



Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM
President

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"Our hope should not be blind optimism, arrogant certainty or wishful thinking. Rather, our hope should be based on our knowledge that God will not desert us..."

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Advent: A Time of Quiet Celebration, Reflection and Hope

Although we have just celebrated Thanksgiving, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Stores are filled with Christmas greenery, holiday merchandise and sale signs.

The headlong rush to Christmas Eve leaves many feeling stressed and uptight. And there is another down side as well. The emphasis on all the trimmings of Christmas overlooks a beautiful period of the Church calendar - Advent.

The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival". The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of the Christ in his First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his Second Advent.

Advent is a time for peaceful longing, joyful anticipation - a perfect

antidote to the sometimes overwhelming hustle and bustle of holiday preparations. We all need to take time for periods of quiet, reflection and prayer during this special time.

Our quiet hope should give us time to develop peacemaking ideas in our world so torn by war, violence and poverty. Our hope should not be blind optimism, arrogant certainty or wishful thinking. Rather, our hope should be based on our knowledge that God will not desert us, that we will endure difficult time to see better days. God's love can give us strength to seek peace and demand justice.

So as we prepare for the Feast of Christmas, let us renew our faith, reflect on God's great love and rejoice in the time when God became human. He became like us

to show us love and teach us how to be Gospel people - a people of hope, peace and reconciliation.

During Advent, our school community will pray in hope and act for peace. As Gospel people, we will take care of the needs of many families in the Elmira area who need our support on Christmas. We will fill our hearts with love and fill baskets with goods to help families enjoy the holiday.

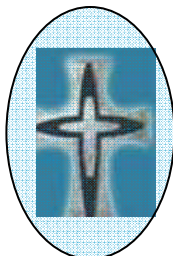
Please join us for the traditional Notre Dame start to Christmas, the Golden Mass at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21st in the auditorium.

In Mercy.

Sr. Mary Walter Hickey, RSM
President

The Notre Dame High School Board of Trustees and the Sisters of Mercy are pleased to announce the opening of a Junior High School on the Maple Avenue campus in the Fall of 2012. The school will offer a comprehensive integrated curriculum which will prepare these students for the next level of their education. We will work to have each child actualize his or her full intellectual, creative, spiritual and physical potential, while encouraging each to become life-long learners. Notre Dame will strive to create a diverse Junior High community that fosters mutual respect, social responsibility and spiritual awareness enhanced by a strong partnership between home, school and community. We will do this in a safe welcoming and caring community.

Please extend an invitation to friends and family who may be interested in this Junior High School to an Informational Meeting on Monday, December 12th at 7PM in the auditorium.



PLEASE NOTE:
As the Horseheads School District will have an early dismissal on Monday, December 12th, there will be **NO AFTERNOON BUSSING FOR HORSEHEADS** on that day. Parents will have to provide afternoon transportation.

News briefs

School Closing

Notre Dame High School follows the Elmira City School District for weather related closings and delays. Check for these announcements on our local television and radio stations, including stations in Pennsylvania or call 735-3970.

Athletic Fees - Reminder

Athletic fees are past due for winter Sports participation \$100 per sport must be paid to Notre Dame High by ND students and Holy Family students. Please contact the Business Office if you need more information or are unaware of the school's Athletic Fee policy.

Registration for New Students

Registration for new students who wish to attend our school in the fall of 2012 will be held Sunday February 5th from 11am to 2pm and Monday February 6th from 3:30pm to 8pm. Information for interested families may be obtained from Sister Nancy Kelly, RSM, Director of Admissions. She will be happy to arrange shadowing opportunities for interested students. Families may also take advantage of on-line registration by checking the Notre Dame High School website.

Christmas Basket Program

The tradition Christmas Basket Program is off to another great start. The goal of the program is to give our Notre Dame Community an opportunity to reflect on our many blessing and share our blessings with area families in need during the Christmas season. Through the generosity of students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents we are sponsoring area families. The families were chosen and referred to us by local school nurses.

