



St. Stanislaus Kostka School

"Do not walk through time without leaving worthy evidence of your passage." Saint John XXIII

Mrs. Lori Hodder
Principal

www.sskschool.org
732-254-5819

"We can do hard things."

December 2, 2021

Dear St. Stanislaus Kostka Families,

So, we have begun the countdown to Christmas! Advent began this past weekend, and we are preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus! Included in this electronic white envelope you will find an Advent daily at-home activity calendar to help celebrate this liturgical season with your families. Upcoming events are listed below.

- ✓ Dec. 3 – First Friday Mass/8th Grade Ring Ceremony (student's only)
- ✓ Dec. 3 – Christmas Tree Lighting 6:30 PM
- ✓ Dec. 5 – Christmas Bazaar
- ✓ Dec. 6 – 11:50 Dismissal Day/St. Nicholas Day
- ✓ Dec. 8 – 9:00 AM Mass/Immaculate Conception
- ✓ Dec. 9 – Picture retakes
- ✓ Dec. 9 – Progress Reports go home
- ✓ Dec. 10 – Jesse Tree Ceremony (students only)
- ✓ Dec. 10 – Life Choices Christmas donation due

We are excited to host our first annual St. Stan's Christmas Tree Lighting! There will be caroling, treats for sale, and a surprise visitor from the North Pole. We hope you are able to join us for this festive event.

Finally, in keeping with our school mission of Christian service, we are participating in the Life Choices Christmas Donation and MCA Mite Boxes. Thank you in advance for your participation in these worthy causes.

You continue to be in my prayers. Thank you for all you do to make St. Stan's such a special place!

Warmest regards,

Lori Hodder
Principal

St. Stan's Proudly Presents...

Our 1st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, December 3rd
6:30pm

Special Surprise Visitor!
Christmas Caroling!
Cocoa Bombs & Fun Treats for sale!

Join us for this New Tradition!



HSA - DECEMBER Update

Hello parents! Please read the information below carefully.



1. Work Bond 2021-2022 - <https://signup.com/go/CurcGbN>

- **Bingo WILL RESUME in January 2022.** Sign-up shifts will be posted early next week. Bingo will be held on Thursdays (6-10pm) and Sundays (12-4pm). Each family is required to work **3** bingo shifts. Bingo responsibilities will be sent out once finalized.

****If you are a "no-show" you will need to make up that shift as well as an **additional** shift.**

****If you cancel and 72 hours notice is not provided, it is **YOUR** responsibility to find a replacement.**

- **NO** other changes to work bond at this time. - Please see additional requirements on the school website under the "Organizations" tab; then click HSA and scroll down.

2. Upcoming Events/Dates to Remember

- 1st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting - **12/3 - 6-7pm**
 - Goodies will be available for purchase!
 - Santa arrives around 6:30pm!
 - Treats for the kiddos!
- Gertrude Hawk Candy - Pick up in December - time and date TBA
- SSK MEET AND GREET - 12/15 (6-7:30pm) - Spread the word!

- **CALENDAR RAFFLES - ON SALE now - mandatory work bond purchase**
 - \$20 each ticket (26 chances to win \$100/week from January thru June).
 - Tickets will be on sale the following dates:
 - Christmas Bazaar (11-5pm)
 - Up thru 12/29 parish office (call for hours)
 - New Year's Day BINGO (1/1/22 doors open at 12pm)
- *NO LATE TICKET SALES WILL BE APPLIED TO YOUR WORK BOND***
- **New Fundraiser ALERT - "A Bag for All Seasons"**
 - \$25/ticket (12 chances to win a beautiful designer bag)
 - Contact Gina Rispoli (732-277-2552) for tickets
 - On sale at the Bazaar
 - **Discount Cards**
 - \$20 each card
 - OPTIONAL
 - On sale at the Bazaar or through Stacey McGrane

****IMPORTANT****

Please note that we need help with every single event we run throughout the ENTIRE YEAR! Do NOT wait until the last minute to sign up for events... NO exceptions will be made this year for workbond. If you don't fulfill your requirements, a penalty of \$750 will apply.

If you sign up for an event, please be **100%** certain you can fulfill your shift! We put a lot of work into planning events and scheduling people and cannot accommodate last minute cancellations. If 72 hours notice is not given or you are a "no-show," an ADDITIONAL "other" shift will be added to your work bond obligation. Thank you for understanding.

Please reach out to any member of the HSA with questions! Our names and emails can be found under the school website.

Due to Covid-19, events and work bond obligations are subject to change. Ample notice will be given when changes are made.

