

Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Expanding Minds•Growing Faith•Inspiring Service

Weekly Bulletin

December 15, 2023



Calendar Links

CLICK HERE for the SCHOOL CALENDAR



CLICK HERE for the LUNCH CALENDAR



Dec. 20-Jan. 2 Christmas Break Jan. 3 School Resumes

EVENTS CALENDAR





From our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We have school next Monday and Tuesday, and then we will be on Christmas break from Wednesday, December 20-Tuesday, January 2. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.



Junior high students will be able to buy snacks every day starting on Monday! They will still need to have money on their accounts to purchase these. They can give cash to their homeroom teachers in the morning, or parents can add money through the website. They have been looking forward to this, and we are happy to be able to allow this for them again.

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A MARY Christmas

I've been thinking a lot in the Advent season this year that there's someone who is absolutely central to the coming of God into the world and it's Mary; her voice, her wisdom, her spiritual insight, her praise, her reaction to the events. All of this is recorded for us in scripture. God purposefully positioned a young woman with a front-row seat for his coming into this world in Jesus. I feel we've got a lot to learn from Mary's voice.

I don't know if you know that traditionally Luke's gospel has been held to draw heavily on Mary's perspective. She's the primary source of his information. And that's why Luke is able to give us such an intimate account of how the birth of Jesus came to be in his gospel. Mary's voice and perspective has been preserved for us.

Imagine being a young woman – no more than a teenager - in a poor, forgotten, non-important, oppressed, and occupied corner of a world empire. That is who Mary was. And Mary is the one who God chose to be the mother of Jesus.

Mary is the one who got to be the fulfilment of the promise to Eve that a *woman* would crush the serpent's head. (Gen 3:15) Mary is the one who got to witness the fulfilment of the promise to Isaiah - "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) An ordinary, young, poor, oppressed woman gets to play a significant, breakthrough role in the redemption of the world. That is profound! Evil will be crushed and defeated through her. Her body will play a part in showing the world that Jesus really is Immanuel – *God with us*.

This tells us something really powerful about our God. By positioning Mary in this way, God shows us what kind of person is a gospel witness, teacher and example. It is no mistake that a woman gets to be a part of his plans, and that her voice, her questions, her fears, her actions, and her obedience matter. When Mary is told that she will bear this child she asks a reasonable question – "how can this be, since I am a virgin?" (Luke 1:34) Mary is a real person – a person with a voice and a person with questions and fears.



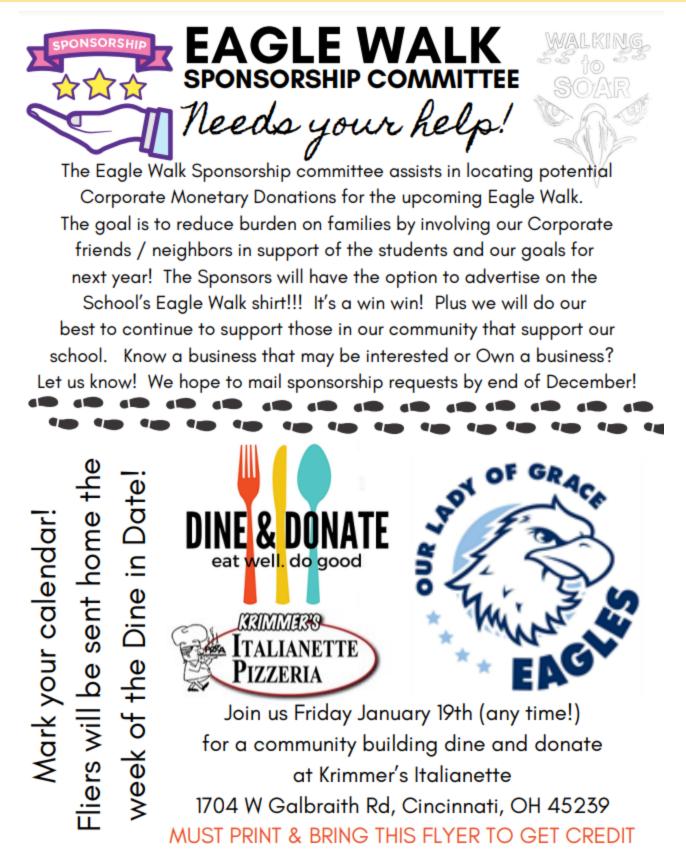
The Angel replies to Mary – "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most-High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35) Mary's response is breathtaking: "I am the Lord's servant - may your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1:38)

This is how God works in our world. The power of the Holy Spirit and the obedience and faith of ordinary people. In the remaining days of the advent season, let's be encouraged by the simple but astonishing faith of a young woman. Why not meditate on Mary's response, on her humility and her willingness to participate in God's plan. Think about the truth that *nothing is impossible with God*.

The message of the Christmas story is constant and always with us. Of this much, we are sure. But it is also important that Jesus learn to be sure of *us*. We must let him recognize us when he comes this year. We must let him know who we really are and what our inmost hopes are. We need to learn again the humility of the Child of Bethlehem. And mo0st importantly - we need his Mother to teach us how to love - and how to be able to be loved back.

May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas! ¡Que tú y tu familia tengáis una muy Feliz Navidad! Mark Friedman CRE / OLG

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CLICK HERE for the Sponsorship Form for Eagle Walk

Please call the school office if you need a hard copy of the sponsorship form sent home.

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Our Lady of Grace School will follow Northwest Local District plans for any weather related school closings or delays. School closings and delays will be communicated by phone using the telephone number you reported to Option C. Any changes to your phone number should be changed by the parent in Option C and updated with your new information. OLG will not announce an early dismissal for snow. No students will be released to district transportation operating on an early dismissal for fear there will be no supervision at home when they arrive.

2 HOUR DELAY

There will be no AM buses to OLG from any district opening on time when OLG is on a 2 hour delay. In this situation, parents will have to provide their own transportation to school to accommodate the 10:00 a.m. start time.

- There will be AM buses to OLG from any district also opening on a 2 HOUR DELAY.
- There will be PM busing from all districts who are open (regardless of their start time)
- There will be no AM or PM busing from any district that is CLOSED.

Please contact your child care provider (including YMCA) to determine their policies and procedures for inclement weather.

CLOSED

• No school and no child care.

* Parents and guardians are the determinants of whether or not it is safe to transport students in their charge. Please exercise your own good judgment when determining if, when or how students will be transported in the event of inclement weather.

