From the Desk of Ms. Miller:

Only 11 more school days until Christmas Break. Please continue to keep your children on a consistent schedule as much as possible between now and then. This time of year can be very challenging for children to navigate. The more consistency we can create for them, the more enjoyable they will be and that will translate into a more enjoyable season for all of us.

"When little people are overwhelmed by big emotions, it’s our job to share our calm, not to join their chaos."

~L.R. Knost

Families with 8th Graders, now is the time to seriously consider taking the High School Placement Test (HSPT) at Marian High School. It will be administered on Saturday, December 7 from 8:00-12:00 noon. It is a great time to be a Knight! The quickest way to pre-register for the HSPT is to go to the link provided and it will connect you to Marian’s website and give you the prompts to register and to get more information about the test: [http://bit.ly/Marian_Placement2019](http://bit.ly/Marian_Placement2019) Mrs. Weisser is forwarding you an email with more information and a link as well.

"A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better."

~Jim Rohn

Ms. Jill Miller was honored this year by getting the Light of Learning Award for Principals. She is deserving of this award because she is always showing initiative and always trying to make our school a better place. We are thankful for having her as our principal. Please join the Queen of Peace community in congratulating her on achieving this notable honor from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.
Greetings Queen of Peace families! I hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the Christmas festivities. May your faith be refreshed as you keep yourself open to God’s love during this Holy season of Advent. Due to the busyness of this month; HASA has decided to cancel our monthly meeting that was to be held on December 10th. The Executive team will however meet to discuss timely matters. We will reconvene in January with our meeting being held on January 16th in the School Commons.

We look forward to hosting the annual winter event to conclude Catholic schools week the end of January! Look for details soon!!

Save the date for the Daddy/Daughter event being held January 19th!

"Tell me and I forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I understand." — Chinese proverb

Thank you and have a blessed Advent, Carrie Crosbie, HASA President

If you are looking for ways to get your service points, we have volunteer opportunities in concessions when we host volleyball games. Please check out Signup Genius under the volunteer tab on the parish website.

Save the Date:

Daddy Daughter Event
January 19, 2020
Be on the lookout for more details coming home soon! Contact Jamie Marchetti at 574-850-4751 if you are interested in volunteering for the event.

Save the Dates for Adoration Club
12/10, 1/28, 2/25, 3/31, 4/28 & 5/26

Save the Date

The Class of 2019 will have a Bingo Night to benefit their Washington D.C. trip. Saturday, January 25, 2020. Doors open at 6:30pm. Bingo starts at 7pm. Pre-Sale boards will be sold in early January.

Reminders for next week are in today’s Envelope. Please help us to provide Meals for our Parish Community that are in need this Holiday Season.

Please remember to order your children’s lunches for January at www.BOONLI.com. Ordering is December 1st through the 10th.

January’s Calendar is in today’s envelope.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY & CHOIR

We are excited about our annual Christmas Eve Nativity Play. If your child is interested in participating in the Christmas Eve Nativity Play or singing in the Christmas Eve Choir please make sure to fill out the form that is in today’s envelope and return by Thursday, December 12th. We are also looking for parents who would be willing to help and earn service points. Please call Denise Evans (250-2739) or Colleen Daabler (651-9952) if interested in volunteering or for more information. Choir information please contact Tom Farwell, tfarwell@queenofpeace.cc.
## January 2020

**Order at www.BOONLI.com 12/1-10th**

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grab &amp; Go Breakfast</strong> is offered daily for $1.50. Breakfast will include a main item and a fruit, fruit juice, &amp; milk. **</td>
<td><strong>Lunches:</strong> We offer our daily Hot Lunch, with 4 additional lunch options: Ham &amp; Cheese sub, Turkey &amp; Cheese Sub, Chef Salad, and QP Lunchable. All lunches include a milk choice: 1% White, Strawberry or Choc-</td>
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<td><strong>Epiphany Concert</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td><strong>Corn Dogs Sweet Potato Fries Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nachos Grande (Taco Meat, Chips, Cheese) Salsa &amp; Sour Cream Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cheeseburger/ Hamburger Crinkle Cut Fries Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cheese Ravioli w/ Marinara Garlic Bread Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vigil</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>Staff In-Service</strong></td>
<td><strong>13 Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>14 Chicken Quesadilla Spanish Rice Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 French Bread Pizza Caesar Salad Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>16 WG Pancakes Sausage Links Yogurt Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mass</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Daddy Daughter Dance</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>21 Breaded Chicken Sandwich Potato Wedges Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 WG Waffles Sausage Links Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 Popcorn Chicken WG Rice Yogurt Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Fresh Bar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2pm</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>21 Breaded Chicken Sandwich Potato Wedges Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 WG Waffles Sausage Links Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 Popcorn Chicken WG Rice Yogurt Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Fresh Bar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mass</strong></td>
<td><strong>Open House 10:30am</strong></td>
<td><strong>27 Chicken Leg Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Biscuit Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>28 Chicken Caesar Wrap Cheddar Sun Chips Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>29 BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich Potato Wedges Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>30 Chicken Tacos Black Beans Pepper/Onion Mix Fresh Bar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mass</strong></td>
<td><strong>Open House 10:30am</strong></td>
<td><strong>27 Chicken Leg Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Biscuit Fresh Bar</strong></td>
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<td><strong>29 BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich Potato Wedges Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>30 Chicken Tacos Black Beans Pepper/Onion Mix Fresh Bar</strong></td>
<td><strong>31 Penne Alfredo Garlic Bread Fresh Bar</strong></td>
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**CHRISTMAS BREAK- NO SCHOOL 12/21-1/6**

