

CELEBRATING OUR 8TH GRADERS

8th Grade Ring Ceremony: On Friday, November 30th, St. Mel's Catholic Academy celebrated the achievements and the bright future ahead for all of our 8th grade students! Lead by Fr. Sauer, the 8th graders listened to a touching homily about the never-ending love their parents have for them - a great sentiment for the Christmas season - followed by some words of encouragement from their Principal.

The honorees were also joined by their parents and family, as well as the first through seventh grade students and staff, the Ring Ceremony and Mass was a beautiful marker for our children. Thank you to the 7th grade parent volunteers who helped organize the great reception that followed!

December
Principal's Message

Don't forget to check on the St. Mel's website for this month's Message from the Principal!



Wildcat Weekly Update December 3, 2018

Looking Ahead:

Annual Christmas Market

Tuesday and Wednesday 12/4-5 (for all students)

Report Cards and Parent Teacher Night

Thursday, 12/6

Annual Tree Lighting

Friday, 12/7

St. Agnes Christmas Show - 5th-8th Grades

Wednesday, 12/12

Youth Rally - 6th-8th Grades

Tuesday, 12/18

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Principal Schneider's December Message

The Christmas Season, and Advent in particular, represents a time of hope, faith, joy, and peace. This time of the year always reminds me to not only remember how lucky I am, but to also keep in mind those who are less fortunate. I think back to my days as a student, completing my "required" service hours each month for school. Whether it was working towards confirmation, high school graduation, or college when it was self-driven, or even more recently when I was a chaplain with my students. Christmas is my favorite time to help others. I will do whatever the holiday season, and all the joy it comes with: family gatherings, delicious food, gifts under the tree, the Christmas Vigil Mass. But with these thoughts, always comes to me visions of those individuals who don't have families, a roof over their heads, a hot meal. I think of the homeless. I would love peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the men and women who would wait on the long benches here because they just couldn't make ends meet; the child who might not have a present. Christmas, meaning, it always makes me want to make that extra effort, especially for people who also might not be so wealthy or well.

For me, my faith is its deepest during Advent and Lent - with so much sacrifice, and celebration, how can we not take a moment to rejoice? A product of Jesus' education, I see God in all things, especially in the little moments throughout the day. I witness God through the 8th grade girls who bring me gorgeous drawings to decorate my office; in the tender interactions between the Early Childhood staff and the youngest members of our community; through the spirit our students exude in everything they do; in the laughter that rings through the halls; and the way in which we come together to hold each other up in times of grief. We recognize the true symbolism of Advent every day, but I see it becoming more and more so.

We often see Advent, Christmas this time of year filled with candles, songs, or gifts and cards. But the gift of Christmas doesn't need to be tangible. Christmas is already all around us. We are so fortunate to have each other, our families, our friends, and St. Mel's. This Advent Season, let us have an "Advent Calendar" of our own; reach out to someone in need, be it through volunteering your time or as simple as offering a smile in the hall, donate to one of the numerous drives the Lord. It may have originated, offer to help your teacher. Be the light of Christ for someone new every day this month, as you have been for me!