

Enlightening Minds, Enriching Lives

# St. Germaine Family Newsletter

December, 2021

## “Opening Windows” Advent 2021

### COVID Vaccinations and Quarantines

With the new variants of the COVID virus, it seems that we are not “out of the woods” yet. We are asking that you send a copy of your child’s COVID vaccination card if he/she has been vaccinated. This information will help us to make appropriate quarantine decisions in the event that we have a positive case in any of our classrooms.

Please be sure that you understand the archdiocese quarantine protocols:

--If your child is showing COVID-like symptoms, keep them home from school. They can return to school if they are fever free for 24 hours and other symptoms have resolved (at least 75%)

--if your child’s symptoms last more than 24 hours, they may not return to school until they have a negative COVID PCR test or an alternate diagnosis from their doctor. Students who do not receive a COVID test need to quarantine for a full 10 days.

--if your child or another family member is awaiting the results of a COVID test, keep all siblings home from school.

Our intention is always to keep our students safe. Please be vigilant in monitoring your child’s health and keeping him/her home in the event of illness—especially with COVID-like symptoms.

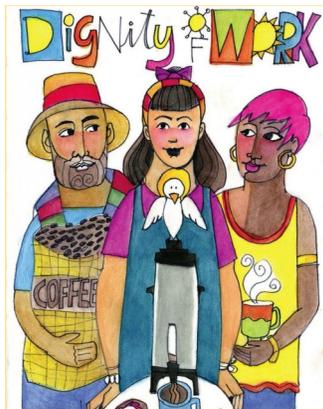
Many of us remember Advent waiting and anticipation from our childhoods. The Advent waiting for holidays, free from school and filled with new toys and new experiences, brought us an excitement that the rest of the year did not possess. Many families marked the waiting with an Advent Calendar. Each day was marked by a treat or a suggested action—all directed to make Christmas a special time. Each day was a surprise!

Our parish Advent theme this year helps us to recall that youthful anticipation. But the theme also underscores a deeper meaning. This Advent we encourage you not only to “open windows” to mark the passage of the days but also to “open windows” to deepen your relationships—to God, to family, and to the wider world.

As you look at our parish Advent calendar, you will find suggestions for windows in your life that might need to be opened. May our “opening” bring about the peace and joy of the season.

### Catholic Social Justice Themes The Dignity of Work

Our theme this year will focus on the Church’s social justice teachings. Each month the students from our National Junior Honor Society will facilitate small group discussions with each homeroom. The seven themes include:



The Dignity of the Human Person  
Family and Community  
Solidarity and the Common Good  
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable  
Rights and Responsibilities  
Dignity of Work  
Care for Creation

For our first theme, we chose “The Dignity of Work.” Students in each grade watched a video and discussed the meaning. They also discussed pictures of workers performing various necessary jobs in our world. They identified the task and talked about why that job was important

and how the world would be different if no one performed the job. The intent was to help students to understand that no one’s work should be considered unimportant or unnecessary.

By extension, the lesson for students is that their work in school and at home is also important. There is dignity in even the simplest tasks.

Some students are quite willing to turn in incomplete or carelessly done work. The goal is often to complete the work as quickly as possible without regard to how well the work is done. We continue to remind students that they need to be proud of the work they do. If the school work that they do has dignity, it’s appropriate that they do their best.

The dignity of work also applies to the day-to-day activities in school. For example, in the lunch room, when students are asked to pick up items off the floor, the response is “It’s not mine.” When the older students wipe down the tables at the end of the lunch period, they often do not do a complete job because they are in a hurry to join the rest of their class in line. Please help us to reinforce the idea that work matters. How we do work reflects our attitude about ourselves and the common good of the community.



### The Dignity of Work at Home Chores?

Most of us remember the tasks that we had to do around the house growing up. Whether it was drying dishes, setting the table, taking out the garbage, or walking the dog, chores built a sense of responsibility in us. Having a consistent “job” around the house also helped us with time management skills.

To help us reinforce the “dignity of work” theme, spend some time as a family talking about the common chores that need to be done around the house. Each of them is important to make your shared life together possible. What would happen if mom or dad decided not to cook dinner or do the laundry? What would happen if no one took care of the family pets? The jobs may not be the most “attractive” or “fun,” but they are necessary for the proper functioning of the family. Chores (even the ones that no one wants to do) build a respect for the dignity of work.

The internet has some valuable articles about appropriate chores for children at home. WebMD has some good suggestions of age appropriate chores and advice about how to talk to your child about how/why household chores are important. <https://www.webmd.com/parenting/features/chores-for-children#1>



As you begin to plan your holiday shopping, please remember that your Amazon purchases can help us in our school fundraising efforts. By designating St. Germaine School to receive the “smile” rebate, our school will benefit from your purchases. You must log in on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to register and order. Thanks for your support.

### Messengers of Mercy Earl Stazak Turkey Shoot

A big thank you to the Messengers of Mercy for sponsoring the Turkey Shoot last week. The teams had a great time.

The event raised about \$1000 which was donated to the St. Germaine Food Pantry,

### Continuing Practice-I-Ready Math and Reading

This year, CAPE, the organization that sponsors the Blue Ribbon School program, will use the I-Ready Reading and Math Diagnostic scores to determine the Blue Ribbon School Awards for 2022-2023. We would love to apply for a renewal of our Blue Ribbon status. A lot will depend on how well our students do on the January Diagnostic.

One easy way to maximize our Diagnostic Test scores is for each student to make a serious attempt to complete the assigned on-line practice activities. Research shows that the largest growth in student scores occurs in those students who complete 45 minutes per week in Math and in Reading. If families would help us to meet the time-on-task goals, we’d really see impressive growth in student scores. Forty-five minutes basically translates to 9 minutes each “school night!” That should be an easily attainable goal.

In addition to the “time-on-task” measure, the “pass rate” is also important. Student “pass rate” should be about 80% so that they do not become frustrated.

Please help us to reach our goal of another Blue Ribbon by working with your child on I-Ready practice each week.

### Christmas Concert

Grades K-4—December 15, 2021—7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars now so you can attend our annual Christmas Concert. On December 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Mr. Arens (Music) and Mr. Mooney (Band) are preparing a program of Christmas carols and band performances that will feature the students in Kindergarten to fourth grade. More details will be sent out as they are determined. Masks and COVID protocols will be observed.

Everyone is welcome—even if they are not part of the “singing.” Be sure to invite grandparents as well.

### Looking Forward

- 12/10 Liturgy Update “Lessons and Carols” rehearsal for Sunday’s performance.
- 12/12 Parish Performance, “Lessons and Carols” ; 3:00 p.m. in the Church
- 12/15 Christmas Concert; 7:00 p.m. Students in Grade K-4 should be in their classrooms at 6:40 p.m.
- 12/19 Eighth Grade Family Mass; 11:30 a.m. Details will follow
- 12/20 Faculty Meeting at 2:30 p.m. NO EXTENDED DAY
- 12/21 Christmas Break begins. 11:30 student dismissal. NO EXTENDED DAY
- 1/4/22 Classes resume after Christmas Break

