society of Jesus. In 1541, he was sent as a missionary to India and Japan. He tirelessly served the poor with joy. Although he yearned to spread the Gospel in China, he died en route but wasn't bitter or disappointed. He is called the "Apostle of Japan" and "Apostle of the Indies."

### Living in the present

Sometimes, we get so bogged down by worries about the future or regrets of the past, we forget to live in the present. Instead of worrying about what you can't control, entrust those worries to God knowing that he will help you through them all. Trust that his grace is enough.

*"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people"*

(Luke 1:68).



## Who was that baby in the manger?

At this time of year, we tell a charming tale of a long ago journey on a donkey, a baby born in a cave, and a visit by kings. In truth, the real event was not just charming, it was awesome. That baby was more than a child ...

**He was proof that God always keeps his promises.** That baby was the fulfillment of an amazing promise made to generations of faithful assuring a savior to heal the rift created by the sin of our first parents. God spoke his word

*"(a)nd the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son*

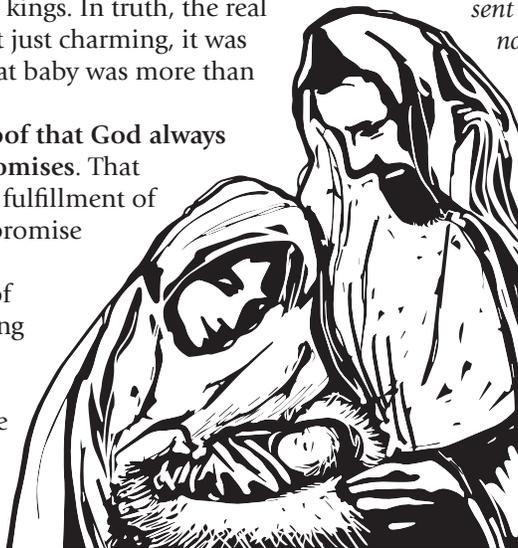
*from the Father"* (John 1:14). God always keeps his word. Trust him.

**He was love in the flesh.** *"For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world*

*might be saved through him"* (John 3:17). Out of love for us, Jesus willingly took on the indignity of a human body and its frailty to share our nature. Love him back.

**He is God.** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was*

*God"* (John 1:1). God came to free us from sin and open the way to everlasting life. Follow him.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th?

The Gospels do not identify a specific date for Jesus' birth. December 25 was chosen for several reasons, including that the date was close to the winter solstice.

The early Church attempted to replace existing pagan celebrations with Christian ones. Under



the Emperor Aurelian, December 25 was celebrated as the "birth of the unconquered sun." As Christianity became more widely practiced, the pagan celebration was replaced by Christmas to celebrate Christ's birth — the real "unconquered" light of the world.

## 'Tis the season to be jolly

Family dynamics can make holiday celebrations anything but jolly. Try these tips to make this your happiest holiday season:

**Repeat, "It's not about me."** Taking what others say or do personally makes you easy prey for someone trying for a reaction or looking for attention. Keep your power by choosing not to get offended.

**Smile and nod.** Arguing your point of view in heated discussions may feel momentarily satisfying but only serves to prolong tensions. Happy holidays come from smiling, nodding, and changing the subject.



**Develop a bad memory.** Reliving past hurts can make holidays miserable. Decide that this will be the year to forgive and forget.

**Get up. Stand up.** The more we focus on irritations, the more they irritate. When feeling irked, take a break to fill your water glass, stretch your legs, or engage in a different conversation.

**Have compassion.** You can wish your family experience were different but trying to change others is pointless. Instead use compassion to find new ways of love during holiday gatherings.

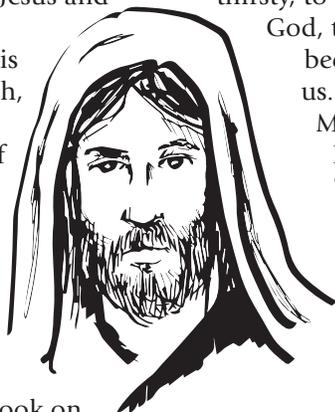
### from Scripture

#### John 1:1-18, Who Is Jesus?

On December 25 we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Just who is Jesus and what does he mean to us?

