



# PANTHER PRINTS

December 2024

## A note from Mrs. Organ:

It is such a wonderful gift to be able to experience the joy of the Advent Season, as we prepare for Christmas, through the eyes of our students. I pray this is a time of eager anticipation and reflection for all of our students about the true meaning of Christmas. Our teachers and Catholicity committee have put a number of wonderful things in place to provide students with these opportunities.

This Advent, each class will once again create a poster to represent an Advent calendar that will be opened each day and on display for all grade levels to see in our courtyard area. Students will again be placing hay in a manger that has been placed in the courtyard next to a bucket of hay. When a student is seen performing a kind action, they can place some straw in the manger as we create a loving space for Jesus when he comes.

Each grade will take some time as a class to spend in Adoration on Monday, December 2nd with time for prayer and reflection as the Advent season begins. We will also offer Reconciliation opportunities for all of our students who have received this sacrament. I would like to thank our Catholicity committee for all of their ideas and help in planning and organizing these special events.

On December 16, as we move nearer to Christmas Break, we will hold our ever-popular Christmas Fair and light the Christmas tree in the school courtyard. We are still in need of more small gifts for our students to shop for at the Christmas Fair, so if you have any to donate, please bring them in and place them in the bin outside of the school office.

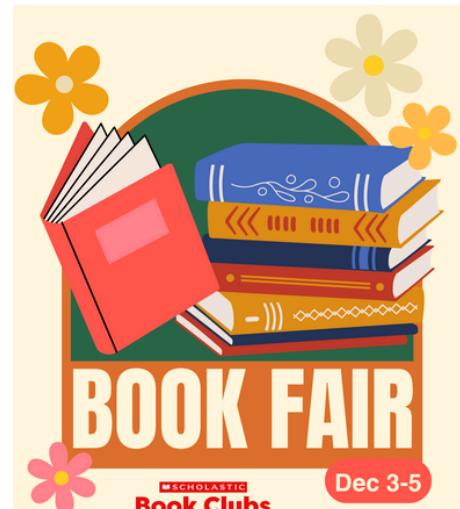
Our Christmas choral program is planned for December 17 at 6:00pm and will feature our 1st and 7th grade students.

We have seen so much growth in all of our students as we move into the midway point of the 2024-2025 school year. May the blessing of Advent be with you all during this busy time.

Thank you for trusting and sharing your students with us.



Grace and Peace,  
Marianne H. Organ

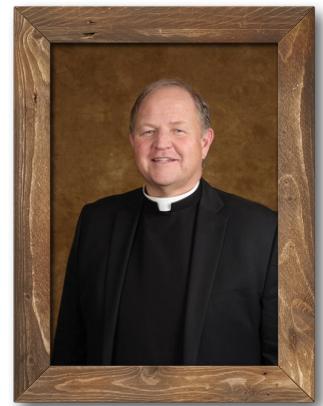


## Donovan Room

December 3, 8am-4pm  
December 4, 8am-6pm  
December 5, 8am-4pm

## This Issue:

December Calendar/Lunch Menu  
Volunteer Opportunities  
School News  
PTO/Extra-curricular  
Parish Information  
Community Happenings



# A message from Father Tom Holder...

Blessings of Thanksgiving to all of you! As we prepare for Thanksgiving this week it is a special time for all of us to give thanks for our many blessings. I hope you will be able to celebrate with family and friends and take time to be grateful for one another. I would like to personally thank all of you for choosing our school for your children and for the support you give throughout the year. As a Catholic school, we would not be able to do all the things we do without the generosity of our community. I often hear complements and words of thanks from parents and parishioners related to our school and the Catholic education we provide. I hope we will all take a moment this Thanksgiving to give thanks for the blessing of our faith and our school community and always seek to be a blessing for one another. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

The holy season of Advent is just around the corner. Although it can be a busy time of year filled with activities and preparation for Christmas, I encourage you to take some time as a family and focus on the symbols and themes of the season. Be sure to prominently display an Advent wreath in your home and gather as a family during the week to light the candles and pray. Teaching our children the importance of waiting and preparation can be an invaluable life lesson.

