

St. Agnes School Newsletter

3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord, CA 94519



(925) 689-3990

11/30/11

www.stagnesconcord.com

Principal's Corner HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I know it's not January, however Advent does mark the beginning of the *Liturgical New Year*. Readings for Sunday Mass & Holy Days are assigned to a Liturgical Year or Cycle (A, B, C) which changes on the first Sunday of Advent. We are now in Cycle B. Advent or Adventus in Latin means "the coming." We are encouraged to not obsess on the materialistic aspect of the holiday but focus on preparing our hearts for Christmas and celebrating Christ's birth as we wait with anticipation for His Second Coming. So, just as we reflect back on the previous year in order to make our resolutions in January we should spend some time now thinking about our spirituality. Have we lived as Jesus taught? Have we taken care of those less fortunate or have we fed

our spirit by attending church as often as we should? I hope you can find some time this Advent season to renew or rediscover the true meaning of Christmas.

FEELING CRAFTY?

Has your family prepared an Advent wreath? There is still time! The materials used to create the Advent wreath are not randomly chosen but do have meaning. The circular shape represents the eternal cycle of the seasons while evergreens adorning the wreath symbolize everlasting life. Four candles placed in the wreath represent the four weeks leading to Christmas. The three purple (violet) candles signify penance, humility and melancholy, each reminding us to be mindful and prepared. The one pink (rose) candle represents joy. This pink candle is lit on

the third Sunday of Advent and reminds us to rejoice at Christ's coming. Each night the appropriate number of candles should be lit as a prayer is recited. These sites offer some suggested prayers and other Advent activities:

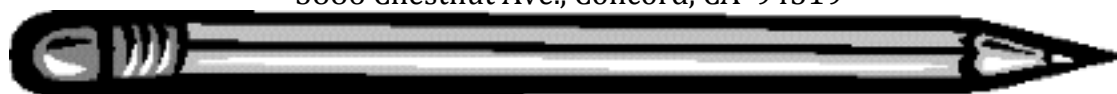
1. http://catholicmom.com/advent_devotions.htm
2. <http://www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac1101.asp>
3. [School website](#)

SAD NEWS

You may have already heard but this past Sunday morning our school was vandalized. Graffiti was sprayed on the office and first through third grade exterior walls and doors. The picnic tables, potted plants and garbage cans were overturned. In addition, the St. Francis statue, birdbath and "Mangini" sign were also tossed about in the school garden. Even though this

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event was very disturbing and thankfully nothing was broken, I was again reminded of the goodness that abounds here at St. Agnes. Thanks to Eddie Chatterton (Alumni parent and "retired" CYO track coach) who arrived on campus within 10 minutes of my call for help. He quickly gathered paint supplies and graffiti cleaner to put the campus back in order. Thank you to the Smith and Ward families, and any others I may have missed, for lending extra hands. There were even a couple of families who do not have children attending our school that also pitched in to help. By the time the 10:45 Mass was over EVERYTHING was back in place! We truly are in a special place!

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Student Store will be open this Friday 12/2

during morning recess. The Student Council will also be holding a Bake Sale next Thurs. 12/8 & Fri. 12/9. Items will be sold during the morning recess.

DO YOU LIKE ROLLERCOASTERS?

Included in this family envelope is the form for the annual Six Flags Read to Success Program. Each student is required to read 6 hours of recreational reading (logged by an adult) and in turn will receive a free admission ticket at a participating Six Flags Theme Park. How easy is that? The deadline for this activity is February 25th 2012.

JR. HIGH WE NEED YOU!

If you'd like to earn hours by working the Breakfast with Santa Event on December 10th, your sign-up forms will be accepted through this week. If you

need an extra copy you can download it from the "Forms" tab on our website.

Surviving the Holidays and Coping with Job Loss?

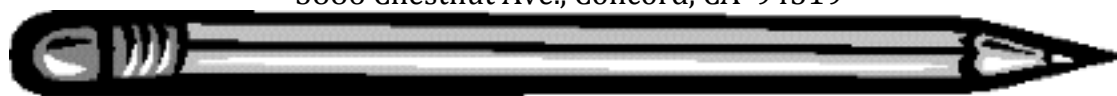
Fr. Padraig Green will be leading these special programs at two local churches: **Thursday, December 1, 6:30-9:00PM** at *Christ the King Parish, Pleasant Hill* or **Monday, December 5, 7-9PM** at *St. Isidore Parish, Danville*. Each meeting and discussion will begin at 7PM and will be preceded and followed by fellowship and networking opportunities.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday, December 20th two performances have been scheduled for our annual Christmas Concert. The children have been busy preparing for this special show. The pre-order ticket form can be

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found in this envelope and is due by Friday, December 9th.

AUCTION UPDATE

Let the flocking begin! Please read the flyer in this family envelope so you can join us in the flocking frenzy beginning January 9th!

Please remember you can still purchase tickets for the Auction VIP table; an order form is also included in this envelope. Hurry only 100 tickets will be sold!

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS

Please see the enclosed flyer/sign-up sheet for this special Christmas Eve Mass at St. Agnes Church. There are opportunities for all ages (children K-8) to participate. This is a wonderful way to begin your Christmas festivities.

ST. AGNES CHURCH DINNER-DANCE

A Mardi Gras Dinner-Dance is being held on February 4th to benefit the Church's general fund. Please see the enclosed letter outlining ways you can participate in this fundraising event. Raffle tickets are available in the school office.

LITERATURE LITTER

Don't forget to peruse our Literature Litter Board for community announcements. Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation is offering two special winter camps. Baseball sign-up information is also posted.

COMMENTS OR

CONCERNS? If you have any comments or concerns please contact: Lisa Karmann, School Board President at 673-1635 or Cristina Pauline, PACE President at 672-6808.

Important Dates, Information, and Updates

- 12/2
 - School Mass
 - 6th Grade (formal dress) 1:30PM
- 12/3
 - First Reconciliation 10:00AM
 - Work Party 9-1
- 12/6
 - PACE Free Dress \$2.00