



# Nazareth School

November 30, 2018

Dear Parents:

At Nazareth School, our Friday mornings are blessed with the opportunity to pray as a community. I think that the adults who regularly attend our Friday Masses agree that there is nothing more beautiful than to pray with the children. Our children bring to the sacred celebration of the Eucharist a sincere desire to draw closer to Jesus. They are blessed with the opportunity to proclaim the Word of God through Scriptural readings, lead the community in prayers of petition, and bring gifts to the altar. In order to foster that reverence for the liturgy, we need the support of our parent community. We ask that all parents model that reverence. If you would like to take pictures of your children while they are in the sanctuary, we ask that you do so before Mass when the students are practicing for their role in the liturgy. At the sign of peace, please help our children prepare for the reception of the Eucharist by maintaining a reverent and respectful calm throughout the church.

During the month of December, Nazareth School celebrates the Core Value of Love. Through our faith, we know that Christmas – the coming of Jesus to walk among us and to eventually die for us – is the ultimate gift of love. Our Toy Drive, Christmas at Nazareth and class celebrations help us to live this gift and practice God's command that we love one another. As we celebrate our weekly liturgies and the events of this month, we are able to live in the spirit of our faith and God's love.

This Sunday, we celebrate the beginning of Advent and the start of a new church year. At Morning Assembly, we will be lighting our Advent wreath and begin the prayers of anticipation and celebration for the coming feast of Christmas. In your time of family, you may want to ask your children to share what they are learning about Advent through our community prayers and their religion lessons. The following prayer is for Catholic families from the Dynamic Catholic Institute:

### *Advent Prayer for Families*

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love.  
Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent.  
As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son.  
Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you.  
Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you.  
Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

Lastly, a note of congratulations: For the first time, Mater Dei Catholic High School is recognizing two 7<sup>th</sup> grade students for outstanding Christian leadership. The recipients of this award are Ava Harris and Michael Walp. Ava and Michael will join 8<sup>th</sup> graders Catherine Farrell and Javier Orozco at a special luncheon at MDCHS next week. On behalf of our community, thank you to Ava, Michael, Catherine and Javier for their service and leadership. Congratulations to them and their families!

Blessings,

Dr. Colleen Mauricio, Principal