

Ferd Words:



The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



For: Dec. 9 - Dec. 15, 2022



THIS WEEK: St Nick and Christmas Trees!

OUR 3RD ANNUAL ST. NICHOLAS EVENT - WAS A SMASHING SUCCESS! Thank you to Norbert Garzynski and his son Christian, SFS '19, for providing St. Nick, his sleigh, and the beautiful backdrop for pictures - and to Parent Club for providing the perfect snacks of cookies and hot chocolate to go along with the festive event!

OOH! THOSE TREES! St. Ferdinand School AND Chapel are beyond beautiful as wonderfully lit and decorated Christmas trees adorn the sanctuary, light up the school hallways, and festively welcome all at the School Office Entrance and into the Activity Center! Many thanks to our moms of students of all ages who added this beauty to our days: Ewa Stozynska, Milada Chlubnova, Crystal Velasquez, Marian Acevedo, Arelis Martinez, and Sandra Rodriguez.



SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS! We would love to hang up our Ferd Families' Christmas cards on the School Office door! Please send one in to us, whether a photo card or not. 😊

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE FEAST DAY SCHOOL MASS - Monday, December 12
@ 8:15 AM**



*ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE AUTHENTIC MEXICAN CLOTHING ARE WELCOME TO DRESS IN THAT CLOTHING THAT DAY (or change after Mass into uniforms) AND WILL BE PART OF THE OPENING PROCESSION IN WHICH STUDENTS WILL PRESENT FLOWERS TO THE IMAGE OF OUR LADY.
Please join us for our last School Mass together before Christmas.*

Queen of Hearts Raffle now at the Nest: *The St. Ferdinand School Queen of*

Hearts Raffle has returned! We have partnered with the Nest in hosting the raffle – Drawing will be held there every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00PM (winner does not need to be present). **Our next drawing is**

Wednesday, December 14 – @ 7:00 PM – Come join us! IF YOU BUY A

TICKET ON 12/14 AT THE NEST, YOU GET 10% OFF YOUR ORDER!

Queen of Hearts Tickets (\$5 each) are on sale at the Nest Bar & Eatery (6859 W. Irving Park Road), after the 8:30 Mass on non-holiday Sundays, and in our School Office during school hours.

The Jackpot currently is \$6,100+ and growing – purchase your ticket for your chance at 50% of the jackpot!!



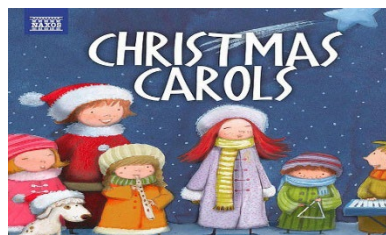
12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE! - Quickie fundraiser for December!

\$5 raffle tickets can earn you a chance to win one of 12 daily prizes as we head toward Christmas Break! Half the jackpot, \$100 off of Tuition for a month, Dennis Uniform gift card, Stocking filled with treats, etc., - all are up for the winning and all WELL worth the \$5 chance per ticket! Envelopes went home Thursday with 10 tickets in each – why not return anything from 1 to all 10 for your chance to win these great prizes?!?!? DRAWINGS CONTINUE THRU TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 – TURN IN YOUR TICKETS TO WIN PART OF THE FUN TODAY!!!



SEE YOU AT THE CHRISTMAS SHOW MONDAY! Students may start

entering the building at 6:30, the school day and head to their to the Chapel after dropping their 7:00 PM.



using the doors they enter in for classrooms. Parents may proceed students off. The show will start at

Congratulations, December Raffle Winners! The winners of our monthly school raffle drawing for December were as follows:



First Place: Corrie Rettelle (Ticket 2992)
2nd Place: Paul Jankowski (Ticket 1641)
3rd Place: Carmen Alcozer (Ticket 104); Diego Nunez (Ticket 2378); Tito Garcia (Ticket 1269)

Congratulations! Our next drawing will be in January ... so if you haven't returned your ticket stubs yet, make sure to do so to be included in January's drawing!



This Photo by

FREE BREAKFAST @ FERD's! – We are already blessed to have FREE LUNCH for all of our Ferd students, ALL students are eligible to receive a FREE cold breakfast (cereal, granola bars, pop tarts, etc., plus a beverage)! **Those in Morning Extended Care will automatically receive their breakfast as part of the morning**

supervision and activities – but any student who would like a breakfast can enter the MAIN ENTRANCE between 7:15-7:45 AM daily to be directed to the breakfast-only room.

FUNDRAISERS 2022-23: Just a quick update on this. **This year,**

we are looking to meet designated school budget funding to be raised primarily from profits raised by 2 MAIN EVENTS: a Parent-Only Dinner/Fun Night Out/Auction in early February and a Color Run Fun Run for the students in the Spring! Other



than that, we will not be promoting a lot of sales of “things” for profit like our former Christmas Candle or chocolate bar sales. ***Instead, we are trying to offer chances at extra cash (monthly St. Ferd's Drawing, Holiday Quick Raffles – a “12 Days of Christmas-themed” one is out now – and the Queen of Hearts) and helpful ways to make families' lives easier, like dinners out at Dine-and-Shares and the Christmas Gift Card Program.*** Please know that we never expect everyone to donate to everything – please, pick and choose what you can afford/what interests you and/or helps out your family the most. **Our goal in choosing and promoting fundraisers is to reward/help our families out while still keeping St. Ferdinand School healthy financially. THANK YOU for your generous support in whichever way/s you choose to additionally monetarily help our school.**



Amazon Smiles - If you do any online shopping, please log in through Smile.Amazon.com and choose *St. Ferdinand School & Convent* as your organization of choice! Amazon will donate .5% of the money you spend to our school! Please share this information with family and friends!

Illnesses/Absences from School - illnesses/absences from school must be reported to the school no later than 9:00 AM the day of absence. will be absent by calling the office or



Just a reminder, all be reported to the school no later than 9:00 AM the day of absence. Please notify the school if your child is absent by emailing absent@saintferdinand.org



☹️ PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO CONSTRUCTION DELAYS, AND AS EXPLAINED IN THE SCHOOL MESSENGER BLAST THAT WENT OUT ON FRIDAY EVENING FROM OUR ARCHDIOCESAN VICARIATE DIRECTOR RAY COLEMAN, OUR PICK-UP SCHEDULE WILL CONTINUE THROUGH CHRISTMAS BREAK ☹️

REMINDER: – Pick-up along Mason Avenue at staggered times during gym roof construction **MUST BE FOLLOWED!**

I know we are ALL fed up with the construction delays, but your cooperation is tantamount to this procedure working as well as it did the first few weeks! PLEASE PARK ONLY AT YOUR CHILD'S DESIGNATED DISMISSAL TIME, COLLECT YOUR CHILD DURING HIS/HER 5-MINUTE WINDOW TIME, AND LEAVE THE PARKING SPACE QUICKLY SO ANOTHER PARENT OF AN OLDER CHILD CAN TAKE IT. We all look forward to being able to visit with other families in the back parking lot, and not having to be rushed in the process. Your cooperation, flexibility, and patience are much appreciated!

REMINDER: Please label your child's uniform with his/her name – especially the sweatshirts and zip-up sweaters – as we are amassing quite a collection of unlabeled pieces in the Ferd Lost-and-Found left behind in classrooms and the gym when kids get too warm!



CELL PHONES, iPads from home, and APPLE WATCHES, oh my!

We'll be collecting them each day from Students in Grades 4th-8th, as we did before COVID. This is to ensure that the proper chain of command is well, in that teachers and office staff are contact to parents about the situation. It is tempting to do through Internet access and Students receive their devices back at the end of the school day, and are allowed to depart, as per the specifications of their homeroom teachers. Students caught with cell phones that have not been turned in in the mornings



kept in place when students don't feel aware and remain the first point of also a measure against cheating that is texting through Apple Watches.

will have them confiscated until a parent can pick up the devices and pay a \$25 fine. *Thank you* for your cooperation with this procedure.

COVID Protocol Policy Remains the Same: Last winter, the Archdiocese of Chicago released a letter stating that mask-wearing would be optional in its schools. This is in accordance with changes to Chicago and Illinois masking policies. However, because Covid is still prevalent, there will be times when masks may be necessary for the protection of all students in a classroom, especially when social distance guidelines cannot be maintained for an extended period of time and sickness or a case of COVID breaks out in a classroom. Therefore, we ask that students keep a mask handy in their backpacks at all times to be worn during such situations. Know that we are continuing to distance children at lunchtime, do not permit direct drinking from water fountains but only from water bottles, and still sanitize eating surfaces and hands *many* times throughout the school day. If your child comes down with COVID, do relay that to the School Office ASAP. We will receive and relay back to you the Archdiocese and CDC “official” 5-days quarantine dates + 5 days returning masked protocol based on onset of symptoms and positive test date. Notes of COVID cases in the school and within a homeroom will still be issued. Of course, we encourage all children and families to get vaccinated and boosted; it is, however, at this point optional to share vaccination/booster status with the School Office, where it is kept in confidential files. It is the hope of the St. Ferdinand Administration, Staff, and Faculty that we can continue to mitigate the spread of Covid and keep our school community healthy by adhering to these practices and having students/staff don masks when needed. **THANK YOU** so much for your cooperation through the ever-changing COVID situation in the Chicagoland and St. Ferdinand School communities.



Box Tops for Education- BoxTops for Education is now online! Instead of traditional clips, there is now a BoxTops app where you **scan your receipt** for credit to be awarded to the school. More information can be found at <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> or in the included links.



IMPORTANT DATES

Mon., Dec 12	8:15 School Mass for Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mitten Tree Social Outreach Program continues! 12 Days of Christmas Raffle continues – get your tickets in!
Tues., Dec 13	Big Shoulders Christmas Caroling Day @ Ogilvie Station for Children’s Choir Members

Mon., Dec 19 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT! 7:00 PM (in classrooms starting at 6:30)

Tues., Dec 20 PAJAMA DAY! LAS POSADAS PROCESSION in SPANISH CLASSES!
LAST DAY TO BRING IN MITTENS, HATS, & SCARVES FOR MITTEN TREE
CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS AT 3:00 PM! 😊

Wed., Dec 21-Tues, Jan 3 CHRISTMAS VACATION! 😊😊😊

Wed., Jan. 4 Classes Resume – 1st Wednesday Early Dismissal 1:45-2:00