

**St. Rocco
School**

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

**THURSDAY
PACKET**

Weekly Parent Newsletter



A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parents,

This Sunday we enter the season of Advent with open hearts looking to embrace this special time before Christmas. Advent marks the beginning of the new liturgical calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.



The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize the virtues of hope, love, joy and peace. The fifth candle, lit on Christmas, is the Christ candle and is a reminder to all of us of the light that Jesus brings to the world.

Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man. - Pope Francis

Pope Francis has designated 2024 as a "Year of Prayer" to begin with Advent. The Pope has emphasized that a particular focus be on praying the "Our Father".

*Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.*

Within the walls of St. Rocco School, the Advent season is paramount to our preparations leading up to Christmas. The front of the school, the foyer, Café Rocco, and the classrooms will be lit up with Advent wreaths, lights, and nativity scenes. Our morning Advent prayers will be a daily reminder to our school community of the season. As asked by the Pope, we will be praying the "Our Father" each morning as well. There will be no doubt that we are preparing our hearts and minds for Christ's coming.

There are so many Advent traditions that can be shared within a family. I encourage you to take time this Advent season to prepare as a family and create your own Advent traditions that will carry on year after year.

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD" Isaiah 40:3

Please join us at our First Friday Mass tomorrow at 8:45. It is the 6th Grade Mass and the 7th Grade will be presenting the Virtue of "Thankfulness" after the liturgy.

Moving in a different direction...

Our first trimester has ended. Report cards will be posted to your child's e-locker on Plus Portal December 7th. I am so proud of our teachers and students for all their hard work so far this year. Please make sure that your children continue to work hard and complete all their school assignments during the second trimester. If your child did not perform their best

in the first trimester, help them to set some goals for the second trimester and make a plan to achieve them. Working hard toward a goal is the perfect way to plant the seeds of responsibility, resilience, and perseverance in children.

In preparing for the winter months ahead, "Blizzard Folders" (orange) will be sent home with students in grades PreK 3-Grade 5 next Thursday. These folders contain information explaining the use of the "Blizzard Folder" on inclement weather (ex. snow days) or emergency closing days. Each grade teacher will include several days' work to complete should there be a snow day or other emergency out day. Students in Grades 6-8 will be sent home with their Inclement Weather/Emergency Closing Policy. Please store this information in a safe place in case it is needed. These policies can be found on the website as well.

Coming up...

Good luck to all our 8th Grade students who will be taking the High School Placement Test on December 2nd and December 9th

Next week is the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Friday (12/8) at 9:00 am. It is the St. Rocco School Honor Society Mass and 6th Grade will be presenting the virtue of "Courage" at the conclusion of the liturgy.

Blessings to you and your families this holy Advent Season....

Respectfully,

Regina M. Hand/Principal

A Note from Sister Daisy -

To My Family at St. Rocco's School:

"Everything happens for a reason. You may not see it now, but sooner or later, God will reveal why He let things happen. Always remember that his way is better than our way. His will is beyond our will. Put your trust in him."

I would like to thank everyone for your support, care, concern, love, and above all - your valuable prayers. I felt the power of your prayers each day. I am getting better each day and I can't wait to see you all. Please continue to pray for my recovery. I also would like to thank those who sent cards, care packages, and goodies. May God bless you all and keep you under His tender loving care.

I wish you all a Blessed Advent season.

Love,

Sister Daisy Kollamparmpil



The David M. DeCosta Memorial Scholarship

During the 2021-2022 school year, St. Rocco School was blessed to have Mr. David DeCosta join our school family as our Art Teacher as well as a willing substitute for any grade. Tragically, Mr. DeCosta died in September of 2022 from Glioblastoma. While he was only in our school for a short time, he made a huge and lasting impact. He was known for his kindness, positive attitude, creative energy, and always-present smile.

This year after the Opening Mass for Catholic Schools' Week, four ½ tuition scholarships will be given to students who will be in Grades 5-8 for the 2024-2025 school year and who had Mr. DeCosta as a teacher. The application and criteria for eligible students is being sent home in today's Thursday Packet. All applications are due January 3rd.

Friendly Reminders:



Ordering Lunch ~ Lunch is \$3.50. If ordering an extra entrée it is an additional \$2.00. Please place the payment in an envelope clearly labeled: LUNCH MONEY, your child's name/HR and lunch choice. You may also choose to prepay for the week only. We cannot guarantee their lunch choice after 8:45AM. If your child will be late, please call the office to let us know if he/she is purchasing lunch. Thank you!

