

Saint Brigid Newsletter—Hundredth Edition, 11/30/2022

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

Giving Tuesday was started by the Mary-Arrchie Theater Company in Chicago in 2011 to get shoppers to consider giving to charities after they had finished their Cyber Monday shopping. Though it started as a fundraising idea, the idea, which happens during Advent, is a great reminder of what the Advent Season is supposed to be about. It is a time of preparation.

One of the traditions that we had with our children is that we would go through their toys and clothes before Christmas. Anything that we no longer used, wanted or didn't fit, we would give to others that might be able to use them. We would also give those things that we found to be in excess- if they had more than one good winter coat, we would donate those. Recently, I took 6 filled Garbage Bags of clothing in great shape to the Salvation Army for others. These efforts are good and important for children to see.

But I am also reminded of the poor woman who deposited her last two coins. She gave more than what was extra. We are called to do the same. There are many people in our county, even in our school, who have great needs. Some of them need groceries, clothing, or toys. There are tags in the

back of the church to help to fill these needs. Others need friendship, prayers and support as they journey through difficult times. Maybe reach out to other parents at pick up to see how they are doing and introduce yourself to someone new. Our school is always in need of volunteers to help with tutoring students through addition, subtraction and multiplication, help with raffle ticket sales, help with sporting events. The Open Door is always in need of volunteers to help to prepare meals.

I would challenge you to remember on this giving Tuesday that we are called to give, not just of our excess, but of our own needs. This giving can be in the form of time, talent or treasures. Think about how God is calling you to give today. Advent is a time to listen to this call. What is He calling you to give today?

Laura E. Wilkowski



Important Dates

- 11/28-12/1: 55 Online Book Fair
- 12/2: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 12/4: School Community Mass-9:00am
- 12/6: St. Nicolas Visit
- 12/7: Kindergarten Mass-8:30am
- 12/8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
- 8:30am
Christmas Music & Band Concert-6:00pm
- 12/9: Student Council & Leadership Spirit Day
K-5: Crazy Hair Day
MS: Christmas Clothing Day
- 12/14: Middle School Mass-8:30am
- 12/15: All School Reconciliation
- 12/16: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day

December Spirit Day and Service Project

K-5 Student Council chose crazy hair day for their December Spirit Day, which will take place on Friday, December 9th. Middle School Student Leadership chose Christmas clothing day for their Spirit Day which will also take place on December 9th.

For the service project, the entire school will be participating in a can war, which will run December 5th-19th. There will be baskets set up in the lobby, labeled by grade level, for the students to place their canned goods in. The class with the most cans at the end of the 2 weeks gets bragging rights!

I 55 Book Fair

Our I55 Book Fair is open for shopping! You can browse the selection of books at <https://i55bookfairs.com/school/saint-brigid-mi/>. The Book Fair will close tomorrow, Thursday, December 1, 2022, so get your orders in soon! You may have books shipped directly to you for a \$4.99 fee or shipped to the school for free. You may shop for teachers from their wish lists as well. Sales from the Book Fair helps us to keep our library collections current.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6 pm in Cardinal Hickey Parish Hall. The program will feature singing from our K-5 students and band for 5-8 grades. Students should dress in their Christmas best and report to their classrooms no later than 5:45pm. Middle School band students should report by 6:15pm to the Open Area. All students are welcomed to stay for the middle school band concert but those with young children may leave after the elementary portion of the program. Please encourage all small children to remain seated and avoid moving in and out of the gym during the band performance.

Christmas Parties

On Wednesday, December 22st we will have our classroom parties from 9:30-11:15am, with dismissal at 11:30am. This is a change from the original school calendar so please mark your calendars accordingly. Since Mass uniforms will be required that day, students may wear red and green on Tuesday, December 20th. K-3rd grade will hold a book exchange so please send in a wrapped book for the party. 4th-8th grade participate in Secret Santa-watch for information from your classroom teachers regarding this. Remember that ALL volunteer requirements must be completed in order for you to attend the classroom party. If you are unsure or need clarification on requirements, please contact Jeannine Hovey at jhovey@stbrigid-midland.org.

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.

Mass Next Week

Students will attend mass twice next week, once on Wednesday and once again on Thursday for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Please have students wear mass uniforms for both days.

