

November 22, 2011

Dear Madeleine Parents,

During the month of November, we remember the religious freedoms that the pilgrims sought in coming to America, celebrate with family and friends with huge turkey dinners, and pause to give thanks for blessings too often taken for granted—for the abundance around us, for the peace in our country and homes, for ample opportunities, and for one another. Most of all, we recognize that all good things come from a loving God and the many blessings He bestows on His people. Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to pause, reflect, and give Him praise!

The faculty and staff at School of the Madeleine wish you a *blessed Thanksgiving!*

THE BLESSINGS AT MADELEINE

This year, we have much to be thankful for at School of the Madeleine. As a school, we are financially stable and provide our students with many enrichment programs and educational materials to assure a solid educational curriculum. We are a strong Christian community focused on our most precious gifts—children and families. We have dedicated individuals on our Advisory Board, Parent Support Association, and Technology Board who work long and tedious hours for the benefit of the school. We have enthusiastic and professionally trained teachers and staff members who are committed to Catholic values and want to provide their students with the best education possible! We are grateful to the countless parents and volunteers who work hard to make Madeleine a wonderful school focused on the learning environment of our students. We appreciate Father Steve and Father John, who are devoted to Catholic education and spend long hours preparing for school liturgies. Our campus is one of the best for Catholic schools with a grass field, swings, basketball courts, U.S. map, and three play structures. We are proud of a first-class library, impressive computer lab, and a science lab that has a vast amount of materials and equipment that enhance the learning environment. I sincerely believe that the Lord has blessed School of the Madeleine with an abundance of gifts!

GIFT WRAP

Our gift wrap fundraiser has drawn to a close. However, you can continue to purchase **gift wrap on line**. This year the school **made \$11,199.00 (\$1,971.00 was online) on our gift wrap sales**. We have budgeted \$14,000.00 so please continue to buy on line. Gift wrap funds are used for library books and materials, recess equipment, educational materials, technology, teacher professional growth inservices, teacher aides, school marketing, and a host of other needs. For more details, please see the PSA budget. A big thanks goes to *Kate Vechinski* and *Michelle Karvounis*, who have organized and chaired this fundraiser.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays fast approaching, we would like to remind everyone to continue to **collect Box Tops** during this time of year. Keep an eye out for box top-related products when you are shopping during this holiday season. Our next collection period is set for February 6-10, 2012.

HALLOWEEN CANDY

School of the Madeleine collected **147 pounds** of Halloween candy. A representative from the Notre Dame Club picked up the candy on November 8. This candy was sent to Tijuana for children who have far less than most of our students. I thank all Madeleine families who generously participated in this donation.

OCTOBER CONTEST WINNERS

Attached to this newsletter you will find a list of winners of the Red Ribbon Week Coloring Contest, the Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest, and the Halloween Costume Contest. Congratulations to all the winning students!

THANKSGIVING LITURGY AND VACATION

Our Thanksgiving liturgy will be on **Wednesday, November 23** at 11:00 a.m. in our parish church. Our fifth graders will be doing the readings at Mass. This is a **minimum day** with dismissal at 12 Noon. Students will be dismissed from the church immediately following our Thanksgiving liturgy.

This year Thanksgiving vacation will begin with a **12:00 noon** dismissal on **Wednesday, November 23**. School will resume on **Monday, November 28**.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

This year, our school prepared Thanksgiving baskets for the Center for Community Solutions. This organization located in Pacific Beach helps women and families of domestic violence. We assembled 22 food baskets and distributed them on Friday, November 18. **Each basket included a turkey and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner.** This is a way for us to teach our children to share and to think of less fortunate individuals. **Thank you for your generosity!**

