



Happy Holidays!

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School-Dayton, Ohio

The Rising Star Newsletter

December 2021 Volume 5, Issue 12

Quarterly Newsletter

Ending Year With Christmas Cheers



Lights! Camera! Action! These three words will end the 2021 school year. Students' eyes gleaming like stars as they glance at the Christmas tree **lights** and the jovial Santa Claus fixture that are located on St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School's main first floor hallway. There also is an Advent wreath, which symbolizes the 4 weeks of waiting to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Phone **cameras** will probably be clicking at the students concert on December 16th in the school's multi-purpose room. Durable times in a school week students have been practicing for a play- "A Christmas to Believe In." This play is a comical and spiritual production that was written by Sharon Kay Chatwell in 2007. It will contain dialogue, songs

and dance. The Dianne Coble Ensemble will prelude the event at 5:30 p.m. with the play following at 6:00 p.m.

Prior to the school concert there will be dinner provided by The House of Bread. Reservations must be made by December 14.

“Christmas on Campus” for grades one and two was held at the University of Dayton on December 8th. Another positive **action** will be the distribution of gifts with the Giving Angels annual program on December 13th; pick-up for this activity is scheduled from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

**Holiday break dates: December 17 dismissal at 12:00 noon
Dec. 20 - Dec. 31 school closed.
Classes resume on January 3, 2022**



Grade 4 Students Designed Their Own Homemade Bridges



What Christmas Means to Me



Ja'Veyah Thomas-Grade 3< Christmas is a time when you and your family come together to celebrate Jesus's birthday. My dad said he will buy me a ps4, and I will probably get a tablet. I will have a lot of toys so my mom will be so happy for me. I love my mom so much. She is the best. Me and my mom will cook a lot of food, and me and my brothers will help my grandma clean up her home. I love my family so much. Some family members will not be there so I will pray for them. I will be in a Christmas play at school. I love you family and school!!!!!!!

R'ielle Hogans- Grade 3<It makes me feel happy to get presents. We can play in the snow. We can drink hot chocolate.

Jasmine McElrath-Grade 8< Christmas means a lot to me like singing with my older brother till my mom yells at us to stop. Nothing beats annoying my mom and my siblings. Christmas also means no school so me and my siblings can play 'snooze you lose' which is a game that if you go to sleep you lose and when that person is asleep you can draw on their face or anything you'll find funny but safe at the same time. Also it means I can drink lots of egg nog mostly trying to drink more than my older brother which is fun.

Don't get me wrong I love the gifts and love drinking eggnog but I can live without those but annoying my siblings is something I can't live without. What are you supposed to do when you get bored? I love Christmas and all the shows that come on, but I really love my family, and annoy them the most.

Jay'Mea Whitfield-Grade 3< I love Christmas because you can spend time with your family. One of the best things about it is you get gifts and my cousins are going to be there. We will have dessert and we can eat some great food for Christmas.

We get to play with our things that we got for Christmas. We play games and we have a lot of fun with my family and friends. We also have candy,ice cream and we have a tree.

Ma'Leah Turley-Grade 8<What does Christmas mean to me? Is spending time with family. Every Christmas me and my family match pjs and get together and do fun activities. We bake cakes and cookies. I mainly help in the kitchen because I love baking and making food for the family.

I don't need anything for Christmas because I already have everything I need. Christmas means to me just like the other holidays, they're nice.

(continued) Bryce Nelson-Grade 8 <Christmas means to spend more time with family, showing gratitude and loving, sharing and making people happy, and remembering the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. These are the general meanings of Christmas to many people.. Christmas (which means **"The Mass of Christ"**) is a Christian holiday that refers to the birth of Jesus (whom Christians believe is the Son of God), and a cultural holiday for non-Christians. The day known as Christmas Day is celebrated on the 25th day of December. Although many people have almost forgotten what Christmas really means, there are still plenty of people young and old around the world, who have a different take on what Christmas is.

Laurence Karahenda-Grade 3<I love Christmas because you can celebrate with your family and friends and cousins. We get to cook good food and eat some dessert and go shopping with my friends. And although my dad is not here he is right here with us in heaven, and we can't see him so it's ok. I have a school where I can celebrate with us. I love this school so much and my family is here taking care of me. And thanks to Ms.Layne for decorating the Christmas tree.

TiAndre' Turner-Grade 8<Christmas means to me happiness and to be with your family and be happy and thankful for what you have. It's my favorite holiday because I get stuff and get to be with all my family. Christmas reminds me to be happy and thankful for what me and my family have. Some people celebrate Christmas for Jesus. Some people don't even celebrate Christmas.

I love Christmas because I love to be around my family and gifts. Christmas is a time for you to sit back and chill with your family and open gifts. I love to drink hot chocolate on Christmas when everybody is opening their presents.

Jamar Martin-Grade 3<Christmas means to me I love Christmas. It's Jesus' birthday. We are thankful and we love God.



