

VOLUME 16  
ISSUE 4  
December 2023

# Claver's Chronicle



## December News

December is here and what an exciting month we have to look forward to! With it comes the season of Advent when we prepare ourselves for the birth of our Savior the king of peace. Let us remember to pray for peace in the world especially in the Middle East. Keeping in mind all those who have been injured, have passed, became homeless, and in need. Let's keep them in our prayers.

In the spirit of preparation, our parish Penance Service is on Wednesday, the 13th at 7pm. Additional individual confessions will be heard on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-6:00 pm. Every Saturday from 3-4:30 pm. The 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Our Advent Program is scheduled for Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Please have your children arrive at their classrooms by 5:30pm, dressed, fed and ready to go. (See your child's teacher regarding your students' dress code) At that time, families should go over and find a place to sit at the church. We will be providing guidelines to follow. The children have already begun practicing their songs for this event and can't wait to share them with you!



The Advent program will be professionally filmed! Coming soon will be an order form should you wish to pre-order a DVD of this momentous occasion! Please return the order form with payment to the office prior to the event.

Our Christmas vacation begins December 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm. Kindergarten has 12:30pm dismissal on that day, and there is **No Extended Care** for any student. We will return to school on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

As we all become wrapped up in holiday activities, let's try and take a quiet moment to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. Let's allow Him use us to share His love through the cookies we bake, the gifts we give, the food we share ...

The staff of St. Peter Claver Preschool wishes you, our extended family, a blessed Christmas & Happy New Year.

## Fall Registration

We will begin taking registrations for next school year, 2024-25, in January. Our current Room 1, 2 and 3 families will be receiving a letter asking their intentions regarding returning to St. Peter Claver in the Fall. Our current students and their siblings will have first priority in registration. All students seeking entry into Kindergarten will be given a readiness assessment to ascertain placement for the fall. Also, there is a physician form for Kindergarten entry that must be completed. Watch for forthcoming information.



## Volunteer Hours

Remember! Everyone is obligated to do 20 Service Hours.

The coming of the New Year marks the approximate halfway point for the school year. With that in mind, you should be about halfway through your service hours. At this point you should have completed 10 hours. The good news is there are about 5 more months left and more opportunities. Keep in mind, too, that service to our parish also counts! **Here are some opportunities:**

### Lector or Eucharistic minister or greeters at the door:

Service to our school/parish community may also call to you be a lector or Eucharistic minister or even greeter at the door. If any of these ministries speaks to you, please contact the parish office at (805) 526-6499.

### Bingo Night:

Every Thursday evening. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, contact Paul Hopkins at (805) 390- 7781 for Bingo.

## Questions

Do you have questions about our school? Curriculum? Office procedures? Making payments and navigating Smart Care? Upcoming events? How you can volunteer?

**There are two opportunities to get your questions answered:**

On December 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> You can “Ask Ms. Rawd.” From 8:10 to 8:40 am you can come to the office.



And you will be able to have “Coffee with the Principal” in our staff room from 10:15 to 11:00am on December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. We encourage all of you to come and chat with our principal Mrs. Meyer.





Advent Program



Our Annual Advent Program will be Friday, December 15 at 6:00 pm in the church. Friend of the school, Gabriel Sarkissian, will be recording the event for us. DVDs will be available for purchase. Order forms will be sent home soon. Your children will need to be at school at 5:30 dressed in appropriate attire (your teacher will be giving you information about this). We ask that you be mindful of waving, calling out to your child, standing to take photos, etc. This all is very distracting to your child who is trying very hard to concentrate and share with you all they’ve learned in their performance. So, just sit back and enjoy these precious moments.

Parish Penance Service



St. Peter Claver Parish will have a community Penance Service on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Several priests from neighboring parishes will join Father Riz and Father Mike in hearing confessions. If you would like to receive the sacrament of reconciliation to more fully prepare for the coming of our Lord, please join us.

Early Dismissal



**Winter Break**  
This month we have two days with early 12:30pm dismissal  
Friday December 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>. There is **No Aftercare** on Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Christmas Break



Can you believe the semester is almost over and Christmas break is almost here? Yes, that’s right, Christmas Break! Our last day of classes will be on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30. There will be **No Extended Care** that day, and school will resume on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Have a great Christmas break and see you next year!



Happy Birthday!!

Ms. Maria – December 18



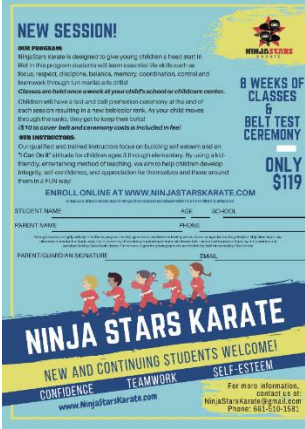
Secret Santa Letters

Participating children will be receiving a letter via USPS in their mailbox at home. So, keep an eye on your mail.



Ninja Stars Karate

Ninja Stars Karate is back with another 8 weeks of classes. The classes are once a week and will be starting this Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm ongoing.





# Dates to Remember

12/1	12:30 pm KG dismissal, 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	12/15	Advent Program 6:00 pm
12/4 & 5	Ask Ms. Rawd 8:10 – 8:40 am	12/16	Advent Wreath Lighting 5:00 pm mass
12/6 & 7	Coffee with the Principal 10:15-11:00 am	12/18	Happy Birthday! Ms. Maria
12/10	Advent Wreath Lighting 5:00 pm mass	12/21	12:30 pm all school dismissal. No Aftercare
12/13	Parish Penance 7:00 pm	12/22 - 1/5	Christmas Break- No School
		1/8/2024	School Resumes.

# Holiday Mass Schedule

## Christmas Eve 12 / 24 / 2023

4:00 pm Children’s mass  
5:30 pm (English)  
7:00 pm (Spanish)  
9:00 pm (English)

## Christmas Day 12 / 25 / 2023

8:00 am  
10:00 am  
12:00 pm  
There will be no afternoon mass

## New Year’s Day 1 / 1 / 2024

10:00 am mass



St. Peter Claver Preschool & Kindergarten



Wishes everyone a Merry Christmas

&

A Blessed New Year

## “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus”

“Dear Editor -

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, ‘if you see it in The Sun, it’s so.’ Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?”

Virginia O’Hanlon

“Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Francis P. Church  
Editor of the New York Sun  
1897

St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum centered in faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. We endeavor to deepen a child’s awareness and love of God and nurture their natural love of learning.

We, the members of St. Peter Claver Catholic community, acknowledge and respect the uniqueness of each child. In partnership with parents, we provide developmentally appropriate Catholic instruction in an environment which supports each child’s sense of self and nurtures a love of learning. Our curriculum incorporates a variety of learning activities designed to enhance a child’s love of God, and promotes problem solving, creativity, self-expression, and social skills. We seek to stimulate children’s learning in all developmental areas, while at the same time, allow for individual differences in learning styles. St. Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten affirms the worth and dignity of each child and fosters an understanding and sensitivity to all people by encouraging reverence and respect for each person.



St Peter Claver Preschool and Kindergarten

5670 Cochran Street

Simi Valley, CA 93063

Phone: 805 526 2244

E-mail: [ameyer@stpeterclaverschool.org](mailto:ameyer@stpeterclaverschool.org)

[www.stpeterclaverschool.org](http://www.stpeterclaverschool.org)