

Sancta Familia Academy Newsletter

Fall, 2009
Volume 8, Issue 1

1204 N. Harbor City Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32935
www.sanctafamilia.org



Don't Miss SFA's 5th Annual Christmas Theatre

This year our students in grades 4th - 8th will be performing "A Christmas Carol," the Dickens classic, for our friends and families. A traditional pageant will be performed by our pre-k - 2nd grade students. As always, all will sing hymns and carols of the Advent and Christmas season.

Dessert will be served, gift items from Ignatius Press will be available for purchase, and tickets for our first annual St. Nicholas 50/50 Raffle will be on sale.

When: Thursday, December 3rd 7:00 p.m.

Where: Melbourne Area Board of Realtors Auditorium - 1450 Sarno Road, Melbourne
(across from the Brevard County Service Complex)



A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens

Board of Directors

Kathleen Frogge
Linda Janie Alf
Christopher Muro

Administrators

Linda J. Alf, Principal
Kathleen Frogge, Office
Administrator

Teachers

Dorothy Noonan
Doris Guido
Evelyn Kowalak
Manuela Vasey
Kathleen Frogge
Linda J. Alf
Rory Pastorius
Margaret Simonton
Mariela Legge
Mary Sutphin
Perry Frogge

Office Assistants

Joseph Rodger
Mary Sutphin, RN
Margaret Simonton

St. Nicholas 50/50 Give Away

For a \$10 donation, your name will be included in a drawing for a Christmas purse from Saint Nicholas! The amount of the purse will be determined by the number of tickets sold. A 50/50 raffle is simple. The winner receives 50% of the total collected from ticket sales, and the school receives the remaining 50%.

Tickets are available at the front office and will be available at the Christmas program on December 3rd. All tickets and monies must be turned into Mrs. Frogge by December 3rd for the drawing to be held during our St. Nicholas party on Friday, December 4th.

Important Dates

- ◆ 12/3 Christmas Program
- ◆ 12/4 St. Nicholas Party & Raffle
- ◆ 12/18 Early dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
- ◆ 12/18 Christmas vacation begins

I'm Dreaming of a Catholic Christmas!

Sancta Familia Academy, along with the help of Ignatius Press, presents: *I'm Dreaming of a Catholic Christmas*, a special fund raising sale event featuring Catholic books, music, films, and more! Gift items will be on display at our Christmas Program and at the school on the following dates: Dec. 4th, 2-4 p.m. and Dec. 9th, 1-3 p.m.



Saint Nicholas Party December 4th



Each year, students at Sancta Familia Academy celebrate the Feast of Saint Nicholas. We look forward to decorating the school for Christmas, making Jesse Tree Ornaments and Christmas decorations, decorating gingerbread men, and eating pizza, pretzels, and oranges. Young children may even find a surprise or two in their shoes at the end of the day!

A movie, telling the story of Saint Nicholas, is usually shown for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the stories about this beloved saint, as well as for the enjoyment of those of us who never tire of hearing the wonderful tales and of the many miracles attributed to him.

To learn more see stnicholascenter.org



"In Church art a design developed showing the relationship of Jesus with Jesse and other biblical personages."

The Story of the Jesse Tree

Jesse was the father of the great King David of the Old Testament. He is often looked upon as the first person in the genealogy of Jesus.

In Church art, a design developed showing the relationship of Jesus with Jesse and other biblical personages. This design showed a branched tree growing from a reclining figure of Jesse. The various branches had pictures of other Old and New Testament figures who were ancestors of Jesus. At the top of the tree were figures of Mary and Jesus. This design was used mostly in stained glass windows in some of the great medieval cathedrals of Europe. The Cathedral of Chartres (which was dedicated in 1260) has a particularly beautiful Jesse Tree window.

Another development in religious art during the Middle Ages was that of Mystery Plays--drama that depicted various Bible stories or lives of Saints and Martyrs. These plays were performed in churches as part of the liturgical celebrations. One such play was based on the Bible account of the fall of Adam and Eve. The "Tree of Life" used during the play was decorated with apples. (Quite possibly this is also the forerunner of our own Christmas tree.)

Combining the two ideas of the stained glass Jesse Tree window and the Tree of Life from the Mystery Play we come up with our Jesse Tree Advent project. This custom has been used for years to help Christians to prepare for Christmas.

