

ST. URSULA SCHOOL
2020-2021



FAST FORWARD FRIDAY

12-11-20

*"I am a nobody, I am a small rope, a tiny ladder, the tail end, a leaf."
Saint Juan Diego*



FAITH FORMATION

- **"Saint for the Week":** **Saint Juan Diego.** Juan Diego was visited by the Virgin Mary in the northern portion of Mexico City in December 1531. During these visits, Mary asked Juan to go to the bishop and request that a chapel be built in her honor, to help those that pray to her and those in need. The bishop was hesitant to believe so he asked for a sign to which Mary agreed. She then told Juan to collect flowers from the hill to take them to the bishop. Juan collected the flowers and then brought them to the bishop. When he opened his cloak to present the flowers, they poured out and left behind an imprint of the Virgin Mary upon his tilma (cloak). The bishop saw the image and was convinced it was a miracle. Thus, he ordered the building of the church on the hill of *Tepeyac*—at the precise location where the current-day basilica is situated in Mexico City. Juan Diego's faith helped to make the shrine a reality. Each year, millions of people come from all over the world to visit The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to view the image of Mary that has remained intact and undeterred by time for 489 years. Juan Diego was canonized on July 31, 2002 by Pope John Paul II and his feast day is celebrated on December 9. He is recognized as the patron saint of indigenous people.
- **Prayer Partner Mass:** Due to a scheduling conflict with the parish, there will be no Prayer-Partner Mass held on Tuesday, December 15. Our weekly Mass is scheduled to resume on Tuesday, December 22.
- **Advent Reflection:** Please click **HERE** for a reflection article on the scriptural meaning of our second week journey through Advent.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Adopt-A-Family:** As a reminder, all of the Adopt-A-Family gifts are due into school on the morning of Thursday, December 17. As a reminder, each package is expected to be wrapped. Please also place a gift tag on the package which will serve to identify the recipient (first and last name please). Thank you for your continued prayers on behalf of the children and parents who have requested help thru the St. Ann's Adopt-A-Family program.
- **Large Enclosed Vehicle Request:** Do you have access to a large enclosed vehicle that could be used on the afternoon of 12/17/20? We are seeking a U-Haul type of vehicle in which to transport our Adopt-A-Family gifts. If you might be able to assist with this request, please respond to this email with your name and phone number.
- **Yearbook Purchase:** We are now in the 2nd tier of pricing for our annual keepsake. Yearbooks are now priced at \$23 through January 31. Please note that on February 1, the price will raise to \$28. Don't delay, order **HERE** today!
- **Yearbook Content:** In the uniqueness that is 2020, this year's annual keepsake will be especially important as we look back with fondness (and humor) as we recall what an unbelievable year "dos mil veinte" (2020) has been for us. So as our yearbook staff works to create the best Yearbook ever, please respond if the questions below might apply to you:
 1. Is your student currently a virtual learner or were they virtual earlier this year?
 2. Do you have pictures of your student interacting with their class, participating in class activities, or anything else you would like to share with us?
 3. If your child is participating in fun class activities in the next week or so, can you take pictures of it and describe it to us?

So if your child has been virtual at any point this year, describe the activity below and send us a picture or two to that might be featured in the yearbook! Please send us what you can by December 22, 2020.

Please remember to email your photo(s) to pictures@stursula.org and include Virtual Viewpoints and your child's name and homeroom in the subject line.

SAVE THE DATE

- **Christmas Assembly:** One of the great traditions of St. Ursula is our annual Christmas Assembly. And although the ongoing pandemic might restrict our ability to hold this event in the typical manner, what COVID-19 can't eliminate is our faithful observance of the celebration of Christ's birth. With this being said, we have scheduled an outdoor event for 1:30pm on Tuesday, December 22. Our entire school community will gather together on

the St. Ursula Church lot as each grade level will perform a song or poem that honors this most blessed time of the year. And although we are not able to accommodate our families at this event, we invite you to join us while we livestream through our **ST. URSULA FACEBOOK**.

On an accompanying note, as this is an outdoor event, please know that we would love to include our remote learners in this joyous. Therefore, if you would like your remote learner to participate, you are asked to email your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, December 18 so as to let them know that your child will attend the event.

On a final note, in keeping with the festivity of this wonderful tradition, ole' St. Nick is scheduled to pay a visit to what will certainly be a memorable Christmas Assembly.

- **Tuesday, December 22:** Our final day before Christmas break is Tuesday, December 22. Please know that this is a full school day so our dismissal groups begin at our typical time 2:40 PM.

Although extended day will be available on 12/22, please make note that **the extended day center will close at 5:00 PM** that afternoon.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- **Father's Club Meeting:** Join us for our next Fathers' Club meeting this Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually. Please click **HERE** to join the Zoom Meeting. To join, please use the following passcode: **BVuT72**.

REMINDERS

- **Christian Behavior Award Recipients:** Congratulations to the following students who have been as class recipients for Trimester 1 - PreK A: Meredith Samchuck, PreK B: Paul Joseph; KA: Elizabeth Walsh, KB: Harper Schoelkopf, KC: Riley Harold; 1A: Justin Baxter, 1B: Jackson Hoyt, 1C: Gianna Vlahos; 2A: Luke Davis, 2B: Gregory McEvers; 3A: Connor Horseman, 3B: Lucy Topper; 4A: Joseph Acchione, 4B: Gavin Sterner, 4C: Madison Willard; 5A: Callen Greco, 5B: McKenzie Kottraba, 5C: Aidan Mitrus
- **Effort Award Recipients:** Congratulations to the following students who have been as class recipients for Trimester 1 - PreK A: Grayson Stone, PreK B: Katherine Kaifer; KA: Aleena Tongue-Aniq, KB: Jaxson Gary, KC: Amelia Strickler; 1A: Kylie Lockely, 1B: Kylee Tanner, 1C: Jonathan DeRose; 2A: Alana Davis, 2B: Madelyn Copp; 3A: Amelia Vitilio, 3B: Mackenzie Privitera; 4A: Julia Baumgartner, 4B: Jill Hertzfelt, 4C: Roland Lott; 5A: Devan Roche, 5B: Kylie Garnett, 5C: Aiden Balchunas
- **Student-Parent Handbook:** For your ease and access, our **STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK** is always available under the *Forms & Documents* page on our website.

However, although publication has been delayed, each family will receive a paper copy of the handbook in the coming weeks.

- **Inclement Weather Protocol:** St. Ursula has typically followed Baltimore County regarding inclement weather delays and closures of school. However, with Baltimore County students learning remotely this winter, BCPS is not expected to make any inclement weather decisions that we could follow. So instead, communication regarding any inclement weather delays or closures of school will come directly from St. Ursula via a text and email alert.
- **First Communion:** As a reminder, parent informational meeting for those preparing children for First Communion or First Reconciliation will be held on the following dates. Please only attend one. For seating purposes, please sign up for a time [HERE](#). Thank you for your patience.
 - Saturday, December 12, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
 - Sunday, December 13, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM
 - Monday, December 14 at 9:00 AM, 2:00 PM, or 8:00 PM
 - Tuesday, December 15 from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM (virtual)
- **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Schedule:** As a reminder, the arrangement below details our arrival and dismissal schedule for the weeks of December 14 and December 21:
 - 7:40am and 2:40pm (SUS lot) Group 4: Se-Z
 - 7:50am and 2:50pm (SJ lot) Group 1: A-Dr
 - 8:00am and 3:00pm (SUS lot) Group 2: Du-La
 - 8:10am and 3:10pm (SJ lot) Group 3: Le-Sc