All School Reconciliation

Students in grades 3-8 will be participating in an Advent Reconciliation on Thursday, December 15th from 1:30-2:30 pm.

Saint Brigid Make-It Take- It

A fun tradition at Saint Brigid has been to let the middle school students prepare crafts for the elementary students to make and take home as Christmas gifts for family members. Middle School students will help K-5 students make a gift on Monday, December 19th from 1:30-3:00 pm

Emerald Evening Cash Raffle Tickets

Thank you to everyone who has been busy selling cash raffle tickets! We have sold almost 40% of our 1,000 tickets in the first month-that is wonderful! If each family continues to work hard at selling their 10 tickets, we will meet our goal quickly! If you need some help selling tickets, there are still some Mass sale times available to sign up for:

St Brigid: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4ba4a72faaf49-stbrigid>

Blessed Sacrament: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4ca5ac2da6f8c25-blessed>

If you haven't already put a social media post out regarding this fundraiser, consider doing so. This has proven to be a very successful sale approach for families! Reminder, 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. Our weekly \$100 Early Bird Drawings started this week so now is the time to buy to take advantage of all the opportunities to win!

SCRIP Update

The last day to place orders for before Christmas break pickup is **Wednesday, December 14th**. Orders placed by December 14th will be available for pickup on Wednesday, December 21st.

The last day for in-person gift card sales at the table will be Wednesday, December 21st.

Don't forget SCRIP while you are completing your holiday shopping! Purchase gift cards to use in store or to gift to another person.! Why not earn some money back while you shop :)



RaiseRight™



Robotics Teams Advance!

Both our Middle School Robotics Team and our Elementary LEGO Robotics Team had a great first competition and are competing again coming up! Our Middle School team has a competition this Saturday, December 3rd, in Pellston, MI. The LEGO Robotics travel to Mason, MI next Saturday, December 10th, for the State Competition. If you see a robotics team member, wish them luck on their upcoming competitions! Way to go Knights!

Math Tutors

We are still in need of a couple of math tutors to help students with their math lessons. The math is generally addition through division (no Middle School math). If you are interested, and have completed the volunteer requirements, we would love to have you! Please email Laura Wilkowski at lwilkowski@stbrigid-midland.org.

Kindergarten Open House

Mark your calendars! January 23, 2023 at 6pm we will hold a Kindergarten open house for those interested in learning more about our 2023-2024 Kindergarten program! Tell a friend and watch for postcards to go out closer to that date!

Christmas Eve Mass Children's Choir

We are putting together a children's choir for the 5:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. All interested children, of any age, will sing about 4 hymns as a prelude for Mass. No reading will be necessary. Then we will have the candlelight procession of the children to begin the Mass.

We are also looking for 15-20 third-eighth graders to lead the music as a choir for the Mass. They will be sitting in our choir area during Mass. If your child is interested in participating in this, please contact Barbara Hendrickson at bhendrickson@stbrigid-midland.org or call 989-835-7151, Ext 32.

We will be meeting on Monday, December 12th for a brief rehearsal. All children who would like to participate in the prelude hymns should attend rehearsal from 6:30-7PM in the choir room. For those children interested in the Mass choir, rehearsal will be from 7-7:30PM. Please come in the choir door entrance by the office (across from the County Building Parking Lot).

Preschool Toys Available

On Friday, December 9th we will have a lot of preschool toys available for the taking. These items were collected for our Stay and Play which is no longer a feasible option. We will have a donation jar available but these items would make great Christmas gifts. NO advanced peeks or reservations of items. Doors to the gym will be open from 8am-10:45am.



Tips from the Reading Specialist

Making the shift...this is what the teachers at Saint Brigid School are doing. We are moving from balanced literacy to structured literacy. The Science of Reading refers to research conducted over the past 20 years by reading experts and cognitive scientists that has shown us some of the best methods to teach students to read. The following video will help explain the difference between balanced literacy and structured literacy, and why structured literacy is a sound instructional approach for all students. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WJcgxyuATU>

The next few tips in the Newsletter will focus on structured literacy, more specifics on what it is, and what you can do at home to reinforce what your child is learning at school.