



**St. Gilbert Religious Education Program
Parent Letter #5
December 17, 2023**

Dear Parents,

This is an exciting time of the year. I hope and pray that you take time with the children to talk about the reason for the season – the birth of Jesus. It is a challenge at this time of year to be focused on why we celebrate Christmas.

The Religious Education Program sponsored the Fannie May Candy fundraiser and raised over \$1,200.00 for our use. Thank you for your support!

Just a reminder that you can make tuition payments through the website Give Central. (There is a link on the Religious Education Website.) If you are having a hard time making the payments talk to Lisa and we will try to help. If you would like to assist someone who can't make their payment, put the money in an envelope and label it St. Gilbert REP Tuition Assistance.

On Sunday, December 17 at 9:30 am, Preschool through Grade 6 will gather in the Multi-Purpose Room for Christmas Caroling and the dramatization of the Nativity by Grade 3. Parents and grandparents are invited to join us.



The 4th grade students and parents are invited to attend a retreat on Saturday, February 3, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Invitations will go out after the New Year. This is an important activity and I hope to see all 4th graders participate.

Grade 2 students are invited to participate in a play at the beginning of the 3:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. Forms were sent home with the students. The practice is on Saturday, December 23 at 9:30 am in the Church. If you would like to have your son/daughter participate, come to the practice.

If any of the students want to be a part of the choir for the Christmas Eve, 3 pm Mass, simply practice the songs (Christmas Carols) at home and then be here by 2:15 pm on Christmas Eve to practice before Mass. It would help if you call my office and leave the name of the student and grade level in order that we could prepare the materials ahead of time - 847-223-3071.

Grade 2 students and parents will have a walk-through Mass on January 28 at 2:00 pm. This is the beginning of the preparation for First Communion. You will receive an invitation in early January.

Religious Education Classes resume on Sunday, January 7, 2024.

May you and your family have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless!
Sr. Donna

I hope reading these poems will inspire you as they have inspired me.

CHRISTMAS GLITTER

With our eyes
we see the glitter
of Christmas,
with our ears
we hear the merriment,



we touch the
tinsel-tied trinkets,
but only
with our hearts
can we feel
the miracle of it.

I love this next quote...called the GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP.

When you ask God for a gift,
be thankful if God sends
not diamonds, pearls, and riches
but the love of real true friends.



A Blessing of the Christmas Child

Travel safely,
and may you find your stable
with a manger and a child.
Listen carefully,
and hear the child cry to you
and take him to your heart.
Watch closely;
and see the guiding light
that shows you the road to travel.
And as you listen for the cry
and watch for the light on your journey
feel the presence of hope, peace and love
with the blessing of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
within you, beside you and before you. Amen.

CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION

**MAY THE WONDER OF THE SHEPHERDS,
AND GENEROSITY OF THE WISE MEN
AND THE COMPASSION OF MARY,
BE IN US AND FLOW FROM US,
THIS CHRISTMAS AND ALWAYS.**

