



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

CATHOLIC PARISH & SCHOOL

November 22, 2016
Feast of Saint Cecilia

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends of SVdP School,

In this past week, I think I received more expressions of “welcome to Denver” than I did in the entire month of August when I first arrived. It was the temperature warp from 80 degrees one day to 29 degrees (and snow) the following afternoon, that caused many – even non natives – to let me know that I should get used to unpredictability in the coming months: *welcome to Denver; this is how it is!*

Similar to the temperature warp we just experienced, we are also, just this week, in the middle of a liturgical *time* warp. This past Sunday we celebrated the feast of Christ the King and the end of the liturgical year, only to warp back to the beginning of the liturgical year with the season of Advent coming in a few days. I venture to guess that most of us tend to think of Advent as the time that helps us to prepare for Christmas Day and the celebration of the historical event of God coming to earth as an infant. This is good preparation, and the more festive it is in our homes, the better! The Incarnation – God taking flesh and coming to earth – certainly has been the most life-changing event that ever happened in the history of humankind and it should be fully celebrated. But Advent also, and perhaps even more so, is a time when we are preparing for the Second Coming – Christ will come again, not as a weak and dependent infant, but in great glory.

Just like Jesus Christ finally came in flesh and blood as a babe, after years of waiting and centuries of prophesying, he *will come again* in glory and will bring his definitive kingship along with true justice for the earth, when all things will be made right. The readings we will hear in the next few weeks should cause our hearts to long for his coming: they speak of an end to wars, where every tear is wiped away, an end to any and all suffering, a place where the lion will lie down with the lamb, and there will be no sorrow on all God’s holy mountain. Those who work for justice, who compassionately share the load with others, who strive to bring peace to situations of conflict long for this Coming that will somehow set all things right, not just in our own time, but for all of history.

We are made for this kind of peace and perfect justice of being right with God and with others, and they with us. So it is good that we desire it, hope for it, work toward it. But we aren’t there yet. We daily live in the reality of injustice which strikes deep in our hearts when it comes too close to home. Perhaps at no time is it more important for Christians to be Christian than precisely during the experience of injustice, since a response of forgiveness brings divine love directly into a situation. It is a worldly mindset that would combat injustice in similar kind: war for war, hatred for hatred, eye for an eye, silence for silence. But when injustice is met with forgiveness and love, something altogether new happens. Saint John of the Cross says that *where there is no love, put love in, and you will draw love out*. When Christ, whose kingly crown was of thorns and whose throne was a cross, was faced with injustice, he forgave his accusers, prayed for them, loved them. Can you imagine how different the story would be if Jesus had yelled at the soldiers from the cross telling them they are all going to shrivel in Hell if they don’t cut it out? Or if Mary stepped in and frenetically took to task all the parents of the men who were hurting her son? Didn’t they have a right to demand this kind of justice? Why didn’t they choose it? What greater good did they see?

During this Thanksgiving, a time of important and fun family togetherness, let’s examine our hearts and our relationships to see where we might extend forgiveness, even where it has not been asked. Let’s pray for those, especially in our community, whose pain makes such forgiveness so difficult, and ask God to let his grace overflow on all of our families. And let us give heartfelt thanks!

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Dominic, O.P.

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Book Club Beginnings

If you are interested in participating in a book club beginning in January and on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, please send a Fast Direct to Sister Dominic or leave a voicemail or message at the Front Office. The day of the week can be determined by availability of those interested, but would likely back up to a drop off or pick up time. Book topics can vary, but typically selections would come from parenting topics or growth in the spiritual life. (Current considerations include How to Raise and Adult by Julie Lythcott-Haims or Time for God by Father Jacques Philippe)

The December Magnificat

Your youngest or only child should bring home the December issue of the Magnificat for your family. The Magnificat is a publication of the readings for daily and weekend Masses along with reflections on the gospel and articles on other topics of interest. An excellent Advent practice could be to read the readings as a family at the dinner table each night and especially prior to Sunday Mass, reading, reflecting on and discussing the gospels.

Moms' Advent Night Out: December 1st 6:30-8:30pm

Come and join in a time of prayer at SVdP Church, led by the Dominican Sisters, which will help to prepare your hearts for Advent and the coming of Christ. Following the structured holy hour, there will be a social hour and refreshments in the Garden Room.

Book Fair Results and Thank You

Thank you to the parents who volunteered to set up the book fair, help run it during the week, and take it down at the end. The fair was very successful and we found that we had nearly equal sales on conference day as our highest day of sales during the school week. Additionally, online sales helped to boost our overall sales to just over \$10,000. SVdP School receives more than 40% of that back in "Scholastic Dollars" to purchase new books for the library or equipment for the library or classrooms. Special thank you to:

Stephanie Donez
Bernadette Dwyer
Sarah Emerson
Carissa Money

Marija Papineau
Beth Riviere
Maria Simoes
Sara Sparks

Marisol Venegas
Jeannie Wallrath
Dee Wingert

Confirmation Date Confirmed

Saint Vincent de Paul Church received word that the Mass of Confirmation for our 5th/6th grade students, as well as any other students being prepared at our parish, will be on May 19, 2017 at 6:00 pm with Fr. Randy Dollins presiding.

