



STELLA MARIS ACADEMY

Holy Rosary Campus Newsletter

November 30, 2018

Mission Statement

Commissioned by the Catholic Church, the Stella Maris Academy community prepares lifelong learners who lead, love, and serve as Jesus taught—transforming our world one student at a time

Christmas Program—Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 19th. The students will be performing at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm in the Cathedral. Students should wear uniforms for the 1:00 pm performance but may dress their best for the 6:30 pm performance.

Second Grade Bake Sale—Still two days to buy baked goods. Tuesday, Dec. 4th and Thursday, Dec. 6th. All money raised will go towards gifts for the giving tree. The giving tree is sponsored by the Cathedral, and it is designed to purchase gifts for those in need during this holiday season.

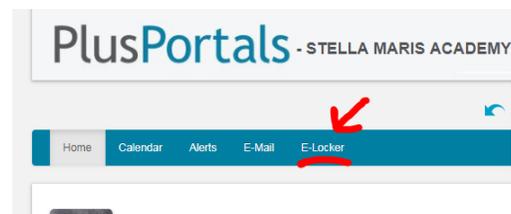
Scrip Program Arrives for Christmas— The Scrip program ([read here to learn about Scrip](#)) will start up this Monday. Scrip will be available the week of 12/3, 12/10, and 12/17. Please see the attached information. Orders placed on Monday will be sent home on Thursday with your child. This is a great way to get your Christmas shopping done all at one place. Here is the [link](#) to retailers.

Stella Maris Board Meeting—There was a change in the location of the SMA Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018. The meeting will be held at Holy Family church starting at 3:00 pm.

Reconciliation—Students in grades 3 and 4 will have an opportunity to attend reconciliation on Wednesday, December 12th, following the 8:30 am school mass.

Gymnastics Mini Meet—Wednesday, December 5th, St. John's Gym, 5:00 pm—7:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for students to show off the skills they have learned so far.

Report cards—Students in grades K-2 will be bringing their report cards home today. Grades 3 & 4 will not be receiving paper copies. All students and parents can view and print report cards from the E-Locker feature in Plus Portals. Once you log in to your portal account, look for the E-Locker in the menu bar near the home/calendar feature.



Out of Uniform—Students may bring \$1 for charity on December 21st and dress in green, red or Christmas attire.



Advent Activities—This weekend, we begin our preparation for Christmas. During this beautiful start to our liturgical year, join us for any of the following activities:

- Advent Kick Off ([Donut Sunday](#)) at St. John’s, St. Michael’s, St. Benedict’s, and Cathedral parishes. Go to Mass: what a powerful way for your family to start Advent!
- Advent Prayer Services—During the season of Advent the school will be having prayer services each week. Please attend if you would like.

Week 1 (Friday, Nov. 30)—Hosted by grade 4 (Mrs. Vittorio) at 7:45 am in the school gym

Week 2 (Friday, Dec. 6) —Hosted by grade 3 (Mrs. Kilsdonk) at 7:45 in the school gym

Week 3 (Friday, Dec. 13)—Hosted by grade 3 (Ms. Zanardi) at 7:45 in the school gym

Week 4 (Thursday, Dec. 20)—Hosted by grade 4 (Mrs. McKeever) at 12:15 pm in the church.



[Resources for Advent](#)

[Holiday Ski Camp Information](#)—Click on the link to get more information on this opportunity.

Nordic Spirit Youth Ski League—This program is 40 years old, and 100 to 125 children ages 5 to 14 years old participate every year learning how to cross-country ski. Our lessons are every Sunday for 6 weeks, taught by volunteers and very reasonably priced. If you are interested follow the links for [parent information](#) and [registration information](#).

Tuesday, December 4th	St. James Campus Christmas Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: St. James Church • Who: All students Prek-8 from the St. James Campus • Start time: 6:30
Thursday, December 13th	St. John’s Campus Christmas Concert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: St. John’s Campus Gymnasium • Who: All 5th grade students and 5-8th grade band and string students from the St. John’s Campus. • Start time: 6:30 pm
Tuesday, December 18th	Stella Maris Academy Community Christmas Concert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Cathedral of Our Lady • Who: All 6-8th grade choir students from the St. James and St. John’s Campuses • Start time: 6:30 pm
Wednesday, December 19th	Holy Rosary Campus Christmas Concert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Cathedral of Our Lady • Who: PreK—4th Grade • Start time: 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm



St. Nicholas Day—St. Nicholas Day is on December 6th. The students will be leaving an empty shoe in the hall outside their classrooms on the eve of December 5th. Hopefully St. Nicholas will leave them a treat. Please read the attached information about the celebration of St. Nicholas.

Background:

Many people have chosen St. Nicholas for their patron. Greece, Sicily, and especially Russia claim him as the patron of their countries. His image appears in stained glass windows, and carvings, and about 400 churches in England alone are named for him. Parents name their children Nicole, Nicola, Nicolette, and Nick in his honor. He is one of the most popular saints in the Church.

What is actually known about St. Nicholas? Very little. He was a fourth century bishop in Lycia, which was southeast of Turkey. How could he become so popular for so many years in so many different countries if there is so little known about him? Good question!

The saints were men and women who learned to live like Jesus by knowing special love for the poor and reaching out to them. The many stories that are told about St. Nicholas usually have him helping the poor. In one he frees three unjustly imprisoned officers, and in another saves three innocent boys from death. One of the best known stories concerns a poor man who was unable to provide the usual dowries for his three unmarried daughters. Knowing they might be forced to prostitution, Nicholas devised a plan to save the situation. One night he took a bag of gold and threw it through an open window into the room where the man was sleeping. Then he hurried away so that no one would know who had given the gold. Not long after this, Nicholas heard that the eldest daughter had gotten married. Twice after that, Nicholas tried his secret trick, and each time one of the daughters was able to marry. But on the last night that he threw a bag of gold through the window, the poor father caught him and thanked him over and over.

In the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland, children put out their empty shoe on the eve of St. Nicholas's feast in hopes that they will receive presents. They believe that St. Nicholas fills them. In America and England, the legend of St. Nicholas has been adapted to the modern day Santa Claus, who brings presents on Christmas Eve. How can you imitate this famous Saint? Start now by secretly doing acts of kindness for others, especially for the poor.

Suggested Activities

1. Ask the students to make a list of acts of kindness that could be done in secret either in school or at home. Have them try to do one hidden act of kindness each day for a week in imitation of St. Nicholas
2. Have the students research the history of St. Nicholas and Santa Claus. They may write reports or display pictures and share their findings with the class.
3. Suggest that the students make a card or bring in a treat for children in a lower grade. Then at recess time, let the students put these surprises on the children's desks.
4. Make a set of St. Nicholas cookies, or give another type of treat to your class in honor of St. Nicholas.