

**ST. URSULA SCHOOL
2020-2021**



FAST FORWARD FRIDAY

12-18-20

“Faith is like the feet wherewith the soul journeys to God, and love is the guide that directs it.”

Saint John of the Cross

 **FAITH FORMATION**

- **“Saint for the Week”:** **Saint John of the Cross** was born in 1542 as Juan de Yepes, the Castilian son of a poor silk weaver in Toledo, Spain. Juan’s early life was difficult. Soon after he was born, his father died and the family was left in the direst of poverty. After challenging years during the early part of his life, Juan would eventually offer himself as a lay-brother to the Carmelite friars. Who however, knowing his talents, had him ordained priest. During the early years of his priesthood, Juan befriended another future saint – Teresa of Avila. When Juan was tempted to change from the Carmelite order to the more strict religious Carthusian Order, it was Teresa who convinced him to stay and reform his own order. It was this decision to reform that would inspire his life’s work to refocus the mission of the Catholic Church. His reform, though initially approved by his religious superior, was rejected by the elder friars, who condemned the future saint as a fugitive and cast him into prison. As a result of his deep connection to the sufferings of Christ, Juan de Yepes would become to be known as John the Cross. While in prison, John the Cross would write for hours each day as he developed into a great contemplative and spiritual writer. In 1926 he would be proclaimed a Doctor of the Church. He serves as the patron saint of contemplative life, mystics, and Spanish poets and his feast day is December 14.
- **Advent Reflection:** Please click [HERE](#) for a reflection article on the scriptural meaning of our third week journey through Advent.

- **Prayer Partner Mass:** This week's Prayer-Partner Mass will be held for 4B and 1B on Tuesday, December 22 at 10:15am. As always, you may join us virtually at Mass by accessing the parish's **FACEBOOK LIVESTREAM**.

LOOKING AHEAD

- **Last Edition of the Fast Forward Friday Newsletter:** Today's *FFF* is the 15th and final edition of our weekly newsletter for the year 2020! The 16th edition of our *Fast Forward Friday* will be sent home on Friday, January 8, 2021.
- **Arrival and Dismissal Rotation:** Beginning in January 2021, we will move from a bi-weekly rotational schedule to a monthly rotational schedule. We hope that this increased consistency will help with your family's planning during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. We will follow this **SCHEDULE** for the coming months of the school year.
- **Christmas Assembly:** As a reminder, our annual Christmas Assembly has been scheduled as 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**. And 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.

As this event will be held outdoors, **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD ARRIVES TO SCHOOL WITH A WARM WINTER COAT, A HAT AND GLOVES.**

If you would like your remote learner to attend this special event, you are asked to email your child's homeroom teacher by today, December 18. An email with specific details will be sent on Monday to those families whose remote child will attend the assembly event.

SAVE THE DATE

- **Tuesday, December 22:** Just a reminder that our final day before Christmas break is Tuesday, December 22 and is a full school day. Therefore, our dismissal groups will begin at our typical time of 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.
- **Monday, January 4 – Wednesday, January 6:** As was recently shared, **JANUARY 4 TO JANUARY 6 - WILL NOW BE VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS FOR ALL STUDENTS.** Therefore, there will be no in-person learners on campus for these days as ALL students will learn remotely. When we depart for break on December 22, all in-person students are expected to take home the necessary instructional resources that they will need for the three virtual learning days.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- **Father's Club Thank You:** A special note of appreciation to Dave Mercadante, Jay Meyer, Mark Hadaway, Mike O'Neill and Danny Cumberledge for installing a new Carbon Monoxide Detection Sensor System in our boiler room. And as well, a special thank you to Ken Olga, Jason Conti and Dave Mercadante for helping to clear away snow and ice during this week's snow storm. Thank you all!

UPDATES & REMINDERS

- **P.A.C.K Day Event (Dollar Day):** This Monday, December 21 serves as the day for our monthly *Put-on Alternative Clothes Kiddos* event (Dollar Day). There is a \$1 participation fee for any student to participate.
- **Add-On Day:** On Tuesday, December 22, all students are invited to wear Christmas accessories to school: Christmas sweaters, sweatshirts or shirts over their school uniform top; Christmas Socks; 'Ole St. Nick Hats, Elf Hats or Reindeer Antlers; or other appropriate holiday spirit item. There is no fee associated with this *Add-On* event.
- **Congratulations to our Trimester 1 Academic Distinctions Recipients:**
 - **8th Grade:** First Honors - Riley Gagen, Cole Gillis, Carly Hax, Olivia Schaub, Sofia Schisler; Second Honors - Mirian Elekwachi, Nicholas Griffin, Georgia Hanna-Leverett, Grace Heffner, Abigail King, Anasophia Rodriguez, Finn Rutledge, Raegan Schmith, Ava Trish, Nathaniel Welkos
 - **7th Grade:** First Honors - Lily Baumgartner, Amelia Broccolina, Delaney Buckley, Maggie Heinlein, Lucas Ray, Jacob Santos; Second Honors - Antonios Anastasiadis, Colleen Bauer, Nicholas Brownlee, Benjamin Brzozowski, Anna Davis, Peyton Ey, Reagan Forte, Stella French, Zander Greco, Jenna Keener, Ashlyn Krul, Earl Patrick Labajanan, Elle Mercadante, Michael Miller, Ethan O'Neill, Winslow Phelps, Colin Roche, Isabella Scalice, Filip Szylow, Morgan Thomas
 - **6th Grade:** First Honors - Jason Conti Jr., Olivia Nicholson, Brooke Prochaska, Roxanne Schaub, Adrienne Seidenzahl, Addison Sirbaugh, Benjamin Virgilio, Caylin Zimmerman; Second Honors - Logan Brooks, Kyler Carmen, Violet Drury, Madeline Hoilman, Margaret Johnston, Collin Palewicz, Tyler Schmuff, Kaylie Spielman, Matthew Vallamattam, Benjamin Walter
- **Inclement Weather and the School Calendar:** We have built three inclement weather days into our calendar. On the three days that snow or ice closes school, we will not conduct any remote learning for that day. However, if there is a school closure after

we have used all three the days, the fourth school closure day and beyond will be scheduled as a remote learning day. As a reminder, all school communication regarding any inclement weather delays or closures of school will come directly from St. Ursula via a text and email alert.

- **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.

- **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Schedule:** As a reminder, the arrangement below details our arrival and dismissal schedule for the week of 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