We also have a number of Advent activities happening in the parish. Please check the weekly school update or the parish bulletin and website for all the information. We have an Advent Scriptures & Carols Choir Concert on Thursday, December 5 at 6:30pm. This would be a great event to attend as a family. After the 8:00am & 10:00am Masses on Sunday, December 8, you can join us in the Auditorium for the Knights breakfast and a visit with Santa for your children. And following the 5:30pm Immaculate Conception holy day Mass on Monday, December 9, we will have an inspiring Advent Evening of Reflection with presenter Msgr. Stuart Swetland. This is a great way to get in the spirit of the season. May this holy and prayerful time lead us to a deeper faith and love for Christ. Many Blessings!

Many Blessings!  
Fr. Tom Holder

# December

## December Lunch Calendar



### All School



## Mass Schedule

### Wednesday, December 4

**Coordinating Class:** Mount

**Lector:** Serafina Cano

**Servers:** Alex Hancock & McKinley Bushell

**Senior Server:** Cade Hutchings

### \*\*Monday, December 9\*\*

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

**Coordinating Class:** Faris

**Lector:** Jackson Stringer

**Servers:** Brooklyn Rasco & Lucy Koenigsfeld

**Senior Server:** Maggie Twenter

### Wednesday, December 18

**Coordinating Class:** Russell

**Lector:** Adrian Sonderman

**Servers:** Margaret Kauffman & Caroline Christensen

**Senior Server:** Reid Kauzlarich

## Important Dates to Remember

**2** All School Advent Adoration

**3** Book Fair, 8 a.m.-4p.m.  
PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

**4** All School Mass  
Students may wear Cultivate Hope shirts with uniform bottoms.  
Chipotle Night, 4-8 p.m.  
Book Fair, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**5** Book Fair, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

**10** Group/Class Pictures

**11** All School Mass  
Students may wear Cultivate Hope shirts with uniform bottoms.

**16** Christmas Fair

**17** Christmas Concert, 6 p.m.

**18** All School Mass  
Students may wear Cultivate Hope shirts with uniform bottoms.

Staff lunch hosted by 3rd grade

**20** Noon Dismissal  
End of 2nd Quarter



**Christmas  
BREAK**

Dec. 23 - January 6

LET'S

TALK

ABOUT IT

FROM MS. PIERSON.  
SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER



# Our School

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It is officially December and as you can imagine all the students of OLP are welcoming the season of Advent! To kick off the season we will be honoring Saint Nicholas on December 6th. Be sure to ask your little ones what they learned on this day, it really is a fun tradition at OLP.

With Christmas Break fast approaching, I wanted to remind you that it's a great time for the kids to work on their service hours. While we do not require service house at OLP, we do encourage service to others as part of our mission. Whether kids volunteer in the community or do extra chores at home, Christmas break gives them a great opportunity to get some service hours in! The smallest jobs such as picking up trash around the neighborhood or local park, doing yard work, raking leaves, shoveling snow, collecting food items for Lee's Summit Social Services, or helping with different parish events can all be counted. Think of having your child go through their toys and clothing and select a few to be donated to those in need. Please feel free to get creative! Keep track of your student's service hours on a sheet of paper at home. At the end of the year we will collect them and celebrate our students' service to their community. If you have any questions about service hours please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Wishing you all a blessed Advent season!

Thank you and God bless,  
Ms. Pierson  
Social Worker

\*\*All volunteers are required to complete Virtus Training ([virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org) and <https://protectmokids.com/>). Both are available online and when completed certificates need to be emailed to or dropped off at the school office. These are both diocesan requirements for volunteers in any school.\*\*

[Safe Environment Requirements>>](#)



**ARCHERY COACHES** are needed to assist for the 2024-25 season. Those interested in being trained please reach out to Rob Rastorfer, [olparchery@gmail.com](mailto:olparchery@gmail.com).

**CAFETERIA HELPERS** are needed to assist with serving lunch each school day. All volunteers must be Virtus trained prior to signing up.  
[Cafeteria sign-up](#)