ADVENT BEGINS

Advent begins on **Sunday, November 27**. This is a special liturgical time of year when we prepare for the birth of our Savior. It is an opportunity to help our children appreciate God's love for each of us. You may wish to help your children experience the joy of the Advent season. Take time as a family to pray and prepare for the coming of our Savior. The tradition of lighting Advent candles and saying a prayer before the evening meal is a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent season.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be issued on **Wednesday, December 7**. This is the halfway point of the second quarter. All progress reports should be signed and returned to the teacher immediately. Please feel free to make an appointment for a conference with your child's teacher by calling the school office or by requesting a conference on the returned progress report. Encourage your children to work hard toward their established goals for this quarter.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Mark your calendar for our **annual Christmas programs**. I invite all parents from preschool through eighth grades to join in these celebrations of our Savior's birth. All pageants will be held in the parish hall. Again this year, **all Christmas performances will be during the school day**. This change occurred because of the many Advent activities scheduled in the evening by the parish. This will alleviate traffic and parking problems.

This year's schedule is as follows:

- Preschool performance** will be held on **Friday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m.**
- Kindergarten performance** will be held on **Thursday, December 8 at 2:00 p.m.**
- Grades 1-4 performance** will be held on **Friday, December 9 at 1:30 p.m.**
with a **concert by the school's band** beginning at **1:00 p.m.**
- Grades 5-8 performance** will be held on **Thursday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m.**

Doors will be opened for all performances 45 minutes before starting time. There is **no advanced reserving of seats** before any of our school performances. Parents who wish brothers or sisters to attend the kindergarten or preschool performances will have to sign them out at the office. Please write a note to their teacher informing them that they will be attending the sibling's performance. For the safety of everyone, any siblings attending any performances **must** be **SEATED** with their **PARENTS!** The students in first through eighth grades will attend each other's dress rehearsal. This will allow more seats for parents and grandparents! Thank you for your cooperation!

CHRISTMAS VACATION

Friday, December 16 is a minimum day. Students will be dismissed at 12 Noon from church. Christmas vacation this year will begin on **Monday, December 19**. We return to school on **Tuesday, January 3**.

ITBS TESTING RESULTS (GRADES 2-8)

Recently, Madeleine students took the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) along with other students in the Diocese. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills is a national achievement standardized test and is taken by children all across the nation. The main purposes of the ITBS are to provide the school with information that can be used to improve instruction and to help teachers make sound educational decisions about each student's learning. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills cover many of the fundamental skills your child is learning in school in the areas of reading, language, and mathematics. In addition, School of the Madeleine does testing in social studies, science, and sources of information.

The results from the ITBS will not be used to determine report card grades of students. Instead, teachers and the administration will use the results to monitor students' learning of some of the important skills taught in school. Scores from these tests cannot replace a teacher's observations and judgments but they can provide useful supplementary information for the teacher, the parent, and the student.

Students from second through eighth grades brought their Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) results home on **Monday, November 21**. This report explains how to read and interpret your child's scores. This test is used by the teachers and administration to assess strengths and needs of each student and our curriculum program.

DIOCESAN JUBILEE MASS

On Thursday, November 3, Bishop Robert Brom celebrated a Diocesan-wide Catholic School Jubilee Mass at Our Lady of Grace Parish in La Mesa. I want to thank the following students for representing us: **Tim Boggs, Mateo Valenzula, Cecilia Bacich, Helene Boggs, Matthew Rowland, Andrew Tran, Ivana Gilger, Calista Gilger, Gwen Snyder, and Danielle Boggs.**

TUITION ASSISTANCE

Applications for tuition assistance (TADS Program) for the 2012-2013 school year will be available the **first part of December** by downloading them from **www.tads.com/request**. You may also pick up directions and a worksheet from the school office. All applications must be mailed to the TADS Organization and be post-marked by **Monday, February 6**. It will take 6 to 8 weeks for this organization to return a report with their recommendations to us. Only second year kindergarten students or returning students in first through eighth grades whose families are in financial good standing with the school can apply. The amount of assistance is only determined on returning students to School of the Madeleine.