Lunch Menu: The Monthly Lunch Menus can be found on the SRS website: Go into Parent's Page dropdown, Click on For Your Child, Click Monthly Menus and choose the month you need. Thank you to one of our parent's for letting us know it was not easy to find!



Breakfast: Breakfast is served from 7:45-8:00 am. The cost is \$2.50. If your child is receiving breakfast, please have them inform the teacher on duty at Café Rocco as soon as they get in, so that they can receive their breakfast asap.

Aftercare Reminder: Please address any concerns with your bill promptly.



Monthly Dress Down Passes: Each month throughout the school year, St. Rocco School will be offering special dress down passes for the month. You may purchase the monthly passes for DECEMBER ~ Mondays only for the cost of \$5.00. Deadline for December Passes is November 21st. Please place the money in a clearly labeled envelope with the required form your child's name, grade, along with your payment. (Checks ONLY)



Spiritwear: Looking for a great Christmas gift? How about a St. Rocco's sweatshirt for your child, grandparent, aunt or uncle? We have plenty of sizes in stock, but they won't last! Please contact the office and we'll get them ready for you for the holidays!

St. Rocco's Angela Moore bracelets. Regular price \$50.00 on sale for \$30.00. Great gift for moms, grams, aunts, SRS students! Send a note to the School Office.



Feinstein Golden Ticket

Don't forget to follow The Feinstein Foundation on Facebook. There you will find winning Golden Ticket numbers, Jr. Scholar news, and much more!

<https://www.facebook.com/feinsteinfoundation.org>

Community Outreach Programs



St. Rocco School Annual Food Drive

St. Rocco School began its Food Drive, that will continue throughout the school year. Donations will be accepted throughout the year. All food items collected will be donated to families in need within our community.

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one -Mother Teresa

ST. ROCCO SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

Where our Children always come first!

Family Christmas Party - December 1 at the Cranston Country Club

- Dress is Festive Sunday Best
- Photos from Photographer will be available for purchase.
- Digital Photo Booth will be there to download digital photos!
- We are looking forward to a great event with all of you!



Santa Shop - December 4-6 in school at Café Rocco

The Info. Packet and Shopping Envelope were in last week's Thursday Packet

- If you would like to volunteer to help during the event, please reach out to the office. Thanks!

Class Shopping Schedule is as follows:

Time	Monday (12/4)	Tuesday (12/5)	Wednesday (12/6)
8:30am – 9:00am	7 th Grade	PK4A	8 th Grade
9:00am – 9:30am	K	5 th Grade	4 th Grade
9:30am – 10:00am	2 nd Grade	PK3	PK4B
10:00am – 10:30am	1 st Grade	Follow ups	Last Call
12:30pm – 1:00pm	3 rd Grade	Follow ups	Last Call
1:00pm – 1:30pm	6 th Grade	Follow ups	Last Call

If you would like to volunteer to help during the course of the event, please reach out to Shay Jenkins-Hernandez, shayanna38@gmail.com or Maria Cassisi, maria_cassisi@hotmail.com. We are looking for volunteers for Checkout, Shopping and Wrapping at any of the times above! We are also looking for help with set up and breakdown. Thanks!

Classroom News

Hello from Middle School Social Studies – Mrs. Meg Reitz

As we continue to learn history in our classes, we are also learning to think like historians. What can we learn from our past that will help us in the future? It turns out, quite a lot in Middle School!



In **Sixth Grade Social Studies**, we are focused on ancient civilizations. The study of ancient civilizations refers specifically to the first settlements and communities that will become the basis for later states, nations, and empires. So far, we have studied Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent, the ancient city of Sumer. Next, we will begin our study of ancient Egypt. It is a vast and wonderful world to introduce to the students! They enjoy learning about each culture, each form of writing and language (or lack thereof!) each religion and all their amazing discoveries. From fire to the wheel to the domestication of plants and animals, each civilization advanced their society in different ways.

Seventh grade is a continuation of United States history. We begin with reviewing the early explorers and settlements and move directly into the early years of the colonists and their unhappiness with King George III and his continued rule over them. We watch as this unhappiness turns into protest and, ultimately, rebellion in the form of the Revolutionary War. We study our young country and the Declaration of Independence. It was an exciting but scary time in our history. As we move along, we will study the Civil War, and the many challenges that all Americans faced with this turmoil within our own country.