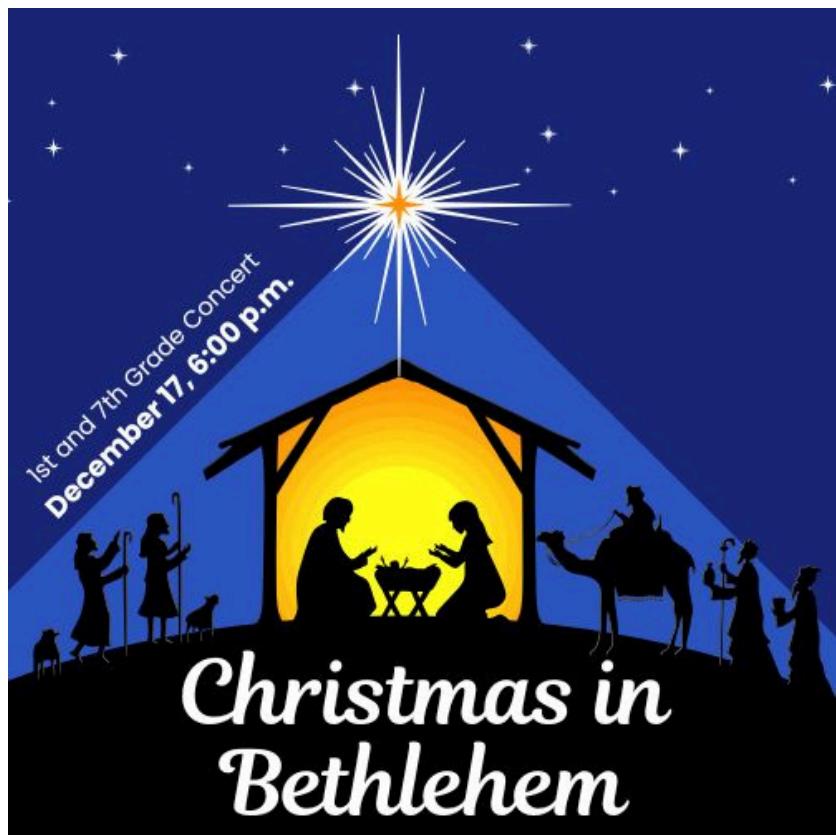
**CROSSING GUARDS** are needed to help with morning drop-off 7:30-8:00 a.m. If you are interested in helping get students through the parking lot safely before school, please email Mr. Podjenski, [dpodjenski@olpls.org](mailto:dpodjenski@olpls.org).

**PARENT ON PATROL** Half and full days available. Volunteers provide an extra presence around the school building, at recess, in the cafeteria, etc. If you are interested in participating in the POPPS program please contact Gaetano Falcone at [popps@olplsschool.org](mailto:popps@olplsschool.org).

December  
Friendzy  
Theme

TEAMWORK  
MAKES THE  
DREAM WORK

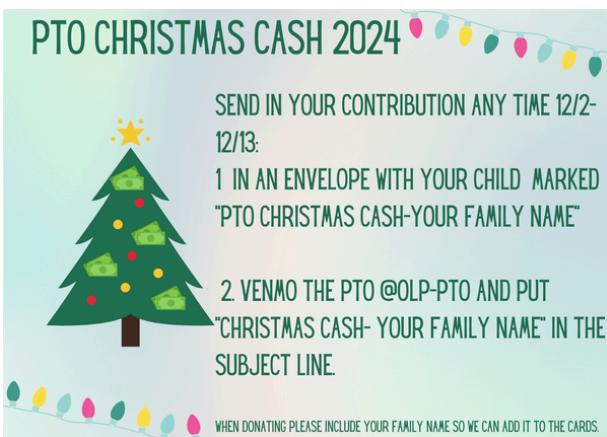
FRIENDZY.CO



## Our PTO

**STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT:** PTO is offering a Christmas Cash gift giving option for staff again this year. This program was created to provide a convenient gifting option to parents when looking to purchase gifts for multiple teachers and staff. PTO uses the donations to provide gifts for OLP teachers and staff. Additionally, PTO supplements your gift to our dedicated staff. When donating, please ensure you put your family name on the donation so we can add your name to the card.

Send in your contribution with your child any time now through December 13 in an envelope marked "PTO Christmas Cash" with your family name or Venmo the PTO@OLP-PTO and put "Christmas cash- Your family name" in the subject line.



# Our Parish



*Merry Christmas!*

*Feliz Navidad!*

May the joy of Christ's birth bring you and your family the gift of peace and hope throughout the year.