RE-REGISTRATION

Re-registration forms for returning students for the 2012-2013 school year will be mailed on **Monday, December 5**. All forms **must** be returned by **Monday, December 12** for your child to receive priority placement. Tuition rates for next year will be announced in February.

Applications for Madeleine families planning **to enroll sibling(s)** for the 2012-2013 school year (preschool through 7th grades) will also be available in the office on **Monday, December 5**. You may pick up these applications or you may call the school office to have one sent to you. These applications must be returned by **Thursday, December 15 to get priority placement**.

Our annual **Open House is on Sunday, January 8**. Applications for new students may be picked up at this time or down loaded from our website. Applications can be turned in starting on Monday, January 9. Only **applications with required documents and appropriate fees will be accepted**.

Success in keeping tuition increases low is dependent on successful fundraisers and parents donating their time and energy to the school. Therefore, securing your child's final placement for the 2012-2013 school year **is contingent** not only on full payment of tuition but also on completion of the fundraising commitment and service hours.

PROSPECTIVE NEW FAMILIES

As we plan for our open house and enrollment for the coming school year, we recognize that in the past, some of our **best families have come through referrals**. If you know of a family who has expressed interest in a Catholic education, please share that information with us. **Fill out the referral form attached to this newsletter**. A special effort will be made to invite them to our open house, offer them private tours during the school day, and help them through the application process. Our open house will be on **Sunday, January 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

RAINY DAY PROCEDURES

On rainy days, we always need extra parents for lunch duty to cover the classrooms. On these days, it is all right to just show up for supervision duty if you have completed the live scan, signed the Diocesan Code of Ethics, and viewed the safe school environment video. When you arrive on campus, sign in at the office and then report to the P.E. office and Coach O'Neal or Coach Stabile will give you a classroom assignment. Please remember that you will receive **two service points for lunch supervision**.

Please remember **that if it is raining hard at dismissal time**, you may **pick up your child early**. You do not have to check out at the office if you pick up your child after 2:30 p.m. This rainy day policy will help alleviate traffic, help small students stay dry, and will create a safer dismissal environment. We do encourage all parents to send their children to school with an umbrella on school days when rain is forecast. Raincoats with hoods are allowed on campus but are not to be worn in the classroom.

VETERANS' DAY FUNDRAISER

On Thursday, November 10, School of the Madeleine had a jean day to help support disabled veterans' located in the San Diego area. The school raised **\$610.00**. The money will be sent to the Naval Medical Center in San Diego and given to the Post Traumatic Stress Department. We thank all students and families who supported this fundraiser.

ENROLLMENT IN OUR CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

Parents of our eighth graders who are planning to enroll in local Catholic high schools should go to the website of that school for specific application information.

Request for transcripts for local Catholic high schools will not be sent out until after the first semester grades are recorded. Therefore, please do not turn in your request until January. Most high schools will request transcripts automatically. All requests should be sent directly to the office.

Yours in Christ,

Donna

Donna Wittouck

THANK YOU TO:

Mike Vinti – for donating water for the Halloween carnival.

Patty Aline – for a donation of books and art supplies.

Lisa & John Bolton – for a donation to 6th Grade Camp

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE!
NOVEMBER 22, 2011

MILK/JUICE ORDER REMINDER

The milk/juice order form for January, February and March is attached to this newsletter. Please be sure to send your order form to the office by Friday, **December 16th** deadline. Milk/Juice orders will not be accepted in January after the Christmas Vacation.

COLLECTION FOR CCSA

During the month of December St. Mary Magdalene Parish is asking for donations of First Aid Supplies: Band-Aids, Antibiotic Cream, Q-Tips and Cotton Balls. We ask that Madeleine families bring their donations to the school office or drop them off at rectory office between 8:00 am & 4:00 pm.

