



Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Expanding Minds • Growing Faith • Inspiring Service

Calendar Links



[CLICK HERE for the 2020-21 school calendar.](#)



[CLICK HERE for the LUNCH CALENDAR](#)



Dec. 18 Wear Red and Green out of uniform
Dec. 19- Jan. 3 Christmas Break



Weekly Bulletin

December 16, 2020

Merry Christmas
from our family to yours...



And the angel said to them,
“Fear not, for behold, I bring
you good news of great joy that
will be for all the people. For
unto you is born this day in the
city of David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord.

~Luke 2:10-11

We would like to wish you all the best this Christmas season! Students can come out of uniform on Friday, December 18 in their red and green. Enjoy your time with family, and we will see everyone on January 4. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

COVID-19 UPDATE

If you or anyone in your house is getting tested for COVID-19, your child must stay home until a negative result comes back. If a positive result occurs, please call the school office.

OLG **DOES NOT** require a COVID-19 test in order to return to school after quarantining. Please note that if your child has been deemed a close contact, and you choose to get him/her tested, a negative result **DOES NOT** change the length of the quarantine. The child will still need to quarantine for the designated length of time listed in the quarantine letter.

Our Lady of Grace has had **8** confirmed positive COVID-19 cases from August 20-today.

Holiday Update: If your child tests positive while we are on Christmas Break, please email Mrs. Kirk at mkirk@olgcs.org to notify the school of the positive case.

Religious Education

This Christmas might feel different, but God is still with us!

With the coronavirus pandemic raging, many schools closed, relatives distant we won't be able to be with - a holiday about gratitude may feel a little off. "What can we possibly be thankful this Christmas in 2020?" When that question was recently posed to a group of high school students, one girl spoke up: "Instead of saying what we're thankful for, we could say what was hard for us."

We definitely could. But before giving up on being grateful completely, consider the people who were lined up to get food for their families last week at *People's Place* – a thrift store and food pantry in Kingston, New York. Like most food pantries in America, they've seen a huge increase in need. "Right now, I'm definitely struggling, I never in my life thought I'd ever have to be in a food line," one man said. "I was laid off because of COVID and then lost my job," a woman said. "It's been rough for everybody, you know," another said. And one woman said, "With schools closed I had to quit my job to home-school my kids – now we're a one income family. It's rough – Christmas presents will be slim this year."



People waiting for food at *People's Place* in Kingston, New York

And yet, when folks at that same food pantry were asked if they have anything to be grateful for this Christmas, you'll get a surprising wealth of words. "I'm grateful to be alive - and breathing on your own is the best," one woman said. "My arms work. My legs work. I can walk," another woman said, smiling. "I'm not living out on the streets. I have a roof over my head," another man said. "I'm grateful that we still have what we have," said another. "I've lost a good friend to COVID-19, so I'm grateful for still being alive," said a man named Gabriel. He, like the angel of the same name, wouldn't provide a last name – just a revelation. "I decided I'm going to have an amazing Christmas all by myself," Gabriel said. "I will sit on a park bench, weather permitting, and I will think about all the great Christmases that I've had in my life and be thankful for them. One bad Christmas out of 63 amazing ones – *that's pretty good odds.* Maybe we should be a little more thankful for what we *do have* than constantly be complaining about what we don't."

Relating Gabriel's words to my twenty-something kids on FaceTime last Sunday I said, "How about that guy and what he had to say about how he's going to spend his Christmas." (My children live in New York City and for first time in 25 years - sadly we won't be together.) "What do you think?" I asked them. "I think he's really right," said my son. We discussed how so many people have lost so much. Yet so many were grateful – as if thankfulness was sustenance to them. "If those people who were waiting in a food-line have something to be thankful for, I mean, seems like we should be able to, as well," my daughter said, "After all – we've had a lot of great Christmases – and next year – we will be even more grateful." Christmas does recall precious memories of home - times full of awe as family gathers around wood-burning fires and beautifully lit trees. Lots of gifts and a place of comfort and room at the dinner table for everyone.

The story of Jesus' birth reminds us of home, too. It is a story of a young family on the road, away from familiar comforts. A couple needing a safe place to spend the night as they welcome a new-born child into their lives. I imagine the first Christmas felt chaotic as the young couple wandered through the desert longing for home. Yet in those uncertain moments, unexpected visitors arrive to pay homage – some even with gifts fit for a king. Gifts proclaiming promises past and future possibilities.

This Christmas, home feels different to many of us. Our world aches for a sense of normalcy. We want to gather with family, but COVID-19 separates us. Like the Holy Family, traveling refugees in the United States and around the world yearn for a place to spend the night. In so many ways, uncertainty fills our world. And yet - the birth of our Lord reminds us that in the uneasy moments of life, *God shows up.* Chaos does not have the last word. The Gospel shares the story of an unwelcomed child, who has no place to call home in this world. It holds a truth greater than imaginable, *that same child came to love us all.*

These times and this ancient story remind us that we have a responsibility to rethink the meaning of home. Who do we include in our lives? Who do we exclude intentionally or pass by mistakenly? Remember - Christmas invites us into the lives of a young outcast family on the move 2000 years ago. As we wander through this desert journey together, may we welcome the unexpected visitors and treat them as divine guests, and await the gift of a new year filled with hope.

Merry Christmas!

Mark Friedman, CRE

OLG PTO

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Thursday December 17, 2020

OUT OF UNIFORM PASS SALE

Thanks to all who purchased out of uniform passes! We have raised \$1600! We are still offering the passes, so please use the link below to order! There is a new option - \$20 for 5 months (January-May). These make great Christmas gifts!

GET YOURS TODAY!

<https://out-of-uniform-pass.cheddarup.com>



For those that already ordered, the passes have been delivered to the students via their homeroom teacher.

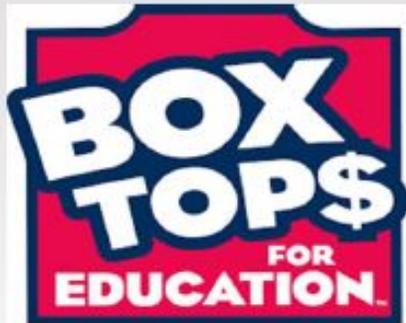
PTO – PLAYING SANTA!

Each year, PTO buys presents for the homerooms. The classes give us a wish list and we try our best to grant all those wishes!

PTO MEETING REMINDER

There is no meeting for the month of December. We will resume in January 2021. Hope to see lots of new faces in the New Year!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



Like us on Facebook – “Our Lady of Grace Family Page”



Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association



K-2 Instructional Basketball: We are in need of a parent volunteer to serve as coordinator for our K-2 Instructional Basketball league. The season runs from mid-January to March. The coordinator for this sport would be responsible for overseeing the sports as it relates to working with the athletic board in scheduling sign ups and gym time, coach selection and assisting coaches or AD with any issues. If you're interested in serving as the K-2 Instructional Basketball coordinator, please contact Melinda Miller at olgaasecretary@gmail.com.



Practicing Mindfulness with your family during the Holidays is IMPORTANT!!

Practicing mindfulness with your family during the holidays can be difficult but it is very important! So many parents report feelings of being stressed during this time of year. There are more holiday-related responsibilities and with shorter days, managing changes in your children's school schedule stress are inevitable. To add to the stress, we are SUPPOSED to be joyful and happy so we push our more negative feelings aside. Here are some parenting tips for a calm and enjoyable Holiday Season:

- 1) Intentionally slow down to get more done. When we hurry, we become forgetful and resentful. Focus on one thing at a time and your to-do list will be more manageable and you will feel more accomplished.
- 2) Show empathy towards yourself and say 'no'. It is o.k. to decline an invitation and replace it with alone time to read, go for a walk or take a lavender-infused bath. Self-care is a great value to model to your children.
- 3) Create traditions that fit your family. If baking cookies from scratch is not something you enjoy and have no time for, create another tradition that is better suited to your family. Perhaps it is watching a holiday movie and making homemade hot cocoa or chocolate-covered popcorn.
- 4) Delegate chores according to everyone's strengths. Does your son love to help with cooking? Let him plan and prepare a simple dinner. Is your daughter creative? Have her help with decorating or wrapping presents.
- 5) Make room for Mindfulness. Create space to do mindful moments with your family. Before a meal, before bedtime, a few moments of mindful breathing can be relaxing and calming.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE BEECH ACRES TEAM AT
OLGI!**