Christmas Bazaar - 12/5 - IMPORTANT INFO



- Please arrive on time and stay for the entire length of your shift. Please sign in for your shift and receive your job assignment upon arrival.
- **FRIDAY WORKERS** - As stated in my email last week, since school children will be in the building, please bring proof of vaccine or a negative test result within 72 hours of the event (12/3). Also, bring in your license so that Mrs. Carlson can print you out a visitor's pass. Masks **MUST** be worn at all times.
- 50/50's are due back to the school by 12/3 (**mandatory work bond purchase**); If you decide to turn in your tickets/payment at the bazaar, please make sure the worker crosses your name off the list so we can apply credit to your work bond.
- Calendar Raffles will be available for purchase - please be sure that the worker writes down your family name so we can apply credit to your work bond.
- Over 30 families have committed to donating a **STORE BOUGHT** baked good for our teacher's cake wheel! Thank you! Be sure to drop those items off to the school gym on:

SATURDAY, 12/4 (10-12PM)
OR
SUNDAY, 12/5 (9-11AM)
- Finally, thank you to the **20 FAMILIES** that **SPONSORED A BASKET THIS YEAR!** We are truly blessed to have such wonderful families within our school community!

PICTURE RETAKE DAY IS COMING

Thursday, December 09, 2021
jueves, 9 de diciembre, 2021

St Stanislaus Kostka School

You can still order on mylifetouch.com
with your Picture Day ID:
EVTHRW2ZP

*Ya llega el día de la nueva toma fotográfica
Aún puedes encargar en mylifetouch.com con tu ID del Día de la Foto.*

74372 © 2020 Shutterstock/Lifetouch, LLC



Want us to retake
your picture?

Simply return your
original package on
Picture Retake Day.

*¿Deseas que volvamos a tomar tu foto?
Simplemente envía tu paquete original
el día de la nueva toma fotográfica.*

Lifetouch.



Spread Joy this Christmas for Families in Need

For 35 years Life Choices Resource Center in Metuchen has been faithfully serving mothers and families who are faced with difficult or unplanned pregnancies. Since 1985 they have helped thousands of women choose life for their babies by providing them with practical, emotional, spiritual and material support.

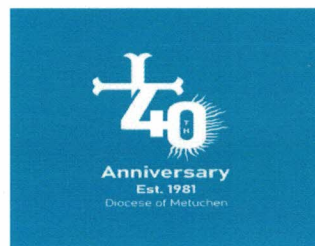
Through community donations, the ministry is able to supply the families with clothing, formula, diapers, wipes, car seats, cribs, strollers, etc. As you can imagine, most of these parents cannot afford to purchase presents for their children during this time of the year.

Our school will be helping out the ministry again this year. We will be collecting monetary donations that will be used to purchase gift cards for families in need.

We are asking for a donation of \$10.00 per family, but of course any amount is appreciated.

If you would like to donate, please send in your donation by Friday, December 10th to the attention of *Mrs. Grover, Life Choices Donation*. Checks can be made out to St. Stan's School. If you would like to pay via Venmo or Paypal, please email lgrover@sskschool.org

*Thank you for your generous support
during the most wonderful time of the year -
when we celebrate giving in honor of God's gift of His only son.*



Advent 2021

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Daily At-Home Advent Activities for Families

SUN 28

Prepare an Advent wreath: three purple candles, one pink candle, and some evergreens. Place all on a tray or large plate. The candles can symbolize hope, faith, joy, and love or peace. Light the first purple candle and pray to God about the things you hope for.

MON 29

Make a nativity scene with household materials. Paint paper tubes to make the Holy Family. Use bits of fabric to make clothes. Use a shoebox to make the barn and a small box for the manger. Wait for Christmas Day to put Jesus in the manger.

TUE 30

People hoped and waited for so long for Jesus to come and bring light to the world! Share stories about the ways parents prepared and how they felt as they waited for their children to be born. Older siblings can share stories of waiting for younger siblings. Look through the first photographs taken of your children. Pray about your hopes for your family.

WED 1

The Christmas story begins with one small family set to change the world. On yellow strips of paper, write ways that your family can help bring light and hope to your community during Advent. Keep the papers in a jar. As you complete these actions, place them in the nativity scene you made to act as hay.

THUR 2

Mary and Joseph were immigrants traveling far from their home when Jesus was born. Try sleeping in a different place in your house tonight. Swap beds with a sibling or sleep in a sleeping bag on the floor. Thank God for the comforts of your home.