School Website
<https://stbenedictthemoorcatholicsschool.org>

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church Christmas Services

Dec 24, 2021 <Christmas Eve Carols at 5:30 and Mass at 6:00 PM

Dec 25, 2021 < Christmas Day 10:30 AM

Dec 26, 2021 < Sunday Mass at 10:30 AM(rosary at 10:00)

Jan 1, 2021 < Saturday Mass at 4:30 PM

Jan 2, 2021 < Sunday Mass at 10:30 AM(rosary at 10:00)



University of Dayton

ECHO: Empowering Children with Hope and Opportunity

High School Focus: Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School

Over the last few months CJ experienced the losses of student Leo Lehner, teacher Judi MacLeod (lovingly called by students "Ms. J"), and alumni relations coordinator Ann Szabo. ECHO counselors assisted the school by conducting grief education and counseling, as well as providing continued ongoing support.



Each loss deeply impacted the CJ community. Leo was a part of the class of 2025 and had found his place in the CJ community through his desire to serve others. His zeal and vibrancy helped him to build community in the class of 2025. Ms. J established the Cuvilly program at CJ, which addresses and meets numerous student learning needs. Through Cuvilly and her presence at CJ, Ms. J left a lasting impact on hundreds of CJ students, past and present. Ann Szabo was the Alumni Relations Coordinator at CJ and formed lifelong relationships and community with students, faculty, and staff. Ann left a legacy of love and kindness to CJ.

CJ experienced and still experiences an outpouring of love from many of the schools in the Dayton area. Archbishop Alter High School donated lunches for faculty and staff of CJ. St. Christopher School sent pictures of their students spelling out Leo's name to symbolize their solidarity with CJ. CJ is grateful for the massive outpouring of support during these challenging months.

CJ at "Make a Difference Day"

Several students from Chaminade Julienne participated in various service opportunities at locations across the Miami Valley on "Make a Difference Day." ECHO counselor Amy Theodor chaperoned a group of students to volunteer at the Marianist Environmental Education Center (MEEC). The group learned about conservation efforts, invasive plant species, and collected prairie grass seeds to plant in other areas to help prevent erosion.



ECHO STAFF

Rhonda Merces
Director of ECHO

Jennifer Baker
St. Anthony

Annamarie Berger
St. Patrick

Caren Brockman
Holy Angels-Dayton

Gina Cristiano
St. Benedict

Tracy Rice
St. Albert

Michelle Schaffer
Immaculate Conception

Terese Switalski
Mother Brunner

Amy Theodor
Chaminade Julienne

Amberly VanArsdall
Holy Angels (Sidney)

Shari Zahn
Ascension

Pam Wessel
Chaminade Julienne

Amber Walczyk
Our Lady of the Rosary

Michelle Sherman
Family Advocate

Corinne Plas
Family Advocate

Saidee Purcell
UD Intern

Tami Etter
St. Brigid, Bishop Leibold

Courtney Borgerding
Holy Angels (Dayton)

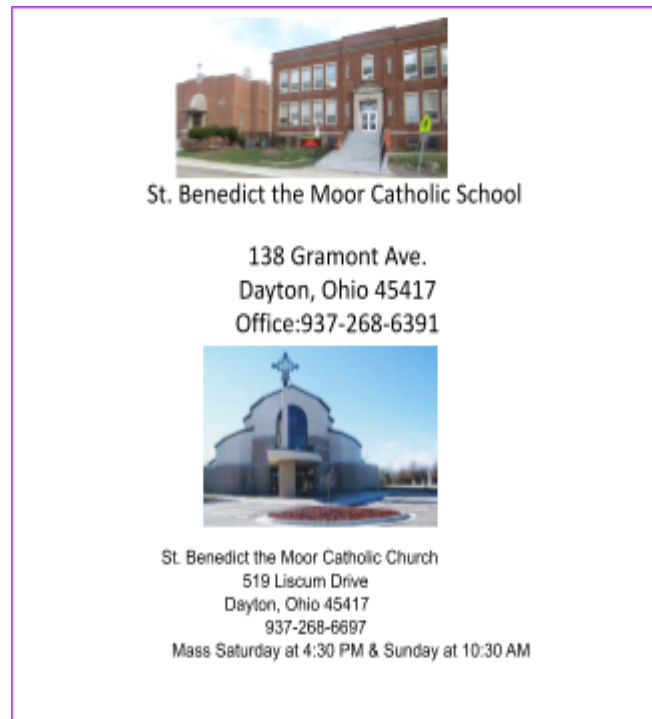
Holly St. Pierre
St. John XIII, Ascension

Cody McCowan
Piqua Catholic, Catholic Central

Jennifer Slye
St. Helen, Lehman Catholic

Looking Back In 2021

- House Bill 123 passed the 133rd Ohio General Assembly and was signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine on December 21, 2020. In summary, this Safety and Violence Education Students (SAVE Students) Act improved the school emergency management procedures. It requires all schools to provide yearly training covering suicide awareness and violence prevention
- Virtual learning was optional for students. St. Benedict the Moor offered two instruction plans in 2020-2021 (Model A and Model B). Model A consisted of in-person/in building learning. Model B continued with remote learning because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Students/staff began the 2021-2022 school year with in-person classes. Masks are required and body temperatures cannot be 100 or above at the school.
- Student enrollment increased from 139 at end of 2021 Quarter 4 to 200 students in the new 2021-2022 school year



For *Rising STAR Newsletter* articles contact Jackie Layne at jlayne@stbenedictdayton.org

Have a safe and blessed holiday season!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

