



# Partners in Faith & Action

January 2017

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

New Year 2017 brings several celebrations. Please join, as a family, with the NDV faith community in one or more of our School or Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

-- Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> ó Family Mass and CLOW at 9:00 a.m. followed by a reception in the Church Hall.

-- Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> -- The sixth graders will lead the school in a Mass for Peace and Justice at 8:45 a.m. Please wear your full uniform.

-- Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> ó Our second grade students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at 1:30 p.m. in the Church. A reception will follow.

-- Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> ó Our third graders will kick off Catholic Schools Week by being readers and gift bearers at 9:00 a.m. Mass, and providing a reception after the Mass.

Additionally, there will be a Prayer Service at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> in the School auditorium celebrating Catholic Schools Week.

## CHRISTMAS

Remember, we are still in the Christmas season. Because the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>, Christmas will end on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK January 29<sup>th</sup>-February 4<sup>th</sup>

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2017 is the same as in the past 3 years: öCatholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.ö This theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communitiesö small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city and nation. Faith, knowledge, and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

The logo features a swirl of colors interacting around a cross, which is at the center of all Catholic education. The vibrancy of the colors and the movement and shadows in the logo portray the inner-connectivity and community life that are present in our Catholic schools.



## FAMILIES GROWING IN FAITH

Remember, our next Families Growing in Faith gathering is Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper in the Church Hall. The program starts promptly at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your Bibles.

## PEACE & JUSTICE

During the month of January, we are mindful of those who have worked and continue to work for peace and justice as we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.ø birthday on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.familyeducation.com/fun/martin-luther-king-jr/8-mlk-jr-values-instill-your-kids> is a website that has eight values to instill in your children: equality, faith, nonviolence, education, love, leadership, selflessness, and hope. Each value includes a quote, a fact about Martin Luther King, Jr., and an idea about what children can do to embody that value.

## CSJ AND MARISTS ON PEACE AND JUSTICE

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange asks us to be builders of unity and instruments of reconciliation. Pray the prayer we pray at school with your children: öO God, in the example of St. Joseph, help us to be builders of unity and instruments of reconciliation.ö

Marist founder, Fr. Colin, envisaged a world where people from all walks of life would live Maryø life in their time and make present in the world the Holy Spirit as modeled in Maryø life of grace. This inspires us to enter into the quiet,

passionate work of Mary, Mother of Mercy. Our concerns in Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation are rooted in this.

### You can make a difference!

**Meditate** – Pray for justice and peace in our world, for relief for those who are suffering, for wisdom for decision-makers, and for guidance to be a source of hope and agent of action according to God's plan.

**Educate** -- Investigate important justice and peace issues, learn how they affect the lives of others, and discuss what you have learned with others.

**Advocate**-- Use your time, your purchasing power and your voice to exercise your faith through action. Seek volunteer opportunities that fit your passion. Invest in companies who endorse fair trade practices. Boycott those who violate human rights and the environment. Contact your government representatives.

**Relate** -- Show compassion and learn to be in solidarity with those less fortunate. Increase the scope of your compassion so that it embraces, values and respects all living beings without exception. Ensure that God's longing for closeness is experienced by everyone, especially those outside of or on the fringes of society. (<http://www.societyofmaryusa.org/JPIC/index.html>)



### FRANCIS DE SALES Feast Day: January 24<sup>th</sup>

Francis de Sales came from a large family. He had 12 brothers and sisters. His father wanted him to become a lawyer; however, Francis knew God was

calling him to become a priest. He was ordained in 1593.

He was a kind, caring man who taught people to trust in God. He said, "Have no fear for what tomorrow may bring. The same loving God who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day."

He said that prayer is conversation with God. Through prayer we speak to God and God speaks to us. He said, "Prayer is for everyone."

He also said, "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself." He knew that we sometimes worry about our mistakes. God created us and loves us as we are.

There is a lot that we can learn from St. Francis de Sales; however, one thing should be to encourage our children to pray. There are many ways to pray. We can use traditional prayers, pray with music, and pray with the scriptures. In our prayers we should thank God for our blessings, ask God for forgiveness, and pray for our needs and the needs of other people. (from *Catechist*, January 2017)

Other Saints' Feast Days in January are:

2	Sts. Basil and Gregory
4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
5	St. John Neumann
17	St. Anthony
21	St. Agnes
25	St. Paul
26	Sts. Timothy & Titus
27	St. Angela Merici
28	St. Thomas Aquinas
31	St. John Bosco

Find out about these saints and others at:

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/Saints>  
<http://www.jclubcatholic.org/stories/SaintADay.aspx>  
<http://www.loyolapress.com/saints.htm>



### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years. The start of a New Year gives us the feeling of a fresh start, a new beginning, and new opportunities. It is a time when people feel that they can begin anew with their lives. Common New Year's resolutions are to lose weight, exercise more and eat healthier; or to spend more time with family. ....If you are looking for some helps in your New Year's resolutions, here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Practice gratitude
- Encounter the Lord each day
- Be present to others
- Resist overwork
- Nurture friendships
- Give more
- Make a difference in your parish community
- Consider living more simply
- Get healthy
- Don't give up
- Turn to the Lord and ask for guidance, strength and perseverance in achieving your resolutions

(from <http://catholicstewardship.com/general/19-a-new-year-new-beginnings-for-the-christian-steward>)