



Sunday Sidelines

December 10, 2017

Dear Families,

Today has been a very pleasant end to a wonderful long weekend in December! Yesterday, Mark and I finished up a few outdoor Christmas decorations at home, and today I started – and finished – the indoor Christmas decorating. As a matter of fact, having just pushed the last of the storage boxes back up the attic stairs, I am watching the Steeler game with the Christmas lights glowing, while keeping you in the know on the last few school details before the Christmas break.

While I simplified my Christmas décor a little bit this year, I enjoyed handling the familiar Christmas decorations. There are some things that I am still compelled to put out because our grown children will notice if they are missing! In fact, as I was working on the banister and the mantle, I found myself spending extra time to add the special touches that will make for a very warm homecoming for our family. The truth is, I *can't wait* to have our kids at home for a few days! The very thought of having everybody together for about four days was motivation to keep going until I had it all done. And just as I was finishing up, I pulled out a couple extra Christmas items to make each of their bedrooms – now guestrooms, really – feel like Christmas!

As we begin this second week of Advent, I am keenly aware of the preparation and the waiting. It is my sincere hope that the time I spent preparing will make for a sweet homecoming two weeks from now. And as we are reminded of the coming of the Hope of the World for which we spend a lifetime preparing, may we know how much more He longs to welcome us home at the end of our journey!

Appreciating every minute of Advent,
Leslie Mitros

123456789

¹ The most important news of this week is that the Lower School Christmas Pageant is on Friday, December 15th, at 1:00 at St. Catherine of Sweden Church, 2554 Wildwood Road – right around the corner from Aquinas. This is always a sweet re-telling of the Christmas story, enlivened by the beautiful faith of our students! The lower school students will be transported over to St. Catherine by our school busses, beginning at 12:20. They will bring their backpacks with them so that the parents who are present may take their child(ren) directly from St.

Catherine's. Parking and seating at St. Catherine's are ample. We look forward to this Aquinas Christmas Tradition!

² Items for the tags that students or families pulled for the gift drive for Dirty Vagabond Ministries should be brought to school either on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Items should simply be placed in a bag unwrapped with the tag attached. High school students will have the opportunity to learn more about the work of this ministry on Friday during the Activities period from Mr. Andy Lesnefsky who devotes much of his time to this inner-city ministry.

³ The lower and middle school Christmas band concert is on Wednesday evening, December 13th, at 7:00. Please see the attached flyer for details and for a request to provide for the post-concert reception!

⁴ The high school band and chorus concert is on Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00 in the Rhodora. All families are invited to hear the music of Christmas from our very talented high school students!

⁵ The high school Christmas Dance sponsored by parents is on Wednesday, December 20th, from 6:30 to 10:00 at Diamond run. In lieu of admission cost, students are asked to participate in the Dirty Vagabond gift drive.

⁶ The Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign is back! Members of Vivat Vita distributed Baby Bottles to students on Monday, November 20. These are to be used to raise money to support Genesis House of Pittsburgh. Over the holidays, please collect any spare change in the baby bottles, which must be returned to school during the first week of January.

⁷ If you're shopping on Amazon this Christmas Season, why not help support Aquinas Academy? Simply go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), register to support our school, and start shopping! 0.5% of the sales price of eligible items will be donated to Aquinas. Every little bit helps! For detailed instructions on how to set up a Smile Account, please see the attachment.

⁸ A letter is attached regarding the Silver Ring Thing – a pro-chastity program being sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh and held on January 12th at Seton-LaSalle High School. Geared toward grades 7 through 12, it is a worthwhile opportunity to reinforce the importance of chastity in relationships. Please read the letter for more information and to register.

⁹ A reminder that the last day of school before the Christmas break is on Thursday, December 21st!