



# Lent - 40 days

## News & Notes

March 9, 2017

### Dear Nativity Families:

Welcome to Kay, our new 6<sup>th</sup> grade student. Her family moved to Minnesota just last week. Please introduce yourself and help them feel a part of our school family.

**LENT:** We continue on our Lenten Journey this week. Please join us in additional prayer time. Next week we will also offer student confessions. On Thursday, March 16 there will not be a student Mass. Instead, we will have Reconciliation for Grades 3-8. Last Friday our 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes hosted The Living Stations. What a beautiful re-enactment. Special thanks to our student piano players, Gretchen Holland and Mary Taraboi-Brown.

**CONFERENCES:** Our second trimester of school wraps up this Friday. Nativity teachers look forward to visiting with you during conferences. K-8 conference schedules are in your Communication Folder. Preschool teachers will be emailing or calling you directly to arrange for a conference if you have not already visited with the teachers. The K-5 teachers will be in their classrooms. The Middle School and specialist teachers will be in the cafeteria. If you need a longer conference, or cannot attend these times, please contact your teacher to schedule an alternative time.

### The K-8 Conference schedule is:

- Mon., March 13 (4-6 p.m. and then 6:30-8 p.m. – Supper for Staff 6-6:30)
- Tues., March 14 (8-Noon and then 1-4 p.m. – Lunch for Staff Noon to 1)

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES:** As part of our Strategic Plans for the next five years, Nativity of Mary continues to evaluate current programs, academics, and services for our families. One of the areas that we would like to have your feedback is our lunch program. Please take a few minutes and complete this survey. **We would like answers by March 17. Link for Lunch Survey**

Other Strategic Plan objectives for this year include the evaluation of building needs as well as adoption of the new Science Curriculum and enrichment for students through STEM education. This year we added our STEM-Maker Space Room in the technology center and our new Youth Enrichment League (YEL) Lego Club for grades 1-5 this April. In addition, Nativity of Mary School is excited to announce that we received a STEM grant from the Minnesota Schools' Initiative Foundation. This grant will enable us to expand our Maker Space/STEM classroom!

**JUMP ROPE FOR HEART:** This week Mrs. Steffens kicked off the Nativity "Jump Rope for Heart" campaign. During the month of March, in our physical education classes students will be jumping rope. In addition, families wishing to support the campaign may make donations either online or send a check in to the American Heart Association. Again, this is an optional program, but a great way to promote healthy exercise in a fun way. See the enclosed fliers for all the details.



**March 10:** End of Second Trimester

**March 13 & 14:**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
March 13 (4-8 p.m.)  
March 14 (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)

**March 15:** Internet Safety for Middle School

**March 15:** Reconciliation 3-8<sup>th</sup> Grades (NO MASS)

**March 17:** Out of Uniform – St. Patrick's Day

**JOIN US ON:**  
[TWITTER \(Click\)](#)  
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### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade STEM



**Mission Statement:** Nativity of Mary School provides a Catholic education that fosters academic excellence and spiritual growth while preparing students to become responsible citizens in a global society.



**NATIVITY Parent-Teacher-Organization (PTO): Join Us – March 21<sup>st</sup>:** The Spring Nativity of Mary School PTO meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21 from 7-8 p.m. in the Gathering Space. All parents are welcome. Come help us plan for the future including parent summer events.

**SAFETY LESSONS:** All Archdiocesan schools teach safety lessons in order to help give students practical ways to make safe choices whether they are outside or online. These lessons will be taught in the winter and spring. In addition, this Thursday Middle School attended an internet safety presentation. Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) also invited the Jacob Wetterling Foundation here to share online and cell phone tips with parents. All of these efforts are part of our partnership to keep your children safe and inform you, as parents. To learn more, visit the [Archdiocese website](#) or the [Jacob Wetterling Foundation](#).

**NATIVITY IS LOOKING FOR A HOST FAMILY THIS SPRING! You get paid to host a student.**

Taewoo, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student is looking for a host family. He is outgoing and organized. This Catholic boy has won awards in track, drawing, and math, and served as class president. He likes to play soccer and bowling, and composes music in his spare time. He has a positive attitude and would like to make American friends. He would like to come for our spring trimester. Call right away! (952) 217-5510.



**SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS:**

- **SUPPORT NATIVITY-1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL FUND:** To date we have raised **\$42,306** toward our goal of \$50,000. We hope to reach this goal by June 1, 2017. Share this letter with to help our school reach our goal. ([Letter](#))
- **SPIRIT OF SPRING - April 29:** Classes are making projects and individual donations or gifts of support are welcome. You can donate a service, a party, an item, or something that you create. Please keep selling your raffle tickets and make your reservation to attend. *The Vegas Style Games, special entertainment, and wonderful auction items make this an event NOT TO MISS!*

**REMINDERS:**

- **REGISTRATION FOR 2017-18:** All registration materials were sent home and are on our school website. Return your registration at your earliest convenience. Some classes are limited. Apply for assistance online at: [www.tads.com](http://www.tads.com)
  - **The Preschool 5 Day class is full.** There are limited spots for the 2-3 day classes. Register early!
- **WE ARE LOOKING FOR “USED ON ONE SIDE” PAPER!** If you’ve used one side, but not the other, we would love your paper. This is great for young art projects and printing. Please bring to the office.

**KUDOS:**

- **Basketball Coaches & Teams:** We are so proud of all of basketball teams, the time our parent coaches took to lead our students, and the effort in all of our games! THANK YOU & CONGRATS STUDENTS!
- **Art Adventures:** Thank you to all of our volunteers. The projects are truly engaging for students and we thank you for your gift of time.
- **PTO – Parent Speaker:** Thank you to Annette Roudabush and Kate Barkow for coordinating our Parent Speaker Night. Come to the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> to share your ideas for future events.
- **Middle School Science - Jeff Giles:** Thanks for enlightening our scientific studies with your presentation!



**PRAYERS:** Special prayers for those who have been ill and families who have experienced the death of a loved one.

**BLESSINGS, Mindy Reeder – [mreeder@nativitybloomington.org](mailto:mreeder@nativitybloomington.org)**



**Nativity Fish Fry Presale Starts TODAY!** In the school communication folders coming home this week you will see all the details on how you can help support Nativity by selling Fish Fry Festival tickets and win up to \$100, plus day passes to Nickelodeon Universe at Mall of America and out of uniform passes! Use the materials in your communication folder to sell tickets to your family, neighbors and friends. Selling tickets is easy. Everyone loves a great fish fry – and you just need to get the word out and invite them! Each family is provided 10 tickets. **More tickets available in the school office.** Presale tickets ends Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Fish Fry Volunteers Needed – March 31<sup>st</sup>:** To make this annual festival happen it requires many volunteers. There are several areas and time slots to work with – bartenders, ticket takers, food servers, cooks, concessions, and more. Please lend a hand and sign up for a shift by contacting Clark Flowers at [flowc@hotmail.com](mailto:flowc@hotmail.com). Presented by Nativity Men's Club.



**Confirmation Information Night:** Wed., March 15 from 6:15-8 P.M.

Open to parents and those in grade 8 and up who are interested in preparing for Confirmation at Nativity in Fall of 2017. Have you been wondering about Confirmation next year at Nativity? Come find out what the Confirmation preparation at Nativity will be like next year on our Confirmation Information Night on Wednesday, March 15. Doors open with open youth room at 6:15 P.M. where you can play video games, Foosball, air-hockey, basketball, snacks, drinks, and more! The Wednesday night lesson begins at 6:45 and ends at 8:00 P.M.

Not only will you learn about what Nativity offers for Confirmation preparation but you will get a taste of what every Wednesday night looks like at Nativity. This will be a great event for students and parents alike! Kids are encouraged to bring their friends to this event, even if they are not members of Nativity of Mary. This is open to anyone interested in starting preparation for Confirmation in Fall of 2017. I want to invite any and all parents to attend as there will be an informational session for both teens and parents. For more information, please contact John at [JStute@NativityBloomington.org](mailto:JStute@NativityBloomington.org) or call at 952-881-8671 x 316

**Saturday Night Alive!** Saturday Night Alive is back on March 18 at St. Bonaventure in Bloomington from 4:00-8:00 P.M. Please meet us on the south end of St. Bonaventure at 4:00 P.M. for drop off and 8:00 P.M. for pick up. Saturday Night Alive is open to all students in grades 6-8 so please join us for an amazing night of games, pizza, and faith! Please let John know if you are interested in joining us. He can be reached at [Jstute@nativitybloomington.org](mailto:Jstute@nativitybloomington.org) or 952-881-8671 Ext. 316. There is no charge for this event.

**Extreme Faith Camp: June 26-30, 2017 - Grades 5-8** - Please turn in your early registration forms for Extreme Faith Camp by March 15 to ensure your spot and to qualify for the \$100 early bird discount! Extra forms can be found in the parish and school offices. Please contact John Stute with any questions that you may have about Extreme Faith Camp!

