

Saint Brigid Newsletter—Ninety-Ninth Edition, 11/16/2022

At Saint Brigid of Kildare, nourished by the Word and Sacraments, we find life in Christ by gathering disciples for worship, service, and education.

From the Principal's Desk

This week I had an encounter with a student who was very upset. The student had gotten reprimanded for disrupting the class. Though the teacher had moved on with the lesson, the student was still upset several periods later. For the story's sake, I shall call the student Jim. When I talked to Jim about why he was upset, he said that he shouldn't have done the action that got him into trouble. I told him that he was right, but that the teacher had addressed it, he had apologized and been forgiven and we moved on. But the truth was he hadn't. He was upset at himself and had trouble forgiving himself.

If you look at the etymology of the word forgiveness, you will find that the Germanic root means to "to give up desire or power to punish". I am struck by that definition. To give up the desire or power to punish. Jim was clearly punishing himself for his actions. How many times do we do the same thing to ourselves, and to others?

Ask a child why they hit another and they will often say, well, he/she hit me first. If someone cuts us off in traffic, we punish them by blowing our horns continuously or riding their bumper. If someone says something negative about us on social media, we can easily do the same. If someone doesn't respond to our request quickly enough, we go all "Karen" on them (my apologies to all the Karen's of the world who hate that expression).

To forgive someone means that we give up that desire for retaliation. We let it go. That was my advice to Jim. It is time to let it go and start anew. Fortunately, within our faith, we have the perfect tool to help us in doing this- reconciliation. And speaking of etymologies, a priest once told me in his sermon that reconciliation (re- again, con- with and cilia- the little hairs on your body) brings you close enough to be eyelash to eyelash with our Lord. That through this sacrament, we become that close again with

God.

Advent begins in eleven short days. This is a good time to be reminded of the power of forgiveness. It frees us from the punishment we dish out on ourselves and on the need to do that to others. Jim did not forgive himself as we talked but I told him that it was important to do so even if he couldn't at that moment. We are not a collection of our mistakes. Reconciliation frees us from that burden and allows us again to be good and to be close once again to the source of all goodness. Who is it that we need to forgive this Advent season?

Laura E. Wilkowski



Important Dates

- 11/17: Student Council/Leadership Spirit Day
 - K-5: Twin/Multiples Day
 - MS: Crazy Sock Day
- 11/18: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 11/19: Midland Santa Parade-10am
- 11/23: 2nd Grade Mass
- 11/24 & 11/25: No School-Thanksgiving Break
- 11/28-12/1: i55 Online Book Fair
- 11/30: 1st Grade Mass
- 12/2: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day

November Spirit Day and Service Project

The K-5 Spirit Day will be twin/multiples day on Thursday, November 17th. Students may dress in matching clothes with one or more than one student.

For middle school students, their Spirit Day will be crazy sock day on November 17th.

For service projects, there will be two school-wide service projects taking place. The first will be making cards for the senior center, which will be done in the classrooms. Students will also be donating food items for the St. Brigid Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. We will be collecting Thanksgiving dinner items in the classrooms and having the students bring the food donation baskets up during the Mass procession on Wednesday, November 23rd.

Food donations will be assigned as follows:

K: 12 oz. can orange juice concentrate

1st: 3 lb bag of sweet potatoes

2nd: 15 oz. can corn

3rd: 5 lb. bag of potatoes

4th: 24 oz. can cranberry sauce

5th: 48 oz. of chicken broth

Middle School: 64 oz. cranberry juice

We ask that each family have their donation to the school by Monday, November 21st. Baskets will be set up in each classroom for students to place their item in.

Midland Santa Parade

This Saturday is the Santa Parade. Our float will be judged at 9am, with the parade beginning at 10am. Walkers should report to the East parking lot of Midland High School (off Eastlawn) by 9:50 am. We are spot 90 in the parade. Walkers should wear their 100th Anniversary St Brigid shirt- it might be a good idea to pull the t-shirt over a winter coat as the forecast looks like 21 degrees. Just a reminder, all children must be accompanied by an adult walker.

Don't Forget...

We do have a full day of school on Wednesday, November 23 (the day before Thanksgiving). This will also be a cold lunch day as they will be prepping for the community Thanksgiving dinner in the kitchen that day. Please send your student with a packed lunch on this day.