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***Catholic School's Week***
December

1. Celebrate Christmas: Finish shopping and plan your menu.
2. Advent begins with a prayer for peace.
3. Attend a Christmas pageant or concert.
4. Write letters to Santa.
5. Decorate the Christmas tree.
7. Start a family tradition of reading 12 short stories of the Christmas season.

Monday

8. Attend mass and pray with your family.
10. Choose a family Christmas tradition.
12. Host a family dinner.
13. Send out cards to loved ones.
15. Write a letter to Santa.

Tuesday

17. Make Christmas decorations.
18. Write a letter to Santa.
20. Have a family meal.
22. Light all four candles of the Advent wreath.
24. Resolve to pray more.

Wednesday

25. Receive a gift.
27. Receive a gift.

Thursday

29. Have a family meal.
31. Receive a gift.
32. Receive a gift.

Friday

34. Receive a gift.
35. Receive a gift.
36. Receive a gift.

Saturday

38. Receive a gift.
40. Receive a gift.

Sunday

42. Receive a gift.
43. Receive a gift.
44. Receive a gift.

Family Advent Calendar

Queen of Peace
Have a peaceful Advent

Do you wish for an idyllic family Christmas complete with joyful music, grateful children, and tinsel-covered tree? For many parents, the weeks of Advent before Christmas mean weeks spent shopping, wrapping, and spending, and are wrought with family tensions, obligations, and overly excited children. Try these steps to keep your sanity and your Savior in your family’s observance of Advent and Christmas:

Be realistic. It isn’t the goal of the season to make everyone happy. If you don’t overspend and over extend before Christmas, you’ll be in a better frame of mind when it arrives.

Tie gifts with heartstrings. It’s okay to give fewer gifts and to keep what you give simple, meaningful, and from the heart. For example, give a coupon for a household chore to someone who would appreciate an extra hand. Handmade ornaments make meaningful gifts that last.

Soothe the beast. Beautiful music can set a soothing tone for the season. Play your favorite hymns and carols to keep a peaceful tone in your home.

Reach out. Want to help children focus on something other than their gift lists? Do at least one good deed for someone needy.

Seek the eternal. Jesus gives us peace, purpose, and perspective. Spend time with Jesus each day of Advent and Christmas to remember what is most important about Christmas.

Why Do Catholics Display Poinsettias at Christmas?

Originally from Central America, poinsettias were used by early Christians to teach the faith. The bright red leaves recalled Christ’s blood which was shed for us, while their arrangement evoked the Star of Bethlehem. In one legend, a poor Mexican girl wanted to give something to the Christ child. Having nothing, she arranged weeds into a bouquet and left them before the manger. They grew beautiful red flowers, showing that she had given the best gift of all: genuine love.

Thoughtful Moments

St. Maria di Rosa

Born into a wealthy family in Brescia, Italy, Paula spent her time, talents, and resources to help others. She left school to help her father with the mill. She helped her brother run a school for deaf and mute girls and cared for those suffering from the cholera epidemic of 1836. She founded the Handmaids of Charity in 1840—a religious order which cared for the sick. Upon entering, she took the name Sr. Maria Crucifixa.

The first Christmas gift

Find something shiny or yellow that reminds you of gold. Use something fragrant (like an air freshener) to represent frankincense. Pour a small amount of oil into a small container to represent myrrh. Put these three gifts in a box, label the present with Jesus’ name, and open it first on Christmas Day.

