



Nazareth School

December 13, 2019

Dear Parents:

As we continue to celebrate the Core Value of Love this December, we focus on both the spiritual and social aspects of our lives. Through our Catholic traditions, we celebrate God's love for Mary and her love for Him and the Advent journey. Monday, we celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary at assembly and in our classrooms. Thursday, the 3rd grade students led our school in a beautiful prayer service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas. At each morning assembly, the students have shared the story of the Jesse Tree to remind us of the history of God's love for us. Next Wednesday, grades 3 – 8 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Friday of next week, our Mass will focus on the O Antiphons and our journey of faith.

Socially, this past week, the generosity of Nazareth Families was once again very evident as we gathered toys to be given to the Marine Corps' *Toys for Tots* under our newly decorated Christmas tree. The art work of our students has created a stunningly beautiful tree and the gifts from the students reflect our Core Value of Love. In case you were unable to share a gift this week, please note that we can still offer donations to the program on Monday. On a different social note as we prepare for Christmas, thank you to members of our PTG Board who so beautifully decorated the Courtyard. Thank you, as well, to the many parents who are assisting our teachers in special holiday projects. Today's 3rd grade Cookie Exchange activity continues a long tradition of sharing our memories of the holidays as well as the gift of love that goes into preparing them. Additionally, we continue to prepare for *Christmas at Nazareth*, our children's gift to their families and friends. Please note that in addition to the Thursday evening program, we have an encore presentation on Friday morning for extended family and friends. On Friday, we will dismiss at 11:55 and there is no after school care, so that the Staff can gather and celebrate the holiday.

While December may fill our calendars with spiritual and social activities, our classrooms are still actively engaging in academic pursuits. Last Friday was the mid-point in the 2nd Quarter; progress reports are included in the Family Envelope today. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's teacher(s) immediately.

It is truly a busy time, but as we prepare our gifts and the wonderful festivities of this season, it is important that we focus on that gift of Love that is the essence of Christmas.

Advent blessings,

Dr. Colleen Mauricio
Principal