

DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Superintendent: I. Fortino
Principal: C. Martino

Trustees: M. Nardini
Secretary: D. Simpson

Pastor: Fr. Mariusz Durbajlo
Assoc. Pastor: Fr. Claude Perera

Advent Prayer

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your Incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive those effects more fully this Advent. May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your presence into the world. Come, Lord

Jesus

Student Prayer

**Jesus, you are light even in the darkest places.
Help us to trust in you when we are lost or lonely.
Shine hope into our hearts we pray.
Amen.**



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I would like to thank all of the families who were able to meet with their child/ren's teacher at our initial Parent/Teacher conference session. Early communication between classroom teachers and parents assists in supporting the learning of your child/ren. Please note that at any time, parents can arrange to meet with the teacher to discuss the progress of their children. I highly encourage regular communication to ensure that you remain informed of progress on a regular basis. Kindly note, that when the first term report card arrives home on **February 12th, 2020**, you may also arrange to meet with your child/ren's teacher to continue the discussion in the best interest of your child.

Advent is such a special time for all of us. It is the time to prepare our hearts and our minds, to cleanse and to renew our faith and our commitment to God. Take time to pray as a family and light the Advent Candle each week as a family. The First Sunday of Advent is Sunday December 1st. Aim to take your family to Mass and witness the beginning of this special Liturgical time together. The staff and students of St. Clare School will enter the spirit of Advent by preparing to help those in the community who require our assistance. As a school community we have many special activities planned for the season of Advent; we know that small acts of kindness can have a big impact and can help to make a difference in the lives of others. These special activities also help to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Check the Parish bulletin for all Advent & Christmas Schedules.

COMPASSION, UNDERSTANDING and FORGIVENESS:

We are called to be compassionate and to understand. These are all gifts given to us by God, our Father. At St. Clare of Assisi, no child, nor staff member is perfect. However, we are a family and we are created in God's image. We try to offer a safe haven for all and aim to teach the virtues and the Gospel messages on a daily basis. Sometimes the messages fall on deaf ears, just like they did for Jesus. But we do not give up. We aim to stop students from excluding others, saying mean things, playing unfair. It is not an easy job! We do need parent support with this. Talk to your child about what they do at recess and how they play. We will have the Calm-Keeper and Active Recess on the school yard beginning in January. The Calm Keepers will use the Restorative Practice Questions to guide discussions. The Calm-Keeper are trained peer mentors to help students solve problems and play fairly. We also encourage all to be forgiving, to learn from the mistakes that have been made and aim to make it right. Just like a family, we offer support, prayers and a kind heart to move forward on a daily basis. Thank you to the Grade 5 class!



Christmas Hampers (November 26 - December 6th) In our continuing effort to reach out into our community during these difficult times, St. Clare School will be involved in a Christmas hamper drive. Thank you in advance for your generous support of our Christmas hamper drive. Our committed and generous Catholic School Council and with all our families and staff will be supporting our 10 adopted families this year for Christmas. Your generosity and kindness will go a long way to help others. May God Bless you!

The following items are needed to complete these hampers: **Cereal, oatmeal, snack bars, juice, brown beans, peas, vegetables, chicken noodle or tomato soup, mixed vegetables, peas, corn, canned goods, dry pasta, pasta sauce, pasta, tuna, salmon, cake mix, Jello, canned peaches, pears or pineapple, tea, cookies, candies, Kraft dinner, etc.** ***YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!*** *There are still gift tags with items that need to be purchased.*

Weekly Advent Prayer Service

Our students will be involved in a weekly Advent Service which will be held in the gym starting on **Tuesday, December 3rd**. Please check the school calendar for other dates.

School Advent Mass

Our school Advent Mass will take place at St. Clare of Assisi School at **12:30 pm** on **Friday, December 13th**, in the school gym All members of our community are welcome to join us in appropriately recognizing the reason for this wonderful season for all of the Advent ceremonies and Mass. During this Mass we will light the Candle for Advent.



