

The BIRD WORD

Monthly Newsletter



DECEMBER EVENTS

- 3 ADVENT BEGINS
- 6 ADVENT RETREAT
- 6 ST. NICHOLAS
- 8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- 8 CHRISTMAS STORE
- 12 PRINCIPAL MTG
- 11-15 STAR TESTING
- 12 OUR LADY OF GUADLUPE
- 20 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
- 22 1:00 DISMISSAL
- 25 CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS



Pastor: Rev. John Kimani
Principal: Melanie Chavez

DECEMBER 2023

LENDING A HELPING HAND



Our middle school students spent a half day helping out at the Roadrunner Food Bank. They had to sort all the fresh produce and package dried food. After they finished their hard work there, they hopped on the school bus and went Christmas Caroling at the Montebello Nursing Home. They ended the day with a fun lunch at Dion's before heading back to school.

Journey To The Inn

Our talented students hosted their parents and family to a performance called, "Journey to the Inn." Parents and family were escorted by a shepherd who took them on a journey through a luminaria lit school trying to find an inn that would accept Mary and Joseph as she was going to give birth to the baby Jesus soon. Each of the classes were grouped together and sang beautiful songs that represented the journey to an inn that offered Mary and Joseph a room in a stable. After the final scene, our families were escorted to the gym where they were able to sit and eat cookies and visit with the other families.



"My prayer for you is that when Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heartfelt of love, like that of a simple shepherd who was the first one chosen to see Christ." ~St. Teresa of Calcutta



December's Virtue:
Patience
December's Saint:
St. Issac Jogues

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December 6 was a busy day for the students of St. Mary's Catholic School. The day started off by a quick visit from St. Nicholas who, put treats in each student's shoe that was left outside their classroom. Then we put our shoes on and went to Church to celebrate Mass. Grades 3-8 stayed after Mass and went to confession. After confessions, they joined the rest of the school for an all day Advent Retreat. Each class was buzzing with activities that helped them prepare for the birth of Jesus. Prayers, songs, and laughter could be heard in the halls. **"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."** - Pope Benedict XVI.



The City of Belen Twinkle Light Parade



Thanks to the help of our music teacher, Ms. Rocco and our parent volunteers, Mr. and Mrs. Carrillo, St. Mary's participated in the City of Belen's Twinkle Light Parade on December 9. Our students were dressed as shepherds and some of our students were dressed to display the Nativity Scene. Our St. Mary's choir, dressed as angels and sang beautifully as

they traveled down Main Street.

Third Graders Have Fun While Learning



The third graders worked on studying figurative language. Ms. Chavez assigned a project based learning activity that required each student to choose their favorite idiom and put together a tangible item that represented the idiom. Can you guess this student's idiom?

13,129,345

This number represents the number of words that were read by our students from K-8 in one semester. The information is based on AR tests taken by our students.



Shoot it for TWO!

Our boys basketball was in full swing in December. This year we had two middle school teams to represent us in the APIAL league. Championship games will be held when we return back to school after Christmas.

St. Mary's faculty and staff wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, and a blessed, healthy, New Year!

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St. Mary's Catholic School prepares students to be leaders in worship, work, and the world through Roman Catholic teachings, rigorous academics, and service to others.

