



**November 28 – December 2, 2016**

**First Week of Advent - HOPE**

***"My soul clings to the dust; give me life in accord with your word." ~Psalm 119:25***

Yesterday began the season of Advent, a season of anticipation – a time to prepare our hearts and our homes for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas. Here in school our morning prayers will follow along with the stories of the Old Testament and we will celebrate Advent by decorating our Jesse Tree in the school vestibule outside the main office. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." The decorations of the Jesse Tree are a vehicle to tell the Story of God in the Old Testament, and to connect the Advent Season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history. You can follow along at home by using the [Advent Readings](#) link on our school website.

#### **TUESDAY**

There will be play practice this morning at 8:00 for 8th grade students with speaking parts. Practice will be in the gym. There will be Mad Science today after school for those who have pre-registered. Students will be dismissed through the gym vestibule.

#### **WEDNESDAY**

There will be play practice this morning at 8:00 for 8th grade students with speaking parts. Practice will be in the gym. There will be Mad Science today after school for those who have pre-registered. Students will be dismissed through the gym vestibule.

All Gator Gear orders are due TODAY – no exceptions. Please visit our school website for [order forms](#).

#### **FRIDAY**

Today is the end of the first marking period. Report cards will be sent home next Friday. Please join us for our First Friday liturgy today at 9:30. All are welcome!

#### **ADVENT MISSION**

Saint Aloysius Religious Education Office is offering a special Advent Mission for adults. The theme of the mission, inspired by Pope Francis, is "The Joy of Love." The mission will be offered at the following time slots: **9 am to 10:30 am and 1 pm to 2:30 pm on Saturday, December 3rd in the Church.** The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia from Nashville, TN will conduct the mission. Visit [nashvilledominican.org](http://nashvilledominican.org) for more info on the Dominican sisters' community. Parents/Guardians who attended last year's event with the sisters shared a great deal of positive feedback about their experience.

This event is open to all **adults** in the parish. Parents/Guardians of children in 2nd and 8th grade are asked to consider attending as an event like this provides vital support as you seek to help your child grow in faith. Please RSVP directly to [Ms. Jennifer Draeger, Coordinator of Religious Education](#), as to which time slot you would like to attend in order to ensure there are enough materials for all.

#### **POLAR BEAR PLUNGE**

On January 8, 2017 Saint Aloysius School is once again taking the Polar Bear Plunge Challenge! We started this fundraiser many years ago with the hope of raising money, but it has grown into something more wonderful – a way to grow community! I am grateful to the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) for running this event to support Catholic Education and I am hoping that all of our families can join us in some way – either as a plunger, a supporter or even just saying a prayer for our success.

This year we hope to get the AOH into the Guinness Book of Records – since the plunge this year falls on the birthday of Elvis, let's see how many Elvis impersonators we can get to take the plunge!!

We'll need to hit the \$20,000 mark this year to get me back in the ocean! CAN WE DO IT??? [Plunger registration and sponsor forms](#) can be found on our website.

## **ARTSONIA**

Support the art program at Saint Aloysius School by shopping at [Artsonia.com](http://Artsonia.com) Holiday Special. Create custom keepsakes with your child's art. Perfect for holiday gifts and stocking stuffers.

**November 28 Favorite Products** - The holiday season will be in full swing as Artsonia offers a special sale on our most popular products such as coffee mugs and ornaments.

**December 12 Last Minute Stocking Stuffer Ideas** - The last sales of the year offer up some great last-minute gift ideas for stocking stuffers! It features an assortment of Artsonia's most popular products, just in time to wrap up holiday shopping.

### **2016 Holiday Shipping Deadlines**

**December 15 (Thursday)** Last Day Standard Delivery Service

**December 20 (Tuesday)** Last Day Express Delivery Service (extra charges apply)

### **YEARBOOK – DEADLINE DECEMBER 2**

Have you ordered your school yearbook yet?? Don't miss out, the deadline is fast approaching - order your yearbook now! [Order forms](#) can be found on our school website.

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS**

Tis the season .... For Christmas programs!

Our Pre-K program will take place Tuesday, December 13th at 10:30 in the school gym. No tickets are necessary. All are welcome. Our Kindergarten program will take place Wednesday, December 14th at 10:30 also in the school gym. No tickets are necessary. All are welcome.

This year our 8th grade students will perform "Christmas in Black and White" and students in grades 1 – 7 will be the chorus. There will be two performances in the school gym, Thursday, December 15th at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm. To help defray the cost of the production, there is a \$1 charge per ticket. An [order form](#) can be found on our school website.

### **P.T.A. NEWS**

#### **Holiday Shoppe**

Next week, December 5 – 9 - Volunteers needed! [Sign up online.](#)

#### **Gift Auction - Calling All Volunteers!**

If you would like to help but are not sure of what is expected or you may only have a few hours of time please email the PTA for more information ([stalspta@staloyssiusschool.com](mailto:stalspta@staloyssiusschool.com)) and be on the look out for a planning meeting coming in the next few weeks. No effort is ever too small!

**Gift Auction Wish List** - coming soon but if you would like to donate or have items that you want to drop off please do so anytime!

Have a great GATOR week!

Peace,  
Ms. O'Connor