JOY DAY

Students are to dress in Christmas colours on Friday December 6th. This will be Joy Day. Friday, December 20 will be dress in Christmas Pajamas Day.

PARKING/SCHOOL ENTRY - ONE WAY TRAFFIC FLOW

Parking is an ongoing concern. It is for everyone's safety that the front of the school remains a NO-PARKING area. If you have to leave the car, you must pull into a parking space. We cannot impede with the flow of traffic or with the BUS ZONE AREA. Once students leave the school, NO students should be re-entering for forgotten items or work. Students have time at the end of the day to pack their school bag. If they did forget then part of growing up, is accepting consequences and maturity. Parents, grandparents entering the school, must check in at the office. Parents are not permitted to walk down to the classrooms without an appointment. Respect, safety and privacy are very important for all.

UNIFORM

Our school colours are blue and white. All school polo shirts should have the embroidered logo or the press on logo. Uniform pants must be worn, not blue jeans or variations of the uniform pant. Our supplier is McCarthy. Only white or blue shirts are to wear under the polo shirt. Leotards should be navy blue or white.

LOCKDOWN/BOMB THREAT/FIRE DRILLS

All of these are part of the Safe Schools Policy and must be practiced. If the school is in Lockdown, the front door or phone will not be answered. If you are in the school during a lockdown, like all staff and students, you must find a safe zone and hide. We will be having another Lockdown drill in the New Year. Fire Drills happen three times in the fall and three times in the Spring. Again, doors and phones will not be answered, and all must evacuate the building, quickly and quietly. Bomb Threats are emergency evacuation Drills like a fire drill. All must evacuate the building in a safe manner and move away from the school. Our safe school is Our Lady of Peace. Safety is paramount in all situations. We pray an event such as this never occurs, however, we must all be trained and prepared. Discuss the importance of practicing these emergency procedures with your children and the importance of staying calm and quiet.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND BELL TIMES

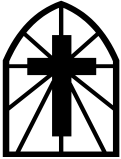
Being punctual and with good attendance builds success. Students should be on the playground with their peers and ready to enter the school at the warning bell 8:38. **At 8:40 am**, all students should be at their seat and ready to begin the day. No students should be entering during announcements or shortly after. Setting high goals and expectations will build future success.



Our ECO team will have boomerang lunches **every Wednesday**. The last Wednesday of the month is **wear yellow and walk to school**. Aim to keep our environment clean, take home all garbage and use reusable containers.

Pope Francis is calling us to be Stewards of this earth and to reduce our footprint! Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!!

PARISH NEWS



Christmas time is upon us and everyone at the parish wishes you all a blessed and Holy Christmas season. Our Schedule of Advent Confession times, and Christmas and New Year's Mass times, is available to everyone on the school website. Please visit the parish website for more daily information regarding happenings within the parish and surrounding community. www.saintfxstoneycreek.com

CONFIRMATION

It is with great pride that we congratulate our Confirmation Class of 2019. The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated on Nov. 22nd with Bishop Daniel Crosby presiding along with Father Mariusz. We would like to thank the teachers for their dedication and witness to the Catholic faith. Many thanks to the school and parish team for preparing the students for this sacrament. It was a beautiful celebration that marks a new journey in their young Catholic lives. Thank you to all who baked or sent in baked goods. Thank you to Mrs. Ruggiero, Aliya, Mrs. DiFrancesco and Lucy for helping with the coffee, cookies set up and take down. The Grade 7 students would like to thank the Catholic School Council for the beautiful pins they received at their Confirmation. The pins will serve as a reminder of the special gifts that they received. Special thanks to Father Mariusz, Wes, Joe, Mrs. Staresina, Mr. Pizzuti, Mr. D'Andrea, Mr. Bernoldi, Mme Noce, Mr. Baird and Mrs. Balardo. Continue to pray for our students daily. May the Holy Spirit fill their lives with a renewed hope.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A big thank you to the St. Clare Community for a highly successful Book Fair. As a school community, we were able to promote the love of reading, and purchase some amazing resources for the school library. A big thank you to all our volunteers who helped set up and run the book fair! Thank you to Mme. Mahony for organizing the book fair.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



Please note the following dates: **Friday, December 20th** Last Day of Classes (Regular Dismissal Time)

Monday, December 24th to January 6th, 2020 Christmas Break

Monday, January 6th, 2020 Return to school - regular hours at 8:40!