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:14).
Celebrate a warm and wonderful Christmas

Telling stories, making music, demonstrating gratitude, and sharing our love and faith with one another, are warm and wonderful ways to celebrate the joy of bringing God into the human world each Christmas season. Consider these ideas:

Tell stories. The first and second chapter in Luke's Gospel tell the most remarkable true story of God coming to live among us. Read a little each night together, and try to imagine you were there.

Make music. The word "carol" means an old round dance with singing. Sing your favorite carols or hymns and create dances to go along with them.

Count blessings. Each day during Advent, find a picture of something for which each person is grateful and put it up in a prominent place in your home. These are visible reminders of God's love.

Make it last. The Catholic Christmas season lasts from the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve until the Baptism of Our Lord on January 12. Leave your tree up the entire time and celebrate with gusto!


Nativity scenes usually show Mary and Joseph calmly kneeling at Jesus' crib surrounded by adoring shepherds and wise men. It's a peaceful scene and probably pretty far from reality.

Mary and Joseph traveled in the last stages of her pregnancy from Nazareth to Bethlehem. On foot or donkey, it was a dirty, exhausting journey. Once there, there was nowhere to stay except a stable with animals because all the good inns were full. After a short time, they had to flee to Egypt with a newborn to escape danger, and stayed there for several years without family or friends.

The Holy Family had a share of pain and difficulties much like our own experience. Yet Scripture tells us that Mary and Joseph found strength from their faith in God and were guided by his Word. We can do the same.

What can a parent do? Tell your children that Jesus' birth and the Holy Family's escape to Egypt is further proof that God always keeps his promises. When we lean on him, God will always lead us to safety.

When she was nine years old, Kara asked the question many parents dread. "Is there really a Santa Claus?" Without hesitation, I told her, "yes." I grew up in a large family and my parents often lacked money for gifts at Christmas. Yet, thanks to "Santa Claus," we never went a Christmas without a stocking to open or a gift under the tree.

I admitted that I have never met Santa Claus and I don't know if our gifts were really delivered by a chubby man in a red suit.

Still, I believe he exists in the generosity and kindness of others. Santa provides an opportunity for people to humbly reach out to others in his name. So whether we call this spirit, "Santa" or "St. Nicholas," at the core, it is a love for Christ and the joy of celebrating his birth that brings out the best in people.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 1 - First Sunday in Advent.
During this season, we anticipate Christ's birth and his coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

Dec. 1 - St. Edmund Campion (1581). As a young man, St. Edmund studied theology in France then became a Jesuit missionary. He returned to England to preach but was betrayed and arrested. He was martyred at Tyburn.

Dec. 7 - St. Ambrose (397). St. Ambrose was an effective pastor, bishop and teacher, and was devoted to care of the poor in Milan. He guarded the Church against the Arians, who denied Jesus' divinity.

Dec. 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She asked that the bishop of Mexico build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses as a sign. When the roses were emptied from his tilma it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

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We’re a family of readers

When families share a love of reading, children develop stronger literacy skills and are more motivated to pick up a book. Here’s how some of our readers have made reading a family affair.

After-dinner novel
“We pick a novel all ages can enjoy—often one my wife or I enjoyed as a child—and take turns reading a chapter a night. The kids look forward to it, especially if we stopped at a cliff-hanger the day before. After each chapter, we share our opinions of the book and say what we think will happen tomorrow.”

Reading adventures
“Every time we visit the library, we look for books related to someplace we’re going soon. Before a visit to the aquarium, we found nonfiction books about sharks and dolphins. And before a trip to my sister’s apartment in the city, we read about skyscrapers, subways, and taxis.”

Treasure hunts
“When my son first learned to read, he searched for free reading ‘treasure.’ He’d collect maps from parks and malls, brochures from the vet’s office, and even fortunes from cookies. Soon, our whole family was adding to the ‘treasure chest.’ We’ve learned a lot, like how dogs communicate and what fun things there are to do at our favorite park.”

Clearing out clutter
Try these ideas for decluttering during winter break, and your youngster will start the New Year with organized spaces to work and play:

- Have your child sort through her backpack and study area. She could file old tests and quizzes, save favorite papers and projects, and discard anything she won’t need when school starts again.
- Let your youngster start a donation box in her closet for outgrown clothes and toys. Once the box is full, decide together where to donate it—she’ll discover the satisfaction that comes from helping others.
- Suggest that your child label separate containers for smaller items like erasers and sticky notes. Putting them into the correct bins gives her practice with sorting and makes school supplies easy to find at homework time.

Q: Why did the walrus stand on the marshmallow?

A: So she wouldn’t fall into the hot cocoa!
I can handle that!

What is your child capable of doing for herself? Probably more than she realizes. Encourage her to become more responsible with these tips.