Managing the Legal Landscape

Thank you to the parents who came to the presentation by the Foster, Graham, Milstein, and Calisher lawyers last Friday. They offered a great deal of information, some of which may have been review, but much of which was new for our students. Mrs. Dirrane will debrief with the 7th/8th grade students about these topics in the coming weeks. Hopefully, the presentation has begun some open conversations in your home. Following is a Christian based site/resource which helps parents to navigate with their children in order to avoid dangers of all kinds: <http://protectyoungeyes.com/strategies/>. Additionally, our safety committee is working on related topics of interest for parent and student information sessions and potential screening of a new documentary on screen time in general.

Think Black Friday and Shop with SVdP Scrip The holiday season is here! Shop with scrip for all of your holiday needs and earn rebates for our school. The Front Office is stocked with gift cards in various denominations to many popular retailers starting November 14th. If we do not have a specific retailer on hand you can place an order directly on www.shopwithscrip.com. You MUST enter our SVdP Enrollment Code: CA11E6FF19153. If you have questions or need help placing an order, please contact Stefanie Liley at svdpscrip@yahoo.com.

Christmas Shoppe: December 8-9

No sooner has Halloween passed us by and now it's time to start thinking about Christmas! The Christmas Shoppe will be open on December 8th and 9th this year. We'll have lots of new items including a selection of gift cards for the older students to purchase. As always, we will need plenty of volunteer elves to help our little shoppers pick just the right gift for their loved one. More information will follow after Thanksgiving.

Noteworthy Dates:

November 23	Half Day (12:00 dismissal); School Wide Service Day; No Extended Care
November 24-25	No School – Happy Thanksgiving!
November 29	Second Quarter Progress Reports posted
December 1	Mom's Advent Night Out
December 8	All School Mass – Holy Day of Obligation Immaculate Conception Afternoon dress rehearsal performance of the Lion King Christmas Shoppe
December 9	Christmas Shoppe Evening public performance of the Lion King at 6:30pm

Deadline for Crusader Connection: Monday at 6:00am of the week it is to be published.



Gala Updates

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the upcoming SVDP Roaring 20's Gala!

Saturday, March 4th 2017
The Westin Downtown

The Gala class donation parties have been a success! The Kindergarten class will host the final party Friday December 2nd. Family/individual donations are still encouraged and we will continue to accept any donations through **January 13th**. When you are out shopping for Christmas presents, keep the Donation Wish List in mind and make an extra purchase for the Gala! The donations forms went home in folders last week and there are more available at the front desk.

There are many ways to become involved with the Gala! Anyone interested in helping during the event – especially with set up of decorations the morning of the Gala should contact our decorations chair Stef Liley via FastDirect.

We are still looking for Gala Sponsors! If you are able and interested supporting your school on a larger financial level, please consider becoming a Gala Sponsor and contact Mary Kovalak or Mila Glodava via FastDirect.

We are very excited about our upcoming Gala and hope to see everyone there!! Stay tuned for more information about tickets, parking and the Donation Crawl!!



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CRUSADER CARDS (FORMALLY KNOWN AS SCRIP)

STEFANIE LILEY – COORDINATOR (CCARDS@SAINTVINCENTS.ORG)

Student: _____

Grade: _____

Check # or Cash: _____

***Cash or check, Please make checks payable to SVdP**



Attention Student Holiday Shoppers,

New this year at the Christmas Shoppe gift cards will be available. This is a great chance for you to purchase gift cards for yourself, family and friends. Please bring cash or have your parents send a check made payable to SVdP. Turn in your order forms during Christmas Shoppe on December 8th & 9th and receive your gift cards.

Happy Shopping!

Retailer	Value \$	SVdP Rebate	Qty	Total \$
Amazon.com	10, 25	3%		
AMC	10, 25	8%		
American Eagle	25	10%		
Athleta	25	14%		
Bath & Body Works	10, 25	13%		
Chipotle	10	10%		
Dick's Sporting Goods	25	8%		
iTunes	15, 25	5%		
Noodles	10	8%		
Regal	10, 25	8%		
Sephora	20	5%		
Starbucks	5, 10	7%		
Subway	10	6%		
Target	10, 25	2.5%		
Total Crusader Card Purchase				

Give back while you shop! By purchasing these cards you receive the full face value and the school receives an instant rebate.