In **Eighth grade**, we have finished the Civil War and will be moving onto the late 1800's and early 1900's. This was a huge time of change for our country. The Transcontinental Railroad changed the way we traveled, the assembly line changed the way we worked, and immigration changed the face of our nation. Each new change brought both blessings and hardships with them which we delve into further. We move into the development of new laws to make sure that our country can sustain itself with big business.

It has been a great year so far with all students bringing their curiosity and enthusiasm to each class!

Middle School Religion – Mrs. Meg Reitz



In **Sixth Grade Religion**, we focus on the Old Testament. The Old Testament teaches us the ancestry of Jesus from the very beginning, starting with Abraham. We follow Abraham's path as we see the Divine Providence of God. We meet many people along the way! The students are enjoying the biblical stories. We will have the Jesse Tree again this year in the classroom. A Jesse Tree is a way of preparing for Advent by journeying through the stories of the ancestry of Jesus. As we decorate the tree, we learn how God prepared for the birth of Jesus to be born as our Savior!

In **Seventh Grade Religion**, we are focusing on the New Testament and the life of Jesus and his mission. Jesus was Prophet, King, and Priest. Jesus accepted his mission as Messiah at his baptism and was faithful to it during his temptation. We are continuing to study the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



In **Eighth Grade Religion**, we are preparing for the beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation. This is truly a pleasure to teach! The students are learning the Precepts of the Church as well as the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Next, we will learn the Marks of the Church, One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. This is an



Mrs. Abjornson's Little Turkeys!







Basketball Practice Schedule

<p>Junior Boys</p> <p>Monday 4:00-5:30</p> <p>Wednesday 4:00-5:30</p>	<p>Middle School Boys</p> <p>Wednesday 2:30-4:30</p> <p>Friday 4:00-5:45</p>	<p>Middle School Girls</p> <p>Monday 2:30-4:00</p> <p>Friday 2:30-4:00</p>
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Cheerleading Practice will be on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 pm.

After School Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Friends of Jesus</p> <p>Postponed until Further Notice</p> <p>Thank you for your Prayers for Sr. Daisy</p> 	<p>Strings/Violin Lessons</p> <p>Grades K-4 2:35pm-3:15pm 5-8 3:15pm-4:00pm</p> <p>Instructor: Mrs. Rachdouni</p> 	<p>Dance Program</p> <p>Grades K-4 2:35pm-3:30pm</p> <p>Instructor: Miss Denise</p> 	<p>Newspaper Club</p> <p>Grades 6-8 2:35pm-4:00pm</p> <p>Advisor: Mrs. Scotti</p> 	

December Activity Calendar

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| <p>Friday, December 1st</p> <p>Friday, December 1st</p> <p>Saturday, December 2nd</p> <p>Mon. – Thurs. Dec. 4th ~7th</p> <p>Wednesday, December 6th</p> <p>Friday, December 8th</p> <p>Wednesday, December 13th</p> <p>Wednesday, December 13th</p> <p>Friday, December 15th</p> <p>Thursday, December 21st</p> <p>Friday, December 22nd</p> | <p>First Friday Mass – 8:45 am</p> <p>Family Christmas Party – 6:00-9:00 pm/Cranston CC</p> <p>High School Placement Test/Make up Dec. 9th</p> <p>Christmas Shop</p> <p>Dress Down Day - \$1.00 – Adopt A Family</p> <p>Immaculate Conception Mass – 9:00 am</p> <p>Early Childhood Christmas Program – 9:00 am Café Rocco</p> <p>Christmas Program Gr 1-8 - 6:00 pm in Church</p> <p>Dress Down \$1.00 – Keep the Heat on -Wear Red</p> <p>11:30 am Dismissal – NO AFTERCARE</p> <p>Winter Vacation Begins</p> |
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Please follow us on Instagram @ [saintroccoschool](https://www.instagram.com/saintroccoschool) for updates and photos!
 Also, don't forget to regularly visit our website www.stroccoschool.org for important information and updates.

*Thankfulness - O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.
 1 Chronicles 16:35*

CHRIST is the reason for this school.
~in our minds, on our lips, and always in our hearts~