John explained that Jesus is God's Word born into flesh, the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the source of life. Jesus enlightens us about God and his nature. To know Jesus is to know God because grace and truth come from God, through Christ to us.

At the same time Jesus took on our human nature. He lived as we live, experienced what we experience, and suffered what we suffer. He knows



what it's like to be hungry and thirsty, to be tired, to be tempted. God, the Son, understands us because he became like us.

Many who saw Jesus on Earth rejected him. They didn't recognize him as the Messiah. We each have to make a choice about Jesus. Do we choose Jesus as our Savior? Do we live our lives as if we are children of God? If our answers are "yes," then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for truth and grace.

#### Q & A Is the Immaculate Conception about Mary or Jesus?

The Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's conception without Original Sin. It refers to our belief that Mary was



preserved from the stain of Original Sin at the moment of her conception in view of her role as Jesus' mother

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #491). On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX declared this truth infallibly.

Because she was not tainted by Original Sin, she could be completely filled with grace. In fact, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel calls her, "full of grace," (Luke 1:28). This grace enabled Mary to say "Yes" to the angel's invitation, and to continue saying "Yes" when faced with hardship and suffering, including standing at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday.

God did not preserve Mary from Original Sin simply because he favored her, but because she had been chosen from all eternity to be the mother of his Son. Her role as Jesus' mother was crucial to his mission of salvation. Her grace-filled "Yes" opened the way to Jesus' "Yes" on the Cross.

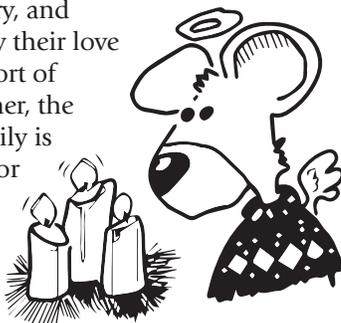
### Feasts & Celebrations

**Dec. 5 – St. Sabas (532).** St. Sabas was born in (now) Turkey, and fled to a monastery to escape an abusive home. He became a hermit and moved to the desert. He attracted many followers, and formed a community. Though unwilling, he was ordained and eventually was named the superior of all hermits in Jerusalem. He died at the age of 93.

**Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego, a Native American, and asked him to have the bishop of Mexico

build a chapel for her. She sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses from his cloak, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**Dec. 30 – The Holy Family (1st century).** On the feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. By their love and support of one another, the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



**Our Mission**  
 To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

The students at St Mary School participate in the Feinsein Junior Scholar Program. Feinsein Junior Scholars make the world a better place. They are ambassadors of good will and do good deeds whenever possible throughout the year. They participate in the fight against hunger in Rhode Island by organizing canned food drives to benefit St Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. We are also involved in raising money for Breast Cancer, The Tomorrow Fund Stroll (St Mary's came in second place last year) which was completely organized by our students. We also provide Thanksgiving baskets to our own families in need and we do many drives throughout the year to benefit several different organizations – "We R Group Hug", Mary's House, The Veterans' Home in Providence to name a few. We decorate place mats during Valentine's and bring them to the Cranston Senior Center to bring a smile to them, we make thank you cards and get well cards for people in St Mary's Parish and we put up a Giving Tree during the Christmas Season. The tree is decorated with paper ornaments that have a dollar amount for local stores. Students, faculty, staff and parishioners donate gift cards which we then distribute to families in need to make sure the children have Christmas.

They contribute good deed examples for school wide publication twice a year. There are many benefits to being a Feinsein Junior Scholar. Some of those benefits include: positively impacting the lives of others receiving Junior Scholar Cards which include free admission to amazing places, including Mystic Aquarium and college scholarship opportunities.

Our school is a Feinsein Leadership School. As a result of being a Feinsein Leadership Schools, [we](#) have received matching donations to benefit the school for each food item we collected up to \$1000. We will receive a \$1000 donation for our January Newsletter, and a yearbook grant and more. We have used their funds to purchase items which will benefit the entire learning community. So far, we have purchased 30 Chrome Book computers and are looking to order one for each of our 5-8 students as well as add 5 additional ones in each classroom.

***Encourage your Feinsein Junior Scholar to continue to make a difference in the community.***

***Good deeds are contagious. Pass one on!***