Library News

Our Book Fair was a big success! Thank you for your support! The Library was able to get some new books for our collection and there is also some money left over to purchase supplies. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who worked at the Fair. The time they gave was crucial in keeping our fair open during some very long hours. I also want to thank Pattie Estrada who coordinated the scheduling of our volunteers. She made sure we had coverage for our hours of operation. Thank you to everyone!! I truly appreciate all the time, energy and patience you put into our Book fair!

Diana Diliberto-Oldham

Book Fair

You can still shop the bookfair. Go <http://www.scholastic.com/schoolbookfairs/2876398> this link will be available until to Nov. 27th for online shopping.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been very busy. We had so much fun at the Halloween carnival. Thank you Room Moms for making it a success. We are preparing for Thanksgiving by learning about the First Thanksgiving. Now we are getting ready for our Thanksgiving Feast with our big buddies on November 21st. The kindergarteners will dress as Native Americans with vests made from paper bags, paper head dresses and beaded necklaces made from dyed noodles. The kindergartners had a lot of fun creating Indian costumes themselves. Their sixth grade big buddies will dress as pilgrims. Thank you kindergarten and sixth grade parents for all of your help preparing for our feast and donating food items so that needy families will have thanksgiving feasts as well.

In religion we learned about the Saints and their lives of Saints. Of course, the kindergartners also thought about what it means to be thankful. Thank you kindergarten parents for the fantastic conferences. It was wonderful getting to know all of you better.

Happy Thanksgiving from Kindergarten!!

1A/1B

It is hard to believe that our Thanksgiving holiday is here and Christmas vacation is just around the corner. In Social Studies, the children have studied about the journey of the Pilgrims, how they survived with the help of their Indian friends and celebrated in Thanksgiving for their new way of life in America. We are learning lots of new facts about different Indian customs and we ourselves are thankful for all of our blessings. We wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Second Grade News

November has been a busy month in second grade! In math, we are learning about place value. We continue to work on learning our addition and subtraction math facts. In religion, we are preparing for our First Reconciliation. We've been learning about the first Thanksgiving in social studies, and have been busy with various writing projects. We really had a great time on our field trip to the Reuben H. Fleet Science Museum. We are looking forward to our second grade Thanksgiving feast, which will be held in the classrooms on Tuesday, 11/22. We have so much to be thankful for, and we wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving!

3A and 3B News

We have been very busy in 3rd grade. We have done Thanksgiving art projects. We have learned connecting in cursive. In reading, we have learned syllables and compound words. We have learned subtraction in math. We have done a lot of spelling. In English, we have learned how to show ownership. We do fun math and spelling pages. Our Native American report is for social studies. We are reading fun, happy, and entertaining books in our reading book. We do a lot of work in third grade. Third grade is awesome!

Written by: Luke Scheper

4A and 4B

We can't believe that this year is almost over and that we will soon be fifth graders! We have been busy learning many new things. We are learning decimals in math and how to form correct sentences in English. We are learning about sound and light in science and about the growth of early California in social studies. We are looking forward to our Old Town field trip! We will dress up like a California historical figure and tour the many historical buildings.

5th Grade News

It's been another busy month in fifth grade! We continue to learn and be challenged in math, English, science, social studies, and reading, and we're really "getting in the groove", now that the second quarter has begun. We celebrated Thanksgiving as a class with a brunch, then celebrated liturgy as a school, with fifth grade in charge of preparing the readings and intercessions.

Thank you to all our parents for coming out to support our fifth graders at conferences.

Blessings to all our families for a beautiful holiday season!