Daily collections of food items and pocket change (to cover the purchase of perishables), donations for the purchase of a gift for every child, wrapping of the food boxes and gifts have added to the normal hustle and bustle in every homeroom as they prepare a merrier Christmas for area families. The list for the daily collection of food items is found on page 5, the school website and on RenWeb.

Please join us on Wednesday, December 21st at 1:30pm in the auditorium for the celebration of the Golden Mass and behold the generosity of our God through the Notre Dame Community. In the spirit of the season and of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, we thank you for your support and wish you a Blessed Christmas.

Guidance

College Application Bulletin for Seniors

The applications are pouring into the Guidance Office and we want our parents to be aware of the DEADLINE that Mrs. Morrell has in place for application submission:

If your student wants his/her college applications to be sent out before Christmas break they must be turned in to Mrs. Morrell by Wednesday, December 7th. This "two week guarantee" policy is a necessary requirement that enables the Guidance Office to process the hundreds of applications in an efficient and timely manner. Families need to pay close attention to deadlines for applications, scholarships and financial aid. Just a reminder that they need to bring \$3 for "shipping & handling" fees for each transcript. The list of college acceptances is already growing and Mrs. Morrell has begun to post the students' names with their acceptances on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs. Students should remember to bring acceptance letters and scholarship award letters to the Guidance Office. It is also valuable information to know where, if any, our students have not been accepted. Obviously this information is strictly confidential.

The scholarship applications that we receive in the Guidance Office are displayed in a central location in the main guidance area, easily assessable to students. We also update this scholarship information. Have them check often!

Mrs. Shannon is already thinking about graduation preparations for the Class of 2012 and encourages seniors to bring copies of any scholarship awards (even if it is not the school they will be attending) to her for inclusion in the graduation program.

Testing Results

The test results from the October 12, 2011 testing day are arriving in the Guidance Office and the counselors are preparing to review them with their students sometime near the end of December.

Mrs. Barron will be meeting with the Sophomores and Freshman in classrooms once all of the results arrive. Sophomores will be reviewing the results of the PLAN. Following the in-class review, Sophomores will be bringing their PLAN booklets home along with a pamphlet for parents explaining this test and how to use the information.

Guidance - *continued*

The actual test results will be mailed to parents sometime before Christmas. We include the PLAN test in our guidance curriculum because it has an interest inventory and because it is a practice ACT, which is one of the college entrance exams that we encourage our juniors to take in the spring. The results being sent to the parents include the answers to questions, the students answers, and the level of difficulty of each question. Putting this information together with the actual questions found in the test booklet is a very valuable test prep exercise for your student.

Freshman will be reviewing the results of the EXPLORE assessment. Much like the assessment, the EXPLORE tests the students abilities in English, Math, Reading and Science. It shows the students' strengths and weaknesses in those four subject areas. The EXPLORE also has an interest inventory component that Mrs. Barron will go over with the Freshmen, which helps with future career and college planning. Freshmen will also bring home their EXPLORE booklets and a pamphlet for parents explaining the test and how to use the information sometime in late December. Test scores for both the PLAN and EXPLORE will be mailed home to parents following the in-class guidance sessions.

The much anticipated PSAT results have not yet arrived. When they do, Mrs. Morrell will explain them to the juniors in group guidance classes; they will then be sent home for parents to review. The combination of the test booklets and test results is an extremely valuable test prep tool for your student. They can learn a lot about themselves as test-takers by spending some time with these results. Sounds like a "fun" Christmas break activity, right?

Mrs. Barron has met with the freshman in small groups in her office to discuss how they are doing at ND so far. It has been great getting acquainted with the students. Overall, these freshmen have settled in nicely and seem to be enjoying life here at N.D.

Kudos

"Middle School Madness" was a big success!! We welcomed 77 middle school students to ND for a fun night of Dodge Ball, face painting, basketball, Rock Band, make your own sundaes, art projects, Just Dance with the Wii, lots of free food and door prizes, and a big inflatable from Bobby K. Many thanks to our enthusiastic students, teachers and parents for a terrific event!