Manage a social life. Let your youngster call friends to set up her own get-togethers. She can also RSVP to birthday parties and pick out and wrap gifts. If she’s sleeping over at a friend or relative’s house, ask her to pack her own overnight bag herself.

Do minor repairs. Teach your child how to use a screwdriver and other tools safely. You can watch as she puts her know-how to work fixing a younger sibling’s toy or tightening a loose doorknob.

Track “inventory.” Is your youngster running low on crayons, shampoo, or her favorite cereal? Have her keep a list on the refrigerator.

Cook food. Your child can learn to make sandwiches and salads, mash potatoes, and whisk eggs. With supervision, she could peel and chop vegetables and use the microwave. Idea: Encourage her to be creative in the kitchen and come up with her own recipes.

ACTIVITY CORNER

Connect with history

Become history “tourists” in your own town. These activities help your child learn about history and make connections to what he’s learning in school.

Exhibits

Visit historic sites and museums. Your youngster may learn how people made hand-dipped candles or crafted armor. Encourage him to ask staffers questions about the time period. He might inquire about chores children did, for instance.

Historical markers

These plaques tell what happened in specific locations. Perhaps a one-room schoolhouse once stood in your town or a famous inventor was born nearby. Stop to read and discuss the markers. Tip: Search for markers near you at hmdb.org.

Drugs: Start a conversation

It’s never too early to discuss drugs with your youngster. In fact, opening the lines of communication now will pave the way for more serious conversations as he gets older. Consider this advice.

- Begin with questions. Find out what your child knows about drugs. What has he learned in health class or heard from other kids? Using his knowledge as a starting point will lead to a more meaningful discussion and allow you to correct misconceptions.

- Discuss safety rules. When you take medication or give any to your youngster, read the instructions together. Explain that taking more than directed is dangerous and that he’s not allowed to take medicine without your permission. Note: Be sure to keep your medicine cabinet locked.

Motivated from within

Q: My daughter told me that her friends “all” get rewards for good grades and she wants to get rewards, too. How should I handle this?

A: Help your child see that doing well is a reward in itself. That way, she won’t get in the habit of depending on rewards like money or stickers.

First, encourage her to focus on the excitement of learning rather than just on her grades. Say she ace a science test. Of course you’re proud of her and you’ll let her know it. But also ask her to explain a concept or show you an experiment or activity she did in class. (“You answered that an apple floats but a grape sinks—I’d like to see that!”)

Also, help her see how her effort leads to natural rewards. If she brings home a good math grade on her report card, you could say, “Great job. I know you worked hard to learn multiplication facts. Bigger problems will be easier now that you’ve memorized those.”

Over time, she’ll realize how rewarding it is to learn new things, work hard, and succeed—without rewards from anyone else.
Healthy technology habits

Limiting your middle grader’s screen time encourages her to interact with people in real life and focus on schoolwork. Try these tips.

Join in
Setting limits on electronics use for the whole family may make your tween more likely to cooperate. Ask everyone to silence and put away devices during game nights or car rides. You can enjoy conversation and pay attention to each other. Also, set up a charging station where everyone leaves devices at night so that sleep isn’t interrupted.

Socialize face to face
Suggest that your child brainstorm screen-free activities to do with friends. Examples: Make up dance routines, work on a giant jigsaw puzzle. Or they could use electronics in ways that don’t involve staring at screens. Maybe they’ll sing along with a free karaoke app or go outside and see who can take the coolest nature photos.

Stay focused
When your middle grader uses electronics for homework, have her close all apps or windows that she doesn’t need for the assignment. She should also turn off notifications so she’s not tempted to reopen the apps she closed. And if she takes a break, encourage her to make it screen-free. Perhaps she’ll go for a short walk or play with her dog.

Developing a growth mindset
Does your child know that learning actually makes his brain grow? Help him adopt a growth mindset, or an attitude that he can develop his abilities if he works at them, with this advice.

Find alternate routes. Say the dialogue in a story your tween is writing sounds unrealistic. Rather than thinking, “I’m just not a good writer,” he could look for ways to improve his writing. Perhaps he’ll ask someone to act out the story with him and decide how the characters would really talk.

Aim for variety. Encourage your child to strengthen the growing connections in his brain by learning new information in multiple ways. For example, to study Spanish vocabulary, he could choose a picture book and listen to an audiobook version of it in Spanish while he follows along in the book. That way, he’ll see, hear, and say the words he’s learning.

