

SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER *DECEMBER 2016*

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 1- Parent Appreciation Night
- 2- Christmas Parade
- 14- Preschool Christmas Program and Party
- Dec. 23-Jan. 6- No VPK
(SHECC open Dec. 27-29 & Jan. 2-6)
- 23, 26, & 30- SHECC CLOSED

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 16- SHECC CLOSED-MLK Day
- 28- Kumquat Festival
- 29-Feb. 4- Catholic Schools Week

*WE WELCOME ALL OF OUR
FAMILIES TO JOIN US FOR
WEEKLY MASS ON:*

SATURDAYS AT 4:00 P.M.

OR

*SUNDAYS AT 8:00 OR
10:30 A.M.*



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE
TEACHERS AND STAFF AT SACRED
HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

INFANTS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Our babies and their families are true gifts to our center. The baby room staff would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for allowing us to be a part of your baby's life. They are a true blessing.

We will be doing a lot of painting using our feet and hands- making Advent wreaths and ornaments. We will be singing lots of Christmas songs and reading about Jesus' Birthday. We have lots of tummy time and floor time so they are able to explore their world. They love for us to sit and talk to them, read them books, and sing along to the CD's. The older babies love to fill and dump. More dumping than filling but that's ok. They love music, books and outside time. They are learning to pick up finger foods, so we encourage you to continue to send it in so we can practice our fine motor skills. Eating finger foods helps to build fine motor skills as well as eye-hand coordination. We love to watch the babies master the skill of picking something up and getting it to their mouth.

We will continue to go outside even on cooler days. Please make sure you send your child layers so we can peel things off as the Florida days warm quickly. Label all items.

As always, thank you for your generous donation of snacks and wipes. They are greatly appreciated.



ONES

Welcome December and Advent Season! This truly is the most wonderful time of the year and we are so blessed to have to opportunity to share it with you and your family.

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and enjoyed your time home with your family. We had so much fun in November making our turkey placemats and also our beautiful fall trees. We hope you found use for all of the fall leaves they made by mixing the colors yellow, orange, red, and brown. We certainly enjoyed them in our room for the fall season.

We have lots of fun activities planned for this month like making reindeer food to take home and making a special Christmas gift for our parents. We also have several fun art and sensory activities planned as well. We will be talking about the meaning of Christmas as well as Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, The Holy Family. As I'm sure you have already noticed we have started playing our Christmas music as well and will work on learning some of the words while dancing and ringing our bells.

SHECC will be closed on December 23rd and 26th in observance of Christmas and also on December 30th in observance of New Year. We will be sending home all of our gifts and artwork the week before Christmas so if you are not planning on attending the full week please be sure to let me know so we can send your child's things home early.

May the spirit of Christ fill your holiday season with joy and thankfulness.



TWOS

December- Advent and Christmas

Theme: Jesus is the Reason for the Season

Music and Movement: Jingle Bells, Rudolph and Christmas Music

During the month of December our class will be learning about all things associated with **Advent and Christmas**.

We will have a special birthday celebration in honor of Jesus birth.

Literacy: The Story of Baby Jesus, I Spy Little Christmas

Math: 12 Days of Christmas

Creative Expression: Creating several Christmas related crafts

We would like to wish all our families a Merry Christmas and Happy New year!



December Events

December 1- Parent Appreciation Night 5:30-9:00

December 14-Christmas Program and Party

December 23, 26 and 30

SHECC CLOSED



PRESCHOOL I

Merry Christmas! We are going to be super busy this month. We will be hearing about Advent, The Holy Family, and the Scents & Sounds of Christmas.

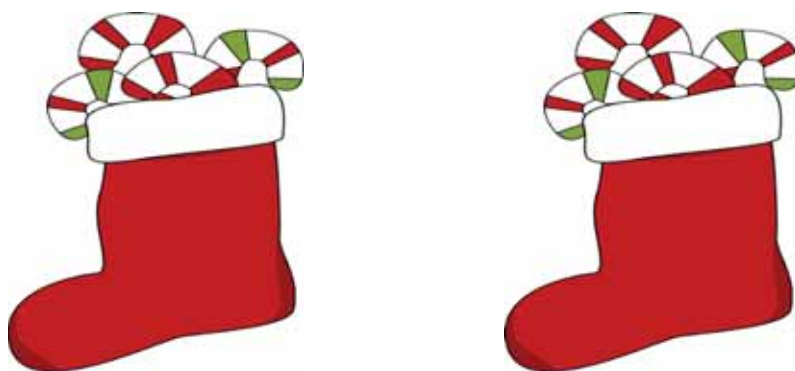
We are going to observe Advent by lighting a candle on our weekly trip to church. The kids are going to make their own Advent wreaths to take home and share with their family.

This whole month we will discuss the Holy Family and how Jesus was a gift to us from God.

The third week in December we are going to make gingerbread houses. A sign-up sheet for donations will be posted.

We will be learning new songs for the Christmas Program on December 14th, at 6:45 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church.

I apologize for the delay, but the children's assessments are going to go home at the end of the month.



PRESCHOOL II

Our themes for the month of December are Gingerbread and Christmas. Some of the activities we will be working on are writing letters to Santa, observing what happens when a gingerbread man gets wet, graphing who has a wreath on their door, using tongs to put jingle bells into a bottle, and painting with pine needles just to name a few.

We will be learning Christmas songs that we will perform at our Christmas play on Wednesday, December 14th, at 6:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Please be sure to join us. The children always do an awesome job.

We have also started observing the season of Advent. It is a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. Each week we will visit the church and light a candle on the Advent wreath. The evergreen wreath symbolizes the new and everlasting life brought through Jesus Christ. As we light the candles each week we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings to us: Hope, Love, Joy, & Peace. We will also display Advent candles in our class with the weekly prayers on them.

Lastly Ms. Katie, Sr. Elizabeth, and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!





VPK

It's hard to believe 2016 is almost finished. We only have three weeks of VPK this month, so we are going to make the most of them. Our main focus will be Advent, a season of waiting and preparing. For us as Catholics this is a good time to reflect on the importance of waiting in our lives. Each week we will light a candle on our Advent Wreath:

- The first candle reminds us of the light of hope that the prophets had as they looked forward to a Messiah who would bring peace and love to the world.
- The second candle reminds us of the dark night when Joseph and Mary found light and warmth in the stable.
- The third candle reminds us of the love and joy which surrounded the shepherds at the announcement of the birth of Jesus.
- The fourth candle reminds us of the star which guided the magi to the stable where Jesus lay.

The Advent wreath is a powerful way to focus our prayer during this season. The never-ending circle of greens reminds us of God's unending love and the source of our hope.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus on Christmas, we will be preparing our classroom as well by starting our month discussing Ornaments. We will practice our uppercase and lowercase letters by matching ornaments with letters on them. We will use play-doh and cutters to create different types of ornaments.

The week of December 8th, we will discuss Gifts and Christmas Cards. We will start the week by writing our letters to Santa. While we practice writing our names, we will also begin making cards for our family and friends. If you have any used Christmas cards, we love to recycle them by cutting them up and using them for our own cards and decorations.

Our third week we will do a unit on Cookies. We will touch, taste, see, smell and even hear when we bite into them. Children learn and retain more, when they use all of their senses. We will create a sensory tub using flour and gingerbread mix. The children will measure, mix and create with this. We will read several books on the

Gingerbread Boy and practice our one to one correspondence with a cookie matching game.

During these weeks, we will learn some Christmas songs and practice for our Christmas Program. Some of the songs we will learn are: Joy to the World; Away in the Manger; Go Tell it on the Mountains; The Angels Sing, and Silent Night. Some of the stories we will enjoy this month are: Asleep at the Stable; The Polar Express; Counting to Christmas, and many more.

In our Bright Beginnings curriculum, we will introduce Advent with weekly visits to the church. We will read bible verses that lead us to the nativity and sing Christmas songs. The children will add a candle to our Advent Wreath each week to help mark the passage of time during the four weeks of Advent.

Important Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, December 6th is the Feast of St. Nicholas. We will begin with a "Shoe Blessing" then place our shoes outside our door during naptime in hopes that we receive a visit from St. Nicholas.

Thursday, December 1th is our Parent Appreciation Night from 5:30 to 9:30. We will serve dinner to the children and have some fun activities for them. Watch for a sign-up sheet and more information.

December 14th is our Christmas Program and Party. Watch for more information.

May you have a Very Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



SCHOOL AGE

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. This will be a busy and exciting month for us.

We have a lot of exciting projects planned. Our themes are: Advent/Jesus and Christmas/Bells. Please come in and see all of the children's artwork. We will be making Christmas trees, cards, and Advent wreaths. At the end of the month we will make bell necklaces to ring in the new year.

Parent Appreciation night was so much fun. If your child was not able to attend this year, make plans for next year. We always have a great time.

I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless you and your family.



Notes from Cindie...



I hope the joys of the season will envelope everyone! Obviously Christmas is my favorite time of year and I am giddy at the thought of Christmas Day smiles and the beauty of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. I pray that each one of you receive all the blessings that you need now and through the upcoming year. With that thought in my heart I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have a giving tree for needy children and families, please help us make another's Christmas just as happy as we hope our will be. Please return new wrapped items with the tag to the office by December 19th.

Don't forget that our *Basket Fundraiser* is coming up at the end of January and though that seems like a ways off it will be here before we know it...while you're out shopping there are great items for baskets on sale now that may be gone later. Please plan your baskets now and help make our fundraiser a great success!! All gift baskets are greatly appreciated and all ideas are welcomed!! Be creative and have fun with the themes. Some suggestions are Football Game Day, Movie Night, Spaghetti Dinner, Wine and Chocolate, Baby Items, Car Care, Gardener's



Delight or any other idea that you can think of!

All of the classrooms have many activities going on during December please make sure you check your child's folder for information pertinent to you. *Sacred Heart ECC's Annual Christmas Program* will be held on December 14, 2016 @ 6:30 Pm in the Church. Please bring children dressed in Church attire for this special night. We will have cookies and punch immediately following our program in the Church Hall.



With love and blessings to each of you...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!