Taken from www.catholicculture.org



Saint Andrew, Nov. 30th

St. Andrew was a native of Bethsaida in Galilee, a fisherman by trade, and a former disciple of John the Baptist. He was the one who introduced his brother Peter to Jesus, saying, "We have found the Messiah." Overshadowed henceforth by his brother, Andrew nevertheless appears again in the Gospels as

introducing souls to Christ. After Pentecost, Andrew took up the apostolate on a much wider scale, and is said to have been martyred at Patras in southern Greece on a cross which was in the form of an "X". This type of cross has long been known as "St. Andrew's cross."

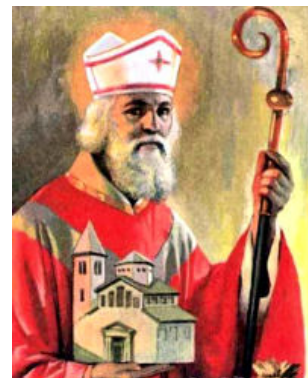
Catholicculture.org



St. Francis Xavier, Dec. 3rd

St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was born in the castle of Xavier in Navarre, Spain. In 1525 he went to Paris where he met St. Ignatius Loyola and with whom he received Holy Orders in Venice in 1537. In 1540 he was sent to evangelize India. He labored in western India, the island of Ceylon, Malacca, Molucca Islands, island of Mindanao

(Philippines), and Japan. In 1552 he started on a voyage to China but died on Sancian Island.



*St. Ambrose,
bishop and doctor
December 7th*

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pope Pius IX in his bull *Ineffabilis Deus* of December 8, 1854, declared the Immaculate Conception to be an infallible teaching of the Church as well as "a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception was, by a unique privilege and grace of Almighty God in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."



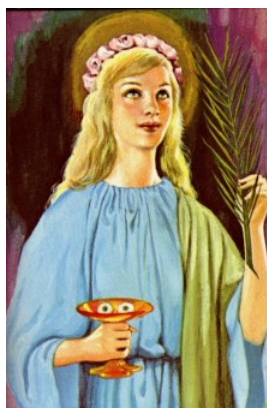
Saint Juan Diego & Our Lady of Guadalupe

On December 9th, the Church in the United States celebrates the optional memorial of St. Juan Diego and on December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Juan Diego was an Indian convert, to whom the Virgin Mary appeared as he was going to Mass in Tlatlelolco, Mexico in 1531. Our Lady asked him to tell the Bishop that she desired a shrine to be built on the spot to manifest her love for all mankind.

She left a marvelous portrait of herself on the mantle of Juan Diego as a sign for the Bishop. This miraculous image has proved to be ageless, and is kept in the shrine built in her honor, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas.

In 1910 Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Patroness of Latin America, and in 1945 Pope Pius XII declared her to be the Empress of all the Americas.



St. Lucy, Dec. 13th

For more information about the school please visit our website at www.sanctafamilia.org. If you would prefer to have the newsletter emailed to you and be added to our email update list, please call Janie Alf at 321-432-5430.

Please continue to keep all the Families, Staff, Benefactors, Volunteers and students of Sancta Familia Academy in your prayers.



Sancta Familia Academy
1204 N. Harbor City Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32935

Phone:
(321) 259-6464

Fax:
(321) 259-6464

E-mail:
admin@sanctafamilia.org

Nota Bene:

Our member website, sanctafamilia.net, has not been in proper working order. We apologize for this inconvenience and are working toward rectifying the problem. Because of this, the calendar has not been updated and the weekly updates that have been automatically sent to members have not included much of the important information found on the first page of this newsletter. Please note these important dates and we hope to see you at our Christmas Program!

On the Last Judgement - Matt. 25:37

“Then shall the just answer him, saying: Lord, when did we see thee hungry, and fed thee; thirsty, and gave thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and covered thee? Or when did we see thee sick or in prison, and came to thee? And the king answering, shall say to them: Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me.”

Donations may be made by mail or through our website. www.sanctafamilia.org

We at Sancta Familia Academy would like to wish you and yours a very holy Advent, a merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

Sancta Familia Academy
1204 N. Harbor City Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32935