I 55 Book Fair

Our I55 Book Fair was pushed back a few weeks due to technical difficulties with the company's website. The Book Fair is now scheduled to open on Monday, November 28th and close on Thursday, December 1, 2022. During this time books will be shipped for free to the school where they will be given to students. Teachers can also create wish lists. The website address will be sent out closer to the start of the sale.

School Community Mass

The next School Community Mass will be held on Sunday, December 4th. We would LOVE to see all our students, whether you are a parish member or not, in attendance representing our school. Children are encouraged to wear their school uniform. There are still ministry spots available to sign up for at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KdcNrgSVpeCU9Z7B6fo-Df6_2v5w-O0cNPtFasHhJ0w/edit?usp=sharing

Saint Brigid Christmas Concert

Our school Christmas concert will take place on December 8, 2022 from 6-8 pm in the gym. Elementary music students (K-5) should be in their classroom in their Christmas best attire at 5:45pm. The music portion of the program will last about 30-45 minutes. The band portion of the concert will begin as soon as we are set up following the music portion. We would ask that parents stay for the band portion if they can to show some extra support for our 5th-8th graders. Parents may choose to sit in the bleachers or in chairs set up in front of the bleachers. Middle School students should follow the directions that Ms. Peterson will send out regarding dress.

Emerald Evening Cash Raffle Tickets

Our largest fundraiser has begun! This is our school's sole fundraiser and all funds raised through the Emerald Evening Cash Raffle support the Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund as well as assist in keeping your tuition lower and provide for the needs of our teachers and classrooms to maintain a proper learning environment. You should have received an email update earlier this week - and you can see we still have a lot of work to do! If every family does their part, we'll get there - but it will take **EVERYONE** doing their part! Thank you to every family who has sold tickets! Each school family is asked to sell **at least 10** tickets to help us reach our goal of 1,000 tickets. Tickets can be purchased with a credit card online at charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2023 or you may collect cash or check and turn it in on Tuesday's at pick-up in exchange for a ticket. Please remind people who are purchasing online to list your family name in the comments section so you receive credit for their purchase. Beginning November 30, a weekly \$100 Early Bird drawing will take place on Wednesdays until January 11, 2023 for all tickets that have been purchased. Buy and/or sell early so you can take advantage of all the opportunities to win!

If you're looking for an opportunity to sell tickets, and you missed our pop-up mass sale this past weekend, we'd like to give you an opportunity to sign up for ticket sales after St. Brigid masses on December 4 or December 11. Slots are available at all three masses (9:00am, 11:30am, or 5:00pm). You can volunteer to sell at a mass by signing up at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4BA4A72FAAF49-stbrigid>.

Scrip Program

Don't forget SCRIP as you start preparing for the holidays and gift giving! What better way to earn money for the school & yourself; either purchase a gift card to give as a gift or to use when buying gifts in the store. Next week, the SCRIP table will be open Wednesday 11/23.

Make sure you do NOT miss RAISE DAYS (formerly called ThankScriping Day), tomorrow and Friday, November 17-18. During this event., bonus rebates of up to 20% are available at over 100 retailers. Visit raiseright.com or download the Raise Right app to see participating retailers.



RaiseRight™



Advent by Candlelight

“Advent by Candlelight” is a gift for all women in the diocese to gather for a time of spiritual reflection on the significance and beauty of the Advent season. This event will take place on December 4th from 6:30-8pm in the Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall.

Gather up to 8 ladies or register as an individual and join us for an evening of fellowship with our keynote speaker, Erin Looby Carlson, Director of Communication for the Saginaw Diocese. We encourage you to decorate your table and provide table settings for your group. Lemonade & coffee will be provided but you are welcome to bring in appetizers and desserts. You may reserve a table of eight for \$80 or register as an individual for \$10.

Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/u/3/d/1WYvu7wTPVcdr_alx3i7KGCitdxk0pjUkNjhQrvbIM9I/edit?usp=forms_home&ths=true



SAINT BRIGID CATHOLIC SCHOOL 100TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT CONCERT

Interlochen Arts Academy Piano Trio

TINA CHANG QU, VIOLIN

PATRICK OWEN, CELLO

THOMAS (T.J.) LYMENSTULL, PIANO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022
1:30PM

SAINT BRIGID CHURCH 207 ASHMAN STREET MIDLAND, MI

DOORS OPEN AT 1:15PM

RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IN THE CARDINAL HICKEY PARISH HALL.

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. DONATIONS ACCEPTED IN SUPPORT OF ST. BRIGID SCHOOL.