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



For the safety of your child/ren dealing with a possible school closing situation, it is necessary that the school has an up-to-date emergency phone number. You are also encouraged to listen to the local radio station to get up-to-date weather and school closure/bus cancellation information.



SNOWBALLS AND COLDWEATHER

We will be reminding all students that snowball throwing is **NOT ACCEPTABLE**, as it can lead to injury, especially facial or eye injuries. **Any student who throws a snowball / snow can be suspended from school.** Please discuss safety concerns with your children. We also ask your cooperation in reviewing with your child(ren) the need to be respectful of each other outside on the playground. This includes **not** destroying any snow forts that may be built by other students during recess times in the future (weather permitting). During the cold weather, please ensure that your child wears warmer clothing - hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

All students must have an indoor pair of shoes. The shoes are an important part of the safety for your children. This is to ensure the safety of the students, as floors become slippery when wet. Students should not be in stocking feet as this too poses a safety hazard. Students must also be prepared for an emergency, **if the fire alarm goes off**, we cannot stop to put on boots. During the cold season, we may shorten the outside recess period due to weather conditions/temperature. However, whenever feasible, we like to give students the opportunity to run freely and play in the open space. We do live in CANADA, so everyone must bundle up and be prepared!

PAY FOR STUDENT ITEMS ONLINE

Parents now have the convenience of paying for school trips, spirit wear, pizza and other items **online!** After registering for **School Cash Online**, you will receive emails notifying you of school trips, events, activities and other items available for purchase online. This is the safest method of payment.

How to Register: Visit <http://hwcdsb.schoolcashionline.com> Click "Get Started Today" and enter your information. A confirmation email will be sent to your email. View the email and follow the steps to log into School Cash Online. Find your child / Add additional child. Start viewing items. Any questions or concerns, please contact parenthelp@schoolcashionline.com or 1-866-961-1803. More information will be sent home very soon.

PIZZA & PITA LUNCHES

Please check **online** for dates to place your orders. No order forms will be sent home.



SCHOOL SAFETY

With the winter weather arriving, so does more traffic in our parking lot. Give yourself ample time to pick up or drop off your child/ren. Please obey signage around the school. With your cooperation we can keep our busy entry and dismissal times even safer for our children. The school bus has priority parking and entrance, please clear the lane ways for the school bus.

UNITED WAY

Thank you for supporting the United Way. We sent a cheque for \$400.00 to this worthwhile cause dedicated to the Catholic Children's Youth Organization, C.Y.O on your behalf. Each month \$400.00 from the dress down money goes to a charity. September - St. David's nutrition Program, October - St. Patrick - De Mazenod Door, November CYO.

MOVE-A-THON

The St. Clare community would like to thank all sponsors for their generous contributions to this year's very successful Move-a-thon fundraiser. All support is greatly appreciated! We made approximately, \$9,500. We purchased 20 new iPad's for the school. Gym equipment will be purchased as well as completing the padding on the gym walls. Thank you for your continued support.

ANAPHYLAXIS

St. Clare is a place where all children feel safe and have a sense of belonging. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children, please note below important information from Anaphylaxis Canada:

- Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death;
- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction can occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen (a substance capable of causing an allergic reaction)
- Very small amounts of certain foods can cause severe reactions when eaten. This may happen if a person at risk touches an allergenic substance and then subsequently touches the mouth. Even a very small amount 'hidden' in a food or transferred to a serving utensil has the potential to cause a severe allergic reaction. Direct ingestion of an allergy-causing food poses the greatest risk for people with food allergies.