FRI 3

Make Christmas cookies and share them together. Thank God for the gifts of food and family.

SAT 4

On Christmas Day, children may receive new gifts and new toys. Go through the toys you have and donate ones that you have outgrown to a local charity.



Advent 2021

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Daily At-Home Advent Activities for Families

SUN 5

Sing Christmas hymns together.
Light the second purple Advent candle. Pray to God to be faithful even when it is difficult.

MON 6

Feast of Saint Nicholas
Listen to a story about the legendary gift giver. Make or buy a small, thoughtful gift for someone you know.

TUE 7

During Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Donate baby supplies to a local charity.

WED 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Honor Mary, Mother of God by praying the Hail Mary today. Mary is Jesus' mother. Take special care of your mother or a mother figure in your life today.

THUR 9

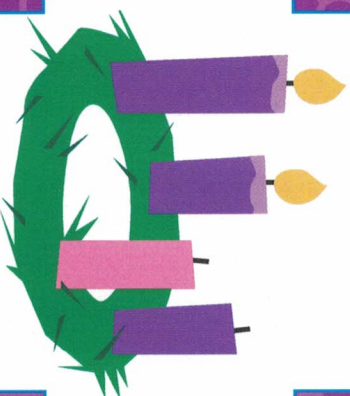
Feast of Saint Juan Diego
Juan Diego lived in Mexico, and Mary appeared to him. Read the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Eat a Mexican meal today and pray the Hail Mary before your meal in honor of Saint Juan Diego's devotion to Mary.

FRI 10

Choose family prayer partners. Print each family member's name on an index card; decorate it; fold it in half and place in a basket. Pass the basket around and have each family member pick a name. Pray for that person during Advent.

SAT 11

Together, compose and pray a family Advent prayer.



Advent 2021

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Daily At-Home Advent Activities for Families

SUN 12

Gaudete Sunday

Light the pink Advent candle. This candle is a symbol of joy because we are at the midpoint of Advent. Pray about things that make you joyful and the ways you bring joy to others. Today at Mass, notice that the priest will be wearing pink vestments!

THUR 16

As you prepare for Jesus' coming, plan a day and time for family members to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

MON 13

Read Matthew 2:1-12 as a family and learn about the Magi who followed the star to find Jesus after his birth. Go outside with your family tonight and do some stargazing. Pray about the beautiful world that God has created for us.

FRI 17

O Wisdom of our God Most High!
Today begins the O Antiphons. These are special prayers as the birth of Jesus draws closer. Pray to God about areas of your life where you need the gift of wisdom to grow.

TUE 14

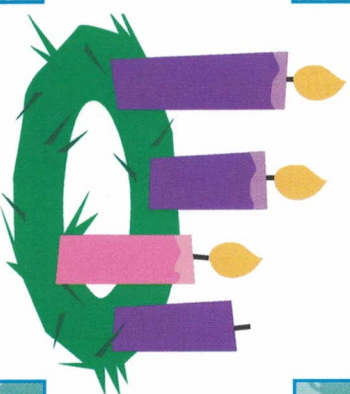
Gather together for a meal and begin with a blessing. Make a plan to donate a meal to a person or family in need in your community.

SAT 18

O Leader of the House of Israel!
Pray for help to follow Jesus' leadership. Demonstrate good leadership to younger classmates and siblings.

WED 15

Gather as a family around the Christmas tree or the Advent wreath and pray a prayer of blessing.



Advent 2021

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Daily At-Home Advent Activities for Families

SUN 19

O Root of Jesse's Stem!

Jesse and King David were Jesus' ancestors. Send Christmas cards to family and friends. Light the fourth Advent candle. Consider ways you can bring peace and love to others.

MON 20

O Key of David!

Jesus opens doors that seem difficult to open. Pray about ways to overcome things that may be difficult for you.

TUE 21

O Radiant Dawn!

Jesus is our 'light! Shut off the house lights and all electronics after dinner and enjoy the light of the Christmas tree together as a family.

WED 22

O King of All Nations!

Jesus is the king who unites us all. Read about how other countries and cultures celebrate the traditions of Christmas. Consider adopting one of these new traditions in your family.

THUR 23

O Emmanuel!

We believe that Jesus is with us always. Call or visit someone who could use your company today.

FRI 24

Come, Lord Jesus, Come! Read the nativity story in the Bible together as a family.

SAT 25

Christmas

Christ is Born! Let us rejoice! Thank God for the greatest gift, the gift of his only Son! Put the figurine of the baby Jesus you made for the nativity scene in the manger.