6th GRADE NEWS

This month the 6th grade did some fun and exciting activities, like the 2011 Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks very much to families who donated such awesome books to the classroom! In Religion class we had a guest speaker, Mrs. Bacich from our parish, to talk about the new parts and words of the Mass and the reasons for the changes. We also are learning about the Exodus, when Moses led the Hebrews from Egypt to freedom. 6B did a play for 6A about the burial of a pharaoh in ancient Egypt. We got our first report cards and are making goals for next quarter. We met with our little buddies for a Thanksgiving feast. Sixth grade dressed up as Pilgrims and kindergarten dressed up as Indians. It was lots of fun. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

-Written by Jesse Matthews, Jacob Jackson, and Jason Misleh-

Greetings from 7A & 7B

As Thanksgiving draws near, we are reminded just how lucky we are and how we have a lot for which to be thankful. We thank our parents for all they do for us. Thank you for being so generous to us each and every day. We particularly want to thank all of our parents for making our Halloween Carnival so much fun! Thank you to all the students who donated cleats and sneakers and other equipment to Nativity Prep. We received a thank you note from them stating how much they appreciate our generosity. Our collection for Nativity Prep is on going; so when ever we change sports and you out grow your shoes, bring them in to Mrs. Alves. Also, thank you to our 7th grade families for donating to our Thanksgiving Basket collection.

In our academics we are very busy. In Social Studies we have been working on our African country reports. We are reading a mystery novel in Literature and discovering what elements make a good suspense novel. In Science Fair we have started our experiments (well most of us have!) and we are trying to type up each component as we do it. In Computer lab we learned how to generate a computerized data table and are working on Excel graphing for our Science Fair data. In Science we are learning about the basic needs that all living things share as well as how scientists classify organisms. In Religion we finished our study of the Blessed Trinity with the Holy Spirit. We are currently learning about the changes in the new Roman Missal and what to expect at Mass. We are excited for these new prayers that begin the first Sunday of Advent. Our field trip to USD to visit Founders Chapel and the Immaculata was amazing. We thank Dr. Babka for sharing her knowledge with us. We learned so much! We wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving.

8th Grade News

The 8th grade has been very busy for the first few months of the school year. We have been working continuously on our art projects, "Concentric Circles," and our Science Fair projects. We also have finished our Knights of Columbus essays. Our 8th Grade sports teams have done extremely well, with the football team going undefeated in the regular season. The girls' volleyball team had a good season as well. Our first quarter came to a close three weeks ago, and our awards assembly was last Friday. We also got to visit our Little Buddies in 2nd Grade a few times over the last several months. The 8th Grade wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! God Bless.

WRITTEN BY DOMINIC VINTI AND CONNOR LANCE

Ladies' Club invites you to join us in celebrating the holiday season at Pizza Nova in Point Loma, 5050 North Harbor Dr. Thursday, December 1st 6:00-9:00 pm.

RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 29th to Robyn Scherer : r2scherer@cox.net. Please bring a wrapped gift for the gift exchange! \$20 limit...Always a great time! Members \$30. Non-Members \$35

MILK/JUICE ORDER – JANUARY, FEBRUARY, & MARCH

The milk/juice orders for January, February, and March will be collected at one time. If you wish your child to receive milk/juice starting Tuesday, January 3rd, please complete the order form below and return to the classroom by **Monday, December 12th.**

Please return the lower half of this form to the classroom with your child’s name, grade and each month’s selection marked. Also, please remind your child each month of their selection (milk or juice).

Please make checks payable to the School of the Madeleine.

The cost for each selection is \$.65.

- January: \$.65 x 19 days.....\$12.35
- February: \$.65 x 19 days.....\$12.35
- March: \$.65 x 20 days.....\$13.00
- Total for all three months:.....\$37.70

If you have any questions regarding the orders, please call Julia Donley at (858)352-6255.

JANUARY MILK/JUICE ORDER

STUDENT	GRADE	CHOC	MILK	JUICE

FEBRUARY MILK/JUICE ORDER

STUDENT	GRADE	CHOC	MILK	JUICE

MARCH MILK/JUICE ORDER

STUDENT	GRADE	CHOC	MILK	JUICE

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				LADIES CLUB MEETING 6th Gr. Cookie Dough Delivery 12:00-6:00 pm	Singing Practice 11:20 am Preschool Christmas Program 10:-00-11:30 am Minimum Day	Feast of St. Francis Xavier
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2nd Sunday in Advent	Re-registration & Madeleine Family Registration Begins		Progress Reports K-8 Hot Lunch	Immaculate Conception Mass 11:00 am Kindergarten Christmas Program 2:00-2:45 pm	Band Concert 1:00-1:20 pm Gr. 1-4 Christmas Program 1:30 pm	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Re-registration Due	Newsletter PSA Board Mtg. 5:30 pm		Madeleine Family (siblings) Re-registration Due Gr. 5-8 Christmas Program 1:30-2:45 pm	Mass 11:00 am Minimum Day Staff Christmas Luncheon	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Christmas Vacation					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Christmas Vacation					
<i>Christmas Day</i>		Feast of St. John				New Year's Eve
30	31					



www.MadeleineMainEvent.com

Madeleine
Main Event
Saturday March 3rd,
2012
The Hard Rock Hotel

What's Going On?

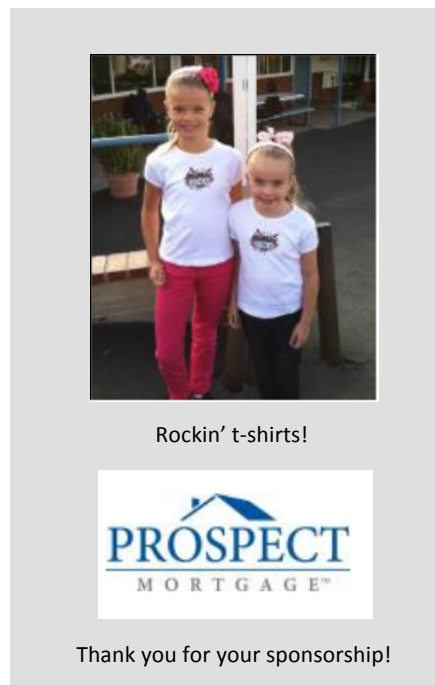
Tickets On Sale Now!

Go to www.MadeleineMainEvent.com and purchase your ticket today! Buy your ticket before 3pm on December 15th and you are automatically entered into a drawing for a FREE Night At The Hard Rock Hotel the night of the event! Go to the website to buy tickets, donate items and you will also be able to view the list of the auction items prior to the auction!

Dream On

We need your donations to make the auction a success! The following are some item suggestions, all items welcome! Ask friends/businesses to help. We also need contributions of wine (\$20+) for our wall of wine. Drop off items at school office any time or at drop off /pick up the 1st Thursday of each month in Dec/Jan/Feb. Thank you!

- * Airline Miles/time shares
- * Restaurant Certificates
- * VIP Passes
- * Tickets to concerts/sporting events
- * Summer Camps
- * Wine Tasting
- * Sponsorship



Rockin' t-shirts!



Thank you for your sponsorship!

Kind and Generous

thank you for the auction items we have receive so far....

VIP Backstage Passes to The Summer X-Games! * 5 nights at private home in **Big Sky Montana** Donors: Hopper Family
 * **Private Chef Dinner** or home cooking class for 6 plus babysitting Donors: Flores Family and Chef Gabriel Chatten
 Flores * **Wine** - Donors: Anfuso & Sebastiani families * One Night Stay and Breakfast for Two at **The Lodge at Torrey Pines**
 Donor The Fullen Family * One night in a **Private Villa** at Hyatt Grand Champions * Dinner for four at Bertrand at Mister A's
 * **Skate Board Package** Donors: Route 44 – The Ohlin Family * Heart 4 Heart Girls Donor: Mendy Cady * **Silpada**
 Gift Certificate Donor: Casey Sprague * Area Rug -Donor: Coles Fine Flooring * 2 night stay at **Montelucia Resort**
 * Islands Restaurants Gift Certificates * In-Office **Teeth Whitening** Donor: Bankers Hill Dental/Gallipeau-Vasquez Family
 * **Hair Cut** – Tanglez Salon * \$200 Bottle Service at U31 * **Mr. Benjamin's** Cotillion * **Art Camps** at Spanish Village Art
 * USAFMA Martial Arts Lessons * Chiropractic/**Massage** gift baskets (3) From Dr. Paul Marsh * One Week **Summer Baseball Camp**
 Donor: Brickyard Cages/The Allred Family * Multiple sets of CaliBowls * Gift Certificate to The Belly Up Tavern
 * Viejas Gift Basket * 1 Month **Ballet Classes** and 1 week Summer Dance Camp at California Ballet School * **Solid Rock**
 Gym Passes * Flip Force **Birthday Party** for 12 Kids * **GoCar Tours** Gift Certificates * Tecolote Canyon **Golf** Course Complimentary
 Green Fees for Four * Cabot Vermont Gift Basket * Six Free Games of **Laser Tag** at UltraZone * CostCo gift certificate * Cabot Vermont
 Gift Basket * Long Island Mike's **Pizza** * Waived Initiation Fee to **The University Club** * 1 night stay at The Bay Club * Pink Calyx
Jewelry certificate * **Zoo** Tickets * Autographed Children's **Books** * 1 night stay at **The Hard Rock Hotel**, San Diego Donor: Cindy Bayless
 * Golf for four at The Coronado Golf Course * Jacobs & Spadea Pearl Necklace * San Diego Padres baseball game **Dugout seats** * **with more to come....**

Christmas Wreath Sale



Sponsored by:

ST. MARY MAGDALENE YOUTH MINISTRY

Saturday, December 3rd – Sunday, December 4th

For one weekend only the youth group will be selling
Beautiful Fresh-Cut 24" Wreaths for \$25.00.
Please help support the teens and place your pre-order today.
All proceeds go directly to youth activities and events!

Wreaths will be available for pick-up after ALL masses
Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th.

Pre-Order Form:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Number of wreaths: _____

Check#: _____ Pay at Pick-Up (please check) _____

Call the Youth Office to order your wreath or
return this form and payment to the church rectory:
St. Mary Magdalene Youth Office, 1945 Illion St., San Diego, CA 92110
Questions: Jenny LaRaia 619-276-6814



DECEMBER

Sunday Gospel Readings and Questions for home reflection:

Gospel December 4, 2011

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ (the Son of God). As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" John (the) Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Questions for Adults:

During this busy time of the year, how much time do we spend shopping compared to the amount of time we "prepare for the Lord?"

What 2 changes could you make in your life in order to prepare to celebrate the Lord's coming?

Questions for Children:

How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus?

Having heard today's Gospel, think of something that you could do during Advent to prepare the way for Jesus?

Gospel December 11, 2011

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light....And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites (to him) to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Questions for Adults:

Your baptism calls you to live what kind of life? How can you learn to be a witness to Jesus in everyday life? What are some ways we can model the humility of John the Baptist?

Questions for Children:

What did John the Baptist say when they asked about the baptisms that he was performing? Why is John the Baptist an important role model for us?

Gospel December 25, 2011

John 1:18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

Questions for Adults:

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Christ. As John puts it, "the Word became flesh." What does it mean to say that Christ is the "Word" and the "light"? How does this event, the Incarnation, change our life?

Questions for Children:

We get many gifts at Christmas, think of how great a gift God gave us when He sent us Jesus. Why is the gift of Jesus Christ the most important gift we could ever receive?

Gospel December 18, 2011

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your Word." Then the angel departed from her.

Questions for Adults:

How do you recognize when Jesus is asking you to help somebody? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you reach out to someone in a difficult situation this week.

Questions for Children:

How did the angel greet Mary? What did the angel tell Mary? Why was Mary's answer to the angel so special?