



Trinity Times



Volume 1 Issue 4

Student Newspaper

December 22, 2021

Advent: A Time of Hope

By Giada Smith--We all know about the time of year that we celebrate the four weeks before Christmas--Advent. During Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus. At Trinity Catholic School, each classroom celebrates Advent.

In grades 4-6, the students worked on activities every day in a little booklet called *Absolutely Advent*. Some of the preschool students made advent wreaths out of paper tubes and construction paper. Several classrooms made Jesse Trees, where you cut out a tree shape from paper and then attach colored ornaments to the tree that have symbols celebrating Jesus's ancestors. The ornaments are placed on the trees daily starting at the bottom and finishing with Jesus at the top.

All classes participated in our live-streamed Monday Advent Prayer Services. Stories and scriptures shared by Father Morissette and some 6th grade students. The services were held in the 6th grade classroom. One student also lit the candles each week. The three purple candles represent hope, faith and peace, while the pink candle represents joy. Some Advent wreaths also include a white candle, the Jesus candle that is lit on Christmas day.

Our school also attended the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. We celebrated the immaculate conception of Mary, Jesus's mother.



Sophia Otokiti (6th Grade) lights the Advent wreath.



Advent wreath made by preschool student Briella Favata.

(Photo Credit: Rose Favata)



Mr. Amell joins Trinity Catholic School as our interim principal.

Trinity Welcomes Mr. Amell

By Matilda Tunis--Due to personal reasons, our principal Mrs. Merola has had to leave Trinity Catholic School. However our school has welcomed a new interim principal, Mr. Amell. Mr. Amell has come out of retirement to help at Trinity until a new permanent principal is found. Mr. Amell has a varied background that includes having been a classroom teacher, principal and school district superintendent. Mr. Amell is a good christian man who is well known by our own superintendent Mr. Christ. Mr. Amell lives in Liverpool, New York with his wife Laurie. He has been married to his wife for 50 years. They have three amazing grown children named Andrew, Robert, and James. Mr. Amell comes from a large family, where he has nine siblings and lots of cousins. Mr. Amell has been a wonderful addition to our school He visits all of the classrooms several times a week and spends time engaging with the students at all grade levels.



Photography By:
Michael Geiss and
Zachary Maines.



St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra was the first Santa Claus.



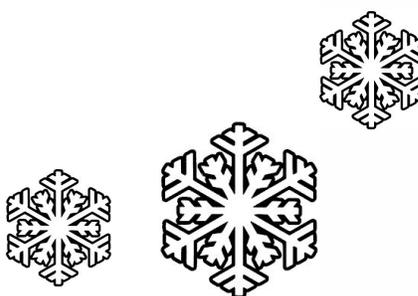
Santa Claus's well-known red suit is inspired by St. Nicholas.

The Legend of St. Nicholas

By Kaelyn Bond--Everyone knows the story of St. Nicholas or Santa Claus but not everyone knows how he became Santa Claus. St. Nicholas was born in Patara, Turkey around the year 300 A.D. Saint Nicholas was born into a wealthy family. His parents wanted him to become a priest because they wanted to repay God for answering their prayers. When both of his parents died from an illness he was orphaned and went to live with his uncle who was the Bishop of Patara. Nicholas was ordained by his uncle around his adulthood.

Emperor Diocletian, who was the emperor at this time, punished the people who didn't worship the Roman Gods. Nicholas was one of the people who had gotten arrested. But after Emperor Diocletian resigned, Constantine the Great freed all of the prisoners. St. Nicholas left Patara to go to Myra. While he was there the archbishop had passed, and the local priest had a vision that night from God that told him to pick the first person who walks by the church the next morning and make them the new archbishop. And the first person to walk by the church was St. Nicholas, and at first he refused but then accepted.

Nicholas took on the garb of his position, red robes trimmed with gold with a red bishop's miter, or hat. Over time his manner of dress slowly changed into the red suit, trimmed with the fluffy white, and the red and white hat you see him in today.



Monthly Virtue

Our virtue for the month of December, generosity, was the perfect virtue for the season of Christmas.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8



Spotlight--Community Giving Tree

By Morgan Mills--This year Trinity Catholic School's December community service project was collecting hats, socks, gloves, and scarves for the Victory Transformation Center here in Oswego. The Victory Transformation Center is a faith-based community service that offers housing as well as meeting many other needs for people who need help. They have two locations in the City of Oswego.

Students from preschool through sixth grade donated items that were hung on Christmas trees in the hallways. Thank you to everyone who donated to this community outreach project, your kindness is greatly appreciated.



(Photo Credit: Terra Pritchard)

Kerrigan Pritchard (3rd Grade) adds donations to the Giving Tree.

Street Beat

Sixth grade student Nora Newell recently asked some Trinity students what their Christmas wish is.



**Nina King
5th Grade**

"For snow on Christmas."



**Ella Adkins
1st Grade**

"I want my family to be happy on Christmas."



**Grayson Sugar
2nd Grade**

"A Chelsea AFC jersey."



**Owen Colloca
PreSchool**

"A wishing star."



**Sarah Stevens
3rd Grade**

"A new pillow for my bed."



**Mason Pauldine
4th Grade**

"I want my parents to have a good Christmas."



**Nicholette Licatase
5th Grade**

"My aunt to come home for Christmas"



Photography By:
Michael Geiss and
Zachary Maines.

Christmas Trees: Then and Now

By Wilson Metcalf--The first historical reference to a tree being decorated for Christmas was in Riga Latvia around 1510. In Germany decorating trees became a lot more popular in the 1600s. They first used live spruce or pine trees, and would usually be decorated by apples, candy, and real lit candles. Trees were traditionally put up 12 days before Christmas and taken down twelve days after.

Today the Christmas tree is the center of many traditions during the Christmas season. The Christmas tree now is typically decorated with electric stringed lights and a wide variety of ornaments, treats and other foliage. At the top of the tree a star or an angel is very common. Today many trees are artificial and can come in a variety of colors and shapes. Some families still do have live trees that they cut down or purchase from a tree farm. Most families will put up their tree the day after Thanksgiving and take it down shortly after Christmas.

Trinity Holds Christmas Concert

By Anna Canale--On Tuesday the 14 of December, Trinity Catholic held a Christmas chorus and band concert. Mr. Joeckel, our instrumental teacher and Mrs. Fenn, our vocal music teacher worked very hard to pull this together. The concert was at Christ the Good Shepherd Church with all of the students in grades K-6 participating. Unfortunately due to Covid family and friends were unable to attend. The concert had to be streamed on Facebook where families could watch it live.. This was an in-school concert which means that the concert was performed during school hours.

Mr. Jockel and the fifth and sixth grade band performed *St. Nick Plays Trumpet*, and *Christmas Fanfare*. Kindergarten through second grade sang *Mittens and Gloves*, *I'm a Little Snowflake*, and *Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star*. The third and fourth graders performed *Merry Christmas Bells* and *Silent Night*. Finally the fifth and sixth graders performed *Red Bird* and *Here Comes the Snow*. Each choral group used fun props that made the songs even more special.

Each performance can be viewed on YouTube:
 Band Grades 5 & 6: <https://youtu.be/kSpMYIsUpH0>
 Chorus Grades K-2: <https://youtu.be/Lqi1ISEDQ2E>
 Chorus Grades 3-6: <https://youtu.be/wT6XKr6ehFU>

