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Principal's Thoughts

This third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday where the third, pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit. Gaudete is a Latin word meaning rejoice and therefore the theme for this week is joy. We wait in joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas and reflect on how to strengthen our faith during this season of Advent, perhaps we can ask ourselves what more do we need to do. If you do not attend Mass regularly, please know that Fr. Luke is "joyfully" inviting you to church AND to be involved! This invitation opens the door for people to give new ideas and perspectives that can strengthen and enhance a community. What an amazing gift you can offer your children and yourself!

We have noticed during the school Masses, prayer services and Reconciliation that many children do not know the responses or what to do. You are the primary educators of your children and we can only build upon what you have started to support the spiritual formation of our students. Taking your child(ren) to Mass, having them participate and also having them recite the traditional prayers of our faith need to take place at home as well as at school. Together, let us joyfully embrace this opportunity to build community, strengthen our faith and instill in our children the traditions of our Church. Here are the Mass times for Christmas:

Joy to the World!

- Baby Jesus Mass: 4pm
- Christmas Eve: 7pm & 11:55pm
- Christmas Day: 7am, 9am & 11am

Advent Resources for You

Best Advent Ever Daily Reflections: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html>

Advent Calendar Reflections: https://www.usccb.org/resources/Advent-Calendar-2024_updated.pdf

Advent Wreath Craft:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=954>

Elf on the Shelf Alternative: <https://cultivatingcatholics.com/5-catholic-elf-on-the-shelf-alternatives/>

St. Agnes School Mission Statement

St. Agnes School, in partnership with the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Oakland educate children in the Catholic faith and nurture their minds, bodies, and souls, inspiring them to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, achieve their highest academic and creative potential, and actively serve and enrich the community.



• See You Tomorrow!

- Our Annual Christmas Concert: Jesus, What a Wonderful Child, will take place at 1:30pm & 7:00pm in the church.

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- Tickets will also be sold at the door. The children can't wait to show you their talent and fill you with Christmas spirit!
- **The Book Fair is Coming**
 - A special form has been posted on our website to order certificates for the Annual Book Fair (January 26th-29th) that make wonderful stocking stuffers.
 - Orders need to be turned in no later than 12:00pm THIS Friday, December 13th. An envelope with your certificates will be sent home in the family envelope on Wednesday, December 18th.
- **Student Council Christmas Events**
 - Candy Gram Sale is scheduled through December 13th
Each Gram will be sold for .25 each. This is a perfect Buddy surprise!
All Candy Grams will be delivered to each classroom.
 - Calling all Designers!
Please consider entering the Gingerbread House Decorating Contest
Students will bring their creations to school on Dec. 13th for judging and take them home that day.
- **Plan Ahead, please**
 - Kids Club will be closed beginning the afternoon on Wednesday, December 18th and will reopen on Monday, January 6th.

Parish News

- **Please Attend**
 - The 3rd grade children will be hosting the next Children's Liturgy, scheduled for January 12th at 9am. All families are encouraged to attend and children will receive a non-uniform dress pass.
 - A flyer with information for 3rd graders to sign up to participate will be coming to 3rd grade parents soon.



- **Nutcracker Ballet**
 - The Idul Family is inviting you to attend the ballet through December 15th at the El Campanil Theater in Antioch. A flyer with a QR code to buy tickets has been posted on our website.
- **Baby Jesus Mass (A loved tradition)**
 - All Parish & School youth (Grades K-8) are invited to participate in the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass (Baby Jesus Mass).
 - A flyer with important details and a QR code has been posted on our website.
 - Please sign up online by THIS Monday, December 16:

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<https://forms.gle/jV4oCPNtZPhNrRwe6>

- A mandatory practice for all participants will be on Monday, December 23 at 10 am in the church. Any questions can be directed to Marion Armstrong at (925) 381-1817 or Michelle Koski at (650) 759-8847 or mkphantom33@att.net
- **Classic Design Closed**
 - The store will be closed from December 15th to January 3rd, to prepare for the end-of-year inventory count. Online orders placed during this time will also be delayed. The store will reopen on Saturday, January 4th.



The Circle of Life

- For those who have died and those who mourn the Martin Family's maternal grandfather (Marco 6th)
- Blessing for a new arrival! The Justice Family (Wyatt 1st & Dylan PS) welcome new baby brother Reid.

May both families feel God's presence and know our love!

Weekly Schoolwide Learning Expectation: 3.3 A life-long learner effective who is able to experience the fine arts.




- **KUDOS**
 - Thank you to Michael Crahan and Mercy Vigil for co-chairing the Breakfast With Santa Event. The morning was magical and Santa was as jolly as can be! The student elves worked their magic to make sure each child completed their crafts. Thank you to our cooks (especially Mr. McGallian Sr.) and parent volunteers, this event could have taken place without you.
- **Special Non-Uniform Stocking Stuffer**
 - Order from now until December 23rd for your child to have "free" dress January 6th-10th: <https://event.auctria.com/8d2c2dc2-716a-4ba9-b9d2-62e19a662e0d/>
 - A flyer with more information and a QR code for ordering has been included in your family envelope.
- **Mark Your Calendars!**
 - The Annual Talent Show will take place on January 24th in the church. Please see the flyer in your family envelope for all the details.

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- We encourage your children to showcase their talent by creating a number for this show. A registration form and contract have been included in your envelope for you to review.
- **Spirit Shirts Make a GREAT Gift!**
 - We have a few spirit shirts left for sale: 3-YS, 2-YM, 2-YL & 1-YXL (\$30 each.)

	IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS
12/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Christmas Concert 1:30 & 7pm
12/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Faith Families 1:45● Last Day to Order Book Fair Certificates
12/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Spirit T-Shirt Tuesday
12/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Last Day of School● Minimum Day 12:00 Dismissal● No Kids Club Available in the Afternoon.