Cooperation from parent and guardians in adhering to the guidelines below is most appreciated:

- There are students at this school who are allergic to the following foods and items: peanuts / nuts.
- Parents will be advised of allergens specific to a classroom; please avoid bringing these allergens into the designated classroom.
- Reinforce hand washing practices: wash hands before and after eating.
- Remind children not to share or trade food, food utensils, or food containers.
- Please do NOT bring any home-made food products into the school; with permission, non-food items are permitted for various celebrations and special events and activities.

Thank you for your help in keeping all our children safe.



MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY HOLIDAYS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This holiday season make it a point to indulge in healthy living. It's a great way to connect with the pleasures of the season. And there is so much to enjoy - time with friends and family, the smiles that being active brings, and let's not forget the wonderful food! So say goodbye to holiday guilt and hello to healthy indulgences.

Create healthy holiday food traditions. This is a great time for bonding, and the food skills your children learn will stay with them for life. Pick a new vegetable recipe to cook together or make a healthy holiday food gift, such as jars filled with dry fruits and nuts or lentil soup mix.

Enjoy your "must-have" treats. Be choosy. Have a few favourites over the holidays and aim to make healthy choices the rest of the time.

Be active for 30 minutes a day. More is better! Remember, every 10 minutes counts. Plan to be active every day with your family. You will feel marvelous and your kids will love it!

Check out: www.eatrightontario.ca for more information.

ADVENT MESSAGE

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

"When I will fulfill the promise, I made to the house of Israel and the house of David."

(Jeremiah 33:14-16)

The Holy Season of Advent began on Sunday, December 3rd. It is a very special time of the year to prepare ourselves spiritually for the celebration of Jesus Christ's birthday at Christmas. Our school will be praying for all families and how God will bless children and parents everywhere so that we will enter into the true spirit of Christmas.

Peace and Joy to all through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

Parenting Tip 118

For Catholics, Christmas is about so much more than gifts: it is the promise, through the birth of Jesus, of goodness and light coming into our lives. Do your children know this is the focus of Christmas? Advent and Christmas are perfect times to highlight the “reason for the season”. Read stories about the Advent wreath so they understand what each candle symbolizes; read the story of the Nativity (more than once!); be sure the tree is adorned with symbols of the faith; read family Advent reflections daily during Advent; attend Mass and reflect on the readings each week, including Christmas Day. Faith sets a foundation on which to stand and Christmas is a perfect time to bring Christ into your family activities!

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH

Marriage Tip 98

At Christmas we gather with love ones to share gifts, eat great food and build joyful memories. Sometimes we get caught up on the glitter and glam of the season and forget to take time as a couple to decide how much money, time and energy we can expend during the season. This year why not sit down in advance and decide how much you can do as a couple/family. Weave into your plans time for the two of you to take a quiet moment with each other. During Advent and Christmas, take time to pray and share important faith moments with each other. Trying these initiatives could make this Christmas your best yet!

(From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

RECESS

Recess is an important time to play and socialize. At arrival time 8:25, staff is on duty and this is just a social time for students. No running or equipment is permitted on the yard. We ask that all parents, grandparents, guardians leave the yard, as students are safe and supervised. Leaving will prevent injury and increase safety for all, example, clear site lines for staff, etc. At recess, we repeatedly announce to students to slow down and to be aware that a game is just a game and will end in 15 minutes. Recess is needed for fresh air, time for free, creative play and to be with peers. Staff is supervising and if there is a concern or an issue student are encouraged to go to an adult. We stress no hands on daily and kindness and respect for all staff and students.

ADVENT PRAYER



This Advent, Lord, come to the
Fill me with Your presence from the
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts
Remind me of the gift You gave
The first Christmas gift, it was the

manger of my heart.
very start.
to be given,
when You sent Your Son from Heaven.
greatest gift ever.

You came as a baby born in a manger.
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.
And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."
"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.
Make me like those shepherds, obedient to Your call.
Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.
Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.

Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.
Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.
Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray. Amen
May the joy of the season fill your Heart, Soul and Mind.
God Bless. AMEN