Worth quoting
“There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going.” Beverly Sills

Just for fun
Q: What word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?
A: Wrong!
Math isn't just for the classroom. Numbers help to determine professional football team rosters, which TV shows stay on the air, and how new cars are designed. Your child can work with data, ratios, and percentages in areas that interest him. Share these examples.

**Sports**

Let your middle grader compare stats of teams and players in his favorite sport. He might look up and chart a hockey team's win–loss record and the star player's goals, assists, and total points. What percentage of the team's goals has that player scored so far this season?

**TV shows**

Television networks and streaming services decide which shows to keep based on how many people watch them. For a month, suggest that your child follow weekly Nielsen ratings online for your family's favorite shows (see nielsen.com/us/en/top-ten/). By what percentage do viewer numbers change from week to week for each show?

**Cars**

Engineers use math to design fuel-efficient cars. Ask your tween to look up the weight and gas mileage for various cars and calculate the weight–mileage ratio. He'll discover that lighter cars generally get better gas mileage.

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**Q & A**

_I recently overheard my daughter and her friend making mean remarks about another girl. How can I encourage my child to be kinder?

Being kind has benefits that matter to tweens, like helping them make and keep friends and feel good about themselves.

Suggest that your daughter challenge herself to do at least one kind act each day. Maybe she could smile and say good morning to the bus driver or custodian, or invite someone who's sitting alone in the cafeteria to eat lunch with her.

When you ask your child about school at the end of the day, be sure to include, “Who were you kind to today?” and “Who was kind to you?” Tell her what you did that was kind, too—you'll give each other ideas to try another day.

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**Ready, set, debate**

When would you want your tween to argue with you? During a friendly debate! Knowing how to make a strong argument can help her write persuasive essays and participate in class discussions. Here's a fun way to practice.

1. **Choose a topic.** You might debate whether it's better to shop online or in stores, or whether we should colonize Mars or the moon.

2. **Prepare arguments.** Have each person write down facts that support each side. _Examples:_ Shopping online saves time because you don't have to drive to a store, and you can quickly compare options from several sites. But in a brick-and-mortar store, you can choose the vegetables you want or try on clothes, and you'll get in more steps for the day.

3. **Hold a debate.** Assign half the family to one side and half to the other. Then, present your arguments for your side. Next, swap sides—each person argues the opposite position. Did anyone's opinion change as a result of the debate?

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**Nervous? Try this**

My son Ben loves to play piano, but he was nervous about this year's recital. I recently gave a big presentation at work, so I knew how he felt. I decided to talk to him about strategies I used to calm my nerves.

I told Ben that I practiced a lot. That helped me feel more confident because I knew the material better. Then during the presentation, I looked for friendly faces in the crowd. I also kept going even when I stumbled over a few words.

Ben has been practicing for his recital, and he has also asked me to listen so he could play in front of an audience. He said that on recital day, he plans to glance at our family for a boost of confidence before he sits down to play. I'm hoping that following my advice will make him a little less nervous.

---

_Our Purpose_

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

- Resources for Educators
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- 128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
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- www.rfonline.com
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If your child is interested in participating in the youth choir or the play please fill in this form and RETURN it by Thursday, December 12th. They may participate in both if they choose. We are allowing any child in kindergarten and above to participate in the play. If your child is in 2nd grade or above they may sing in the youth choir.

Mandatory practices will be held on:

**PLAY practice** will be Tuesday, December 17, 4:30 to 6:00pm.  
Play participants should meet in the church gathering space.

**CHOIR practices** are Tuesday, December 17, 3:00 to 4:30pm AND Thursday, December 19, 3:00 to 4:30pm  
CHOIR participants should meet in the school music room.

On Christmas Eve all children will be expected to wear their Christmas best attire.  
Costumes will be provided for the children in the play.

The Christmas Eve Play will start at 4:30pm – Mass will start at 5:00pm  
The children in the play will need to arrive no later than 4:00pm.  
The children participating in the choir should arrive no later than 3:30pm.

Play questions can be addressed to Denise Evans, 250-2739, edenevans@comcast.net or Colleen Dabler, 651-9952, colleendabler@gmail.com  
Choir questions can be addressed to Tom Farwell, tfarwell@queenofpeace.cc

Please return no later than Thursday, December 12th - School Office

**Play:** Participants must be in kindergarten or above. Only older students will be considered for narrators.

Name: ___________________________ Grade __________

Name: ___________________________ Grade __________

**Choir:** Participants must be in 2nd grade or above. Please fill in your name even if you are a regular choir member.

Name(s): ___________________________

Parent volunteers are needed for the play.  
☐ Yes, I would like to volunteer for the play!

Name ___________________________ Phone Number ___________________________