

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 past Sunday marked the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a period of waiting and remembering. We remember and rejoice at Christ's coming to us in the form of a baby in a manger and we wait expectantly for His return.

As a child, my family would travel to my mother's parents home in Reading, PA, about five and a half hours from our home every Easter. But at Christmas, due to the weather, we did not travel. My father's family, who lived in Clarion as we did, would come to our house to celebrate Christmas dinner. This meant a house full of 28 people. We would set up two card tables, set the dining room table, the "play" table, and the glass table. Christmas meant cleaning the house, polishing the silver, setting the tables, and clearing off every part of the counter to set it up as a buffet. It was a lot of work but when guests came, we were prepared. The company was joyous, the laughter frequent and the stories, rich.

Advent, too, is meant to be a time of preparation. The readings remind us to be ready for we know not the day. How is it that we

are preparing? Yes, Christmas preparations involve decorating, cleaning, purchasing and wrapping gifts, and setting tables for company. But Advent should be more than preparing for the festivities that we have created. Advent is a time of preparing ourselves and our hearts. How do we do that? We can start with reconciliation, recognizing that we are not always following Jesus' example for how we should be living. But we need to open our hearts to what it is that God is calling us to do. In this way, we can be ready. How do we do that?

Prayer will help us to quiet ourselves to hear God's word for us. This morning we talked to our students about the virtue of love. Love means to will the good of another. If we could practice love throughout Advent by volunteering for charitable causes, trying to do something nice for our neighbors, or looking for ways to practice seeking the good for others in our community each day that would help us to be open to ways that God is calling us to serve.

Celebrating the many feast days within December may help to remind us that saints are ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives. They provide a model by which we may live.

There are many ways that we can prepare for Advent. But Advent does begin by telling us to prepare. It is easy to say on December 25th that we were too busy. We must be intentional about preparing. If you haven't made plans yet, it is not too late. Let us together prepare and help our children to prepare just as we would for the 28 guests coming over. Let's get ready!

Laura E. Wilkowski

Important Dates

- 12/6: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
Coffee with the Principals-8:05am
- 12/7: Robotics Competition
- 12/9: Middle School Student Leadership-7:15am
Feast of Immaculate Conception Mass-8:00am
Virtual PTO Meeting-6:00pm
Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal-6:30pm
- 12/10: School Christmas Concert-6:00pm
- 12/11: 5th Grade Mass-8:00am
Boys Basketball Game-7:00pm
- 12/12: Student Council/Leadership Spirit Day
K-5: Matching/Multiples Day
MS: Christmas Clothing
- 12/13: St. Brigid Spirit Wear Day
- 12/16: Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal-6:30pm
- 12/17: All School Reconciliation (grades 3-8)-1:30pm
Student Council Meeting-3:00pm
- 12/18: 4th Grade Mass-8:00am
Boys Basketball Game-7:15pm
- 12/20: Red & Green Free Dress Day
Christmas Classroom Parties-1:15pm



Feast of Immaculate Conception

Students will attend Mass twice next week, once on Monday for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and then again on Wednesday. Please have students wear mas uniform for both days.

Christmas Music Concert

Our Christmas Music Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00pm in the Gym. K-5 students will perform their musical numbers followed by the 5th grade band, 6th grade band, and Shamrock band. All students should dress in their Sunday best and K-5 students should be to their classrooms by 5:45pm. Middle School band students should report by 6:15pm to the Open Area. They will leave their coats and instrument cases in the Open Area until after the concert is over. We highly encourage all families to stay for the Middle School band portion to show their support. We do ask that small children remain seated and avoid moving in and out of the gym during the band performances.

December Spirit Day and Service Project

The K-5 Student Council has decided to do words of affirmation to staff members as their service project for December. Students can pick up sheets of paper at the front office desk and fill them out and give to teachers or staff members throughout the month of December.

Their spirit day will take place on **Thursday, December 12th** and will be Matching/Multiples Day. Students may dress alike and each class will have an agreed upon matching dress so everyone is included.

The Middle School Student Leadership has chosen to do a service project through St. Vincent de Paul Society. Details are still being worked out.

For spirit day on **Thursday, December 12th**, middle school students will be wearing Christmas clothing (ugly sweater, red & green, etc).

All School Reconciliation

Students grades 3-8 will be participating in an Advent Reconciliation on Tuesday, December 17th from 1:30 pm-3:00 pm. Parents are welcome to attend reconciliation at this time as well but we do ask that you let all students go first.

Make It/Take It

On Thursday, December 19th, our Middle School students will join the Elementary students for a special Make It/Take It Christmas Project! The Middle School students will guide the younger ones as they create a fun and festive craft to take home and share with their families for Christmas. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to work together, share the joy of the season, and make lasting holiday memories!

Classroom Christmas Parties

On Friday, December 20th we will have our classroom parties from 1:30-2:45pm. Students may wear red and green free dress on this day. 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.

Kindergarten Open House

Mark your calendars! Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6pm we will hold a Kindergarten Open House for those interested in learning more about our 2025-2026 Kindergarten program! Tell a friend and watch for flyers to go out closer to that date!

Christmas Eve Children's Choir

We are putting together a children's choir for the 5:30pm 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 38.

We will be meeting on Monday, December 9th and Monday, December 16th from 6:30-7:30pm for a brief rehearsal. All children who would like to participate should attend at least one of the rehearsal dates. Please come in the choir door entrance on Ellsworth St (across from the County Building Parking Lot).

Scrip Program

The last day to place orders for before Christmas break pickup is **Monday, December 16th**. Orders placed by December 16th will be available for pickup on Friday, December 20th in the school office.

The SCRIP table will be open after school on Friday, December 6th and Friday, December 14th.

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 :) There's still time to join Scrip and start earning money for the school, join today!



RaiseRight™



Emerald Evening Cash Raffle Sales

Thank you to everyone who has been busy selling cash raffle tickets! We have sold 32% of our 1,000 tickets. 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, we have some Mass sale times available to sign up for:

St Brigid: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CA5AC2DA6F8C25-53700724-stbrigid#/>

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 sales approach for families! Reminder, tickets can be purchased with a credit card online at charityauction.bid/emeraldevening2025 or you may collect cash or check and turn it into the school office 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 are underway with 2 remaining so now is the time to buy to take advantage of all the opportunities to win! **Congratulations to 4th grade for winning the November Classroom Competition of having the highest ticket sale percentage.! They will have their choice of a class pizza, ice cream or slurpee party! Also congratulations to the Fox family for being our first \$1,000 seller incentive prize winner! There will be another classroom party winner on January 8th along with a seller incentive drawing for \$1,000! Sell those tickets!**

The Reading Corner

Does your family have a book giving tradition? When my boys were in preschool, a "book fairy" started to visit with Santa, delivering a book for each member of our family to read during the Christmas break. Our book fairy continues to visit, now delivering more non-fiction books related to specific interest areas (cooking, travel, rocket building). It is important to keep your student's "reading muscles" active during the holiday season – no matter their grade level. Think about setting aside some quiet time each day for everyone to dive into a book. It can look many different ways – reading a physical book, listening to an audio book, reading aloud to a sibling, or listening to a story as a family. Enjoy! If you have any questions about your child's reading, please contact their teacher or me.

Karen Kozerski