

MR. KELLY'S FRIDAY NEWSLETTER

December 1, 2023



Dear QCA Families:

What a great weekend for QCA! Last Friday, our enthusiastic QCA Choir performed for 2000 people during the festive *Tree Lighting Ceremony* at Quincy's City Hall. The event was spectacular and very special for QCA to be at the very center of the JOY! And then two days later, on Sunday, QCA was well represented in the *Quincy Christmas Parade*, marching down Hancock Street, proudly sharing the good news about QCA, only to be awarded the amazing honor of **FIRST PLACE WINNERS** of the Christmas Float competition!! Lots to celebrate ... GO QCA!! Many thanks to the many people who made both of these events possible – getting the word out that QCA is Quincy's hidden gem!! Spread the word....

And now, with Thanksgiving behind us, December 1st marks the beginning of “Christmas Magic” in Elementary Schools! It tends to be a very busy few weeks, but also quite joyful, as we count down to the big day. In the midst of the excitement, however, the Catholic Church offers us the blessed opportunity to *slow down* instead of *rushing through*. The season of **Advent** is about taking the time to reflect on the true meaning of the season as we allow our hearts to be moved by the miracle of the birth of Jesus.

We can be so easily swept up in the traditions of the moment, all of which are heightened at the season leading up to Christmas. House lights are strung earlier each year, and on my own street, seasonal displays fill many yards before Thanksgiving. Our traditions, though beautiful, also have the power to distract us from reaching into the heart of the world. Deep down, we all hunger for the true meaning of life.

So, here is my prayer for these days of Adventto slow down, not speed up; to take time to be more present with the people we meet along the way; to trust that the grace of God will take “re-birth” with each passing day. A meaningful Advent offers the gift of a more powerful Christmas. Let us seize the gift!

God bless,

Mr. Kelly

Now... on to some more practical reminders:

- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** – Thank you to all who were able to join us for the P/T conferences and special thanks to the teachers for sharing their time and talents for many hours to meet. We hope your meetings were productive and reaffirming.
- Thursday/Friday, Dec. 7 & 8 **Santa's Workshop for Kids in the GYM**
 - *Every child will have the opportunity to do their "Christmas Shopping" at Santa's Workshop. Your homeroom teacher will tell you when your class is scheduled to shop. Kindly send in a little cash, if possible, for your child to participate.*
- **Holiday Craft Fair/ Winter Wonderland for Kids** – This year, our wonderful FSA will be sponsoring an all-day event on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00-4:00. Over 20 Vendors will be selling their personalized crafts and gifts. Lots of fun for the kids, while you do a little Christmas shopping... Bouncy houses, face painting, Christmas characters games and more!! Please come by the gym anytime during the day to join the fun and support the vendors and QCA!
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – In order to make Santa's Workshop and the Bazaar run smoothly, we need LOTS of volunteers. If you can spare an hour or two, PLEASE sign up on the on-line Volunteer Form... a separate email will be sent to you with more details. Thank you, in advance WE NEED YOU!
- **Please note:** There was a misprint in the December Calendar – Extended **WILL** run on the last day of school before vacation, December 20th, until 2:30.



Looking Further Ahead:

Friday, December 15

Penance Services – *Students Only*

- 11:00 for students in grades 3-5
- 1:00 for students in grades 6-8

Monday, December 18

Christmas Concerts – ALL ARE WELCOME !!

- 9:00 ~ Early Childhood Performances in Gym

- 10:15 ~ Choral Performances in Church – grades K-5

Tuesday, December 19

Band Performances ~ *during dismissal*

- 1:55 in the Gym ~ Join us for some fun Christmas Music and goodies!

Wednesday, December 20

11:30 Dismissal ☺

Christmas Assembly: ALL ARE WELCOME!!

- Final Advent Prayer Service
- QCA Choir Merry Musical Revue
- Middle School Nativity Presentation
- 9:00 in Gym (time to be confirmed)



Attachments:

- Fliers - Breakfast with Santa
- Volunteer Links
- Holiday Craft Fair/Kids Winter Wonderland