Fall Sports Teams: Congratulations to the coaches and players who represented the school in all of the fall sports. We extend special congratulations to those who have been selected for IAC and other league honors.

Kudos - *continued*

Congratulations to the girls' varsity soccer team and Coach Weber on another successful season and for bringing home a Sectional Championship by defeating Lansing. Nine girls were selected for the IAC All Star team. Those selected for the first team included: **Rachel Lamoreaux (League MVP), Hannah Haskell, Rebecca Watts, Detta Gublo and Brittany Schutrum.** Second team selection included **Megan Herrick, Mary Kubinski, Olivia Hoover and Sheridan Heine.**

The boys' soccer team has three members on the IAC Large School, Southern Division All Star Team. Earning First Team All-IAC honors was **Tom Makowiec (MVP), Jason Sincock, Alex Nassar, Colin White, Ryan Bayne, Colin McLaughlin, Carrick Palmer and Sean Smetanka.** Second Team was merited by **Li Molingou and Sean Brown.**

Coach D'Aloisio is pleased to announce six football players were selected for the first team All S.T.L Football team they are: **Shane Manning, Alex Allen, John Heine, Aaron Carson, Tom Agan, Steve Buice, Jake Wichtowski, Joe Di-Fabio, Brian Brown.** Honorable Mention was given to **Lee Sidle, Matt Davis, & Darius Garvin.** **Shane Manning** is an Ernie Davis nominee and **Alex Allen** participated in the Ernie Davis Classic Football Game .

The Cast and Crew of "Oklahoma". Their fine performance enthralled the audiences. The singing, dancing and costuming were great. The set and the orchestra added special dimensions to the musical performance. We are grateful to all who spent many hours on the production and extend special kudos to our parents **Director Meghan Mackowiak.**

The parents who organized the "Casino Royale" did an exceptional job in providing a fun event that was a great fund raiser. The auction – both silent and verbal – raised nearly more funds than last year and the casino provided great entertainment. A big thank you goes to **Mrs. Susan Heine** and **Mrs. Lisa Mustico** for their hours of hard work.

Abby Carr was our school recipient for the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, an award given to a student who represents the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

Area All State - Congratulations to student **Danielle Antos** who participated in the Area All State Zone 15 Concert on Saturday, November 19th at the Bath Haverling High School. They were a part of a group from a five county area of 40 school districts. The concert was reportedly an amazing concert.

Taylor Stuart has been chosen to attend the Annual Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference that is held annually. She was chosen by the faculty for leadership ability, outstanding oral and written communication skills, creative problem solving, strong decision making skills, sensitivity to others and a charismatic personality.

Fundraising

Parent Fundraisers

Parent involvement in fundraisers helps bridge the gap between the cost of educating a student and the stated tuition. Every parent's participation is essential to the success of these events. Your time is service. The events for the New Year include:

Fun with Inflatable's

Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 10am – 3pm in the Notre Dame High School Gym. This event is for children and provides a variety of activities on Bobby K's Inflatables. Parents and students are needed to monitor the inflatables, organize refreshments and publicize the event.

Annual Mayfest

Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 10am–3pm. Craft vendors will fill the gym and silent auction items will be available. It is not too early to think about items for the gift baskets. Some possible items are sports-themed baskets, candles, home-made crafts and different combinations of food and candy. Save the date and do your Mother's Day shopping.

Graduation Celebration 2012

The committee representing the Class of 2012 is very busy trying to raise money for the events following the 2012 graduation. Keep checking your mailbox for fundraiser forms. There are several fundraisers underway and senior parents appreciate all of your support.

Bottle/Can Drive-Proj. Grad. 2012

Please take your empty bottles and cans to the following locations. These businesses will collect and hold the NY State deposits for us for our project graduation. Please separate glass from aluminum and plastic. Write ND Project Graduation 2012 on the bag if possible and leave them at the store. There is no need to count them!!! If someone has some that they need picked up please call 732-6803 and leave your information. The stores are:

State Line Market, 9 Main St., Wellsburg, NY (will give us \$.07 per bottle/can)

Quality Beverage, 1137 Maple Ave., Elmira, NY

West End Beverage, 1806 W. Water St., Elmira, NY

Fundraising- *continued*

**DON'T FORGET
TO PURCHASE
GIFT CARDS FOR
YOUR HOLIDAY
SHOPPING OR
CHRISTMAS GIVING!!**

Crusader Cards (Scrip)

Give yourself and your family a treat-take a road trip or go out to dinner after you purchase SCRIP cards for any of our participating restaurants! You can download an updated scrip form from the ND website under the Crusader Cards tab. (See new additions like *Wegman's, Burlington Coat Factory, Amazon, Family Video* and more).

Top Ten Scrip Card Purchasers:

1. Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Barkley
2. Mr. & Mrs. Joseph LaVelle
3. Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Martin
4. Ms. Mary Hosey
5. Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Keefer
6. Mr. & Mrs. James Miller
7. Mr. & Mrs. John DeMuth
8. Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Volino
9. Mr. Mark Quesada & Ms. Michelle Hilton
10. Mrs. Marjorie Hitchcock

**GREAT STOCKING STUFFER!
TICKET(S) FOR THE**

Classic Corvette Convertible

We hope you have already taken a chance to win this beautiful Red on Red 1964 Corvette Coupe. Visit our website and click the Quick Link the Classic Car Raffle to purchase your ticket. Tickets are only \$25 each or 6 for \$100. You may also contact the Advancement Office to pay by cash, check or credit card. Don't miss your chance to drive away in this beautiful, red classic convertible.



Get your tickets now!!

Drawing will be held on
Wed., Jan. 4, 2012 at
1:00 PM at Notre Dame.

Fundraising - *continued*

Parents' Advancement Fund

Each school year we make a special appeal to our parents to support the Annual Fund. As you know the income from tuition does not cover the complete cost of educating a child. Each parent is asked to make a contribution of cash or services to help make up that difference. This fund raising does not "bridge the gap" completely. Therefore, we will once again appeal to your generosity. If each family could give what is possible according to their means, the school will be able to reach its goal for the Parents' Advancement Fund which is \$38,000 – a reasonable and an attainable goal. Thank you in advance for your support of this worthy cause.

Families donating to this fund include:

Crusader (\$2,000-\$4,999)

Mr. Charles Xu & Mrs. Joanna Zhang

Lance (Up to \$499)

Dr. & Mrs. Philip Stuart

ND BOOK FAIR at Barnes & Noble

On December 10th, Notre Dame High School's library will host its first ever Book Fair at Barnes and Noble. This all-day event will begin at 9am and will include a broad scope of activities all to benefit the students of ND. The day's events will also be hosted by Notre Dame students and will include: Christmas caroling, a visit from former Ithaca college student and published author, Kody Keplinger, a book signing with Esty Schachter, author of the novel Anya's Echoes and an open mic session with local musician John Manfredi. There will also be the opportunity to purchase cheesecakes from The Cheesecake Factory for the holidays to benefit the school. A percentage of all purchases made by ND supporters will benefit the school's library. Additionally, gift wrapping will be available throughout the day and all proceeds from gift wrapping services will benefit ND. It is also important to note that one not be present to support the school in its goal to increase the opportunities for all students. **Supporters can visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 12/11/10 to 12/10/11 by entering Book fair ID 10610681 at checkout.** Also, don't forget to maximize the school's benefit by purchasing Barnes and Noble giftcards through the school office prior to making any purchases.

School Calendar

The calendar is posted on the school's website. As you study it and make plans for vacations, please keep in mind the dates that have already been set aside for time away from school. Students, who miss school because of family plans at times other than those already set aside, miss valuable classroom time.

Christmas Recess

Thursday, December 22, 2011 -
Monday, January 2, 2012

President's Day Weekend Recess

Friday, February 17, 2012 -
Monday, February 20, 2012

Spring Recess

Friday, April 6, 2012 -
Sunday, April 15, 2012

Student athletes need to be aware of games and practices during Thanksgiving, Christmas, President's Weekend Recess and Spring Recess. These students should consult with their coaches prior to making plans.

The School Calendar and Sports Schedules can be accessed on the Notre Dame Website at:

www.notredamehighschool.com.

To access the sports calendar, click the orange "Sports Schedule" tab under Quick Links on the home page.

To access the School calendar, click the black "Calendar" tab at the top right corner of the home page.

To access the "Crusader Connection", click the "Parents" tab on the home page then click Crusader Connection.

The Christmas Break will officially begin following the Golden Mass on Wednesday, December 21, 2011. Students will return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2012

**Have a Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!!**

Events throughout the year
Your participation and support of the fund raising events throughout the year will be very much appreciated.

Save the dates for:

Fun with Inflatables

Saturday, February 25, 2012
10:00AM-3:00PM

Big Band Dance

Saturday, March 10, 2012
7:30PM

Mayfest

Saturday, May 12, 2012
10:00AM-3:00PM

Crusader Classic Golf Tournament

Sunday, May 20, 2012
12:30PM - Shotgun Start

RECYCLE FUNDRAISER

(Items accepted listed below)

Jewelry, Cell Phones, Ink Jet Printer Cartridges, Laptop Computers, Apple iPods & MP3 Players, Digital Cameras, GPS Devices, Radar Detectors, Kindle & Sony Book Readers, Handheld Game Systems.

Please bring items to the Advancement Office.



The Notre Dame Christmas Basket Program began on Monday, November 28, 2011. This tradition started when the school was established in 1955, and provides the Notre Dame community an opportunity to reflect upon the generosity of our God and to share our many blessings with area families in need. This year twenty families will be sponsored through the efforts of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents. These families have been chosen and referred to us by local school nurses. Each family will receive the makings for a Christmas dinner, as well as many other grocery items. Each child will receive a gift of warm clothing purchased specifically for them (thanks to a \$3-\$5 donation from each Notre Dame student).

A copy of the Food Collection List shown below will be given to each student in homeroom. The collection of food items begins November 28 and ends December 19. Daily donations of spare change from students during homeroom cover the cost of perishables that are added to the baskets just before delivery.

Please join us for the celebration of the Golden Mass beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium on Wednesday, December 21. In the spirit of the season and of Catherine McCauley, foundress of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy, we thank you for your support and wish you a blessed Christmas.

2011 Christmas Basket Food Items

Mon.	28 November	SUGAR; FLOUR; SPICES
Tues.	29 November	CANNED GOODS (Fruits, Vegetables, Soups, etc.)
Wed.	30 November	MIXES (Cake, Brownie, Bisquick, Stuffing, Pancake, etc.)
Thurs.	1 December	CEREAL (Hot and Cold) – Lots and Lots!
Fri.	2 December	BEVERAGE MIXES (Kool-Aid, Cocoa, Coffee, Tea, Juices)
Mon.	5 December	PEANUT BUTTER; JELLY; JAMS – Lots and Lots!
Tues.	6 December	CRACKERS (Saltines, Ritz, Graham, Cheese, etc.)
Wed.	7 December	PASTA (Spaghetti, Rice, Noodles, Instant Potatoes, etc.)
Thurs.	8 December	COOKIES - COOKIES - COOKIES - COOKIES
Fri.	9 December	DESSERTS (Jell-O, Puddings, Pie Mixes, etc.)
Mon.	12 December	CONDIMENTS (Salad Dressings, Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo)
Tues.	13 December	SOAPS (Laundry Soap, Bath Soap, Dish Soap, Shampoo)
Wed.	14 December	PAPER SUPPLIES (Kleenex, Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels)
Thurs.	15 December	CEREAL (Hot and Cold) – Lots and Lots!
Fri.	16 December	PEANUT BUTTER; JELLY; JAMS – Lots and Lots!
Mon.	19 December	CANNED GOODS (Fruit, Vegetables, Soups, etc.)

GOLDEN MASS

Wednesday, DECEMBER 21st

"Whatever you do for the least of my brethren....."