

ECHOES OF ANGELS

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ...

Spreading Christmas Cheer

Please consider uplifting our teachers and staff with a donation to our Home & School Christmas collection. It has been a long-standing tradition at Holy Angels for parents to show their appreciation to our faculty and staff in a monetary way at Christmas time. In the lobby is a Christmas Donation Box and all of the money donated is divided amongst all who work here and makes for a wonderful Christmas present from all of you. God bless you in your charitableness!

Free Throw Contest

On January 15, the Knights of Columbus Cardinal Bellarmine Council #4849 will be hosting their annual free throw contest for any boy or girl ages 9-14 in the school gym starting at 2:30. Participation forms will be sent home when we return from Christmas break.



Invest in Kids

As part of the mission of our Church, we are called to educate our children in our beautiful Catholic faith. To do this, it takes all of us - those that have small children, grown children, grandchildren and those that don't have any children. We are all responsible for their Catholic Education. But we know that giving a child a Catholic Education is a sacrifice for families and our church communities.

Earlier this fall, the State of Illinois passed the Invest in Kids Act. This legislation outlined the state's program to fund public schools, but it also created the tax scholarship program. The tax scholarship program is designed to give all families, regardless of income, access to choices in





Joyful Noise

The joy of Christmas lends itself to beautiful music. A Nativity choir event will be held after 4:30 Mass on Saturday, December 16. Our Christmas choir concert will be held on Sunday, December 17 starting at 4:00 at **Rosary High School**. Finally, the Archangel Gabriel play will be presented by the 3rd & 4th graders on Thursday, December 21 at 6:00 in Connor Hall. All are welcome to attend!

Super Raffle

Super Raffle tickets, our only mandatory fundraiser, will be coming home next Thursday. This year's grand prize is \$3,000. All tickets sales are due back to the office by February 1.

High School Events

We advertise upcoming events on our website under *School Information*. Be sure to check it out as we add new items each week. There are lots of camps posted that will be happening over the Christmas break at the various high schools.

education...including Catholic Schools.

The new law has allowed for private, non-profit organizations to accept donations and give out private school scholarships to students in grades K-12 based on income. Our Diocese has chosen to partner with Empower Illinois.

Students can receive scholarships of 50, 75 or 100% of tuition and necessary fees based on income. That means that the tuition, book fees, technology and even uniforms will be covered partially or completely by the scholarship. If you or someone you know would qualify, please encourage them to apply!

However, for the scholarships to be available to needy students, we also need your help. This is not a state funded program. The program will be funded completely by donations. Donations can be made on the corporate level or as an individual. No amount is too small!

As an incentive, the State has agreed to give a 75% tax credit for the amount of the donation up to \$1 million dollars. For example: A person donates \$1000 to the program. In return they receive a \$750 tax credit on their State income taxes. So their \$1000 donation really cost them \$250.

Individuals can direct their donation to a specific school or subset of school. If you decided to donate, we ask that you specify Holy Angels or the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Rockford. This way we can help the families right here in our community give their children the blessing of a Catholic education.

The applications for donations are going to begin on January 2nd. In order to apply there are some steps that have to be taken ahead of time, so please review this information at the Empower Illinois website, www.empowerillinois.org.

The applications for students are also expected to begin in January. Again, you can check on empowerillinois.org for the most up-to-date information. If you would like to know more information or have specific questions, please contact Beth Heikamp at the Diocesan Education Office at 815-399-4300.

Seraphim Ball Updates

The Seraphim Ball Committee has been working hard to create an incredible fundraising experience for our school parents. You won't want to miss out on the opportunity to support our school

and enjoy an elegant evening out with friends. The Seraphim Ball will be held on Saturday, March 10. Dinner tickets are still available for purchase. Please contact the office if you'd like to get tickets. Tuition raffle tickets are also still available for purchase. All unused tickets can be returned to the office.

If you can put the committee in contact with the right people to solicit donations, please let them know. Or are you interested in helping seeking donations? If so, they would appreciate any assistance you can give! Please contact Megan Thakkar if you can help. She can be reached at meganthakkar@yahoo.com or 630-335-5314.

Next Week at a Glance

Saturday - Nativity Choir Event 5:30 Church

Sunday - Choir Concert 4:00 Curly Lambeau Gym

Monday - Teacher Christmas Collection Continues

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday - Archangel Gabriel Play Connor Hall 6:30

Friday - Mass 8:15

Bringing Home the Faith

Practicing Your Catholic Faith as a Family

"Each of us is on this earth for two very important purposes. First, we are here to get to Heaven. Second, we are here to lead as many people as we can to Heaven. Nothing else we do is as important as this. Everything that we do each day becomes the means through which we can reach holiness and get to Heaven. Everything situation becomes an opportunity to serve God and others.

The most important gift that we can give to our children is the gift of our Catholic Faith. A devout Catholic Faith will guarantee your children entrance into Heaven. But we can't simply send our children to a religion class, and hope that by doing this, we have done enough. It is the job of the family to teach the children how to live the faith that they are learning in class, on a daily basis. This book will help you to take advantage of family practices that will help your family live the Catholic Faith at home. It will help you move from a learned faith, to a lived faith.

When we brought our children to the Church to be baptized, we vowed to bring them up in the Catholic Faith. This vow was a promise to God. The problem today is that many parents did not grow up "living" their Catholic Faith in the home and therefore are unable to teach their children how to live the Catholic Faith. We cannot teach what we do not know ourselves. But we are only Catholic when we actually live the Catholic Faith and practice Catholicism in our homes.

Simply sending our children to religion class on Sunday or to a Catholic School is not enough. The religion class and Catholic School teach the children the facts of our faith, but it falls short of teaching them how to practice this faith at home and in the world. That is the job of the family. Our Catholic Faith sets us apart and instills in us a deep relationship with Jesus.

May God bless you in your efforts and encourage you along the way.” (http://holyspirithsv.com/?page_id=211)

Mass Times: *Saturdays 4:30*
Sundays 6:45, 8:00 (Extraordinary Form, Latin, 1st & 3rd Sundays), 9:30, 11:00

Confession Times: *Sunday after 9:30 Mass*
Tuesday after 8:00 Mass
Wednesday 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Friday after 6:30 AM Mass
Saturday after 8:15 Mass and 3:15 PM - 4:00 PM

Mission Statement

Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Holy Angels School is committed to spiritual formation, which nurtures the Catholic faith and inspires its practice. It is committed to academic excellence, which fosters the growth of each individual. Holy Angels School strives to meet the intellectual, social, and ethical challenges of living in a technological, global, and culturally diverse society.

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