*Father Tom Holder, Father Angel Lemus and the Staff of Presentation Parish invite you to join us for Christmas Masses.*

**Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Masses:**

**2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m. (Spanish), 10:00 p.m.**

*All Masses are in the church*

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day Mass:**

**10:00 a.m.**

*JKV Bus transportation provided for the 10am Mass. Residents must call ahead to schedule, 816-347-2178.*

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day Masses:**

**Tuesday, December 31 - 5:00 p.m. Vigil**

**Wednesday, January 1 - 9:00 a.m.**

*Artwork design by Lawson Muller, OLP School student.*

## Advent Evening of Reflection with Msgr. Stuart Swetland, S.T.D

Msgr. Swetland was ordained a priest in 1991 for the Diocese of Peoria, IL. He received his undergraduate degree in the United States Naval Academy. Elected a Rhodes Scholar in 1981, he entered the Catholic Church while studying Politics, Philosophy, and Economics at Oxford. He is currently president of Donnelly College in Kansas City, Kansas.



### The Incarnation: God's Response to Injustice

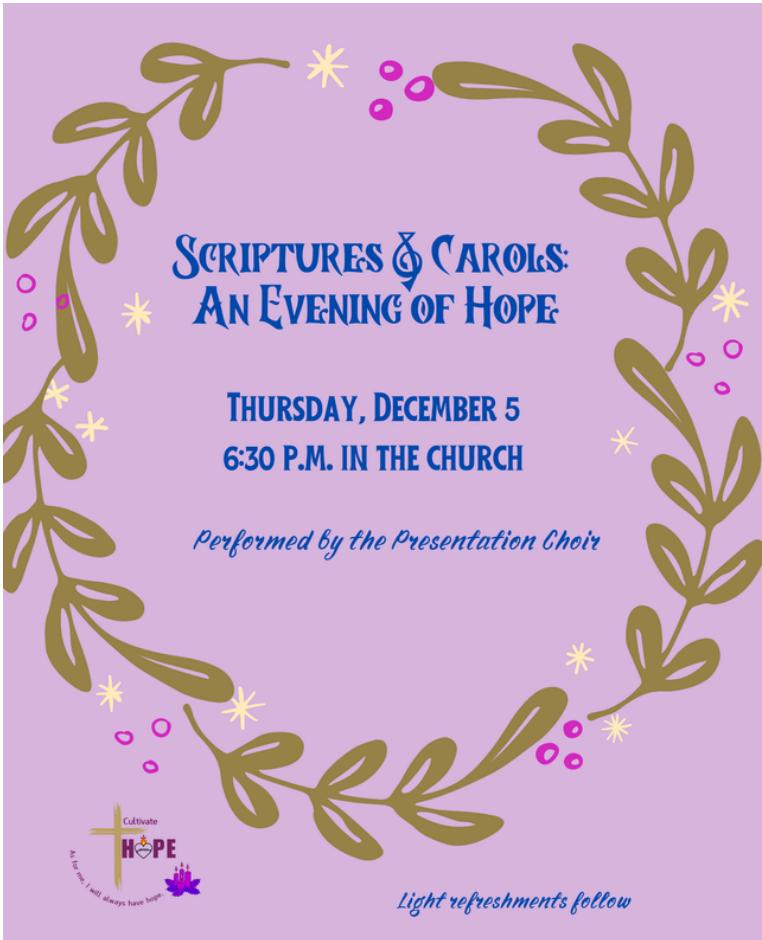
Using the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we will discuss how Jesus came to rescue us, establish his kingdom, and overcome injustice.

In our reflections, we will show how Catholic social teaching is an essential part of the ethics of the kingdom.

**Monday, December 9**  
following the 5:30 Holy Day Mass  
**6:30 p.m. in the Church**



Our Lady of the Presentation Parish  
150 NW Murray Road  
Lees Summit, Missouri



# Our Community

8th graders: St. Michael wants YOU to be a part of the Guardian family next year! Below are the next steps to become a student at St. Michael for the 2025-2026 school year. For any admissions questions, contact Julie Hyde, [jhyde@smacatholic.org](mailto:jhyde@smacatholic.org).

- Applications: Complete the application [HERE](#). It's free to apply through December 15.
- HSPT: Register for the High School Placement Test (HSPT) [HERE](#). The test is required to be considered for acceptance to St. Michael. Dates are December 7 and January 11.
- Financial Aid: Financial Aid applications for the 2025-2026 school year are due by December 31. Click [HERE](#) to apply.
- Tours and shadow days (called Guardian for a Day) are still available! Click [HERE](#) to schedule a time and day that suits your schedule.

7th & 8th graders! It's time for SMA's annual Middle School Mixer! Saturday, December 7th from 7:00 - 9:30 PM. Space is limited to 200 students, so register now [HERE](#)! See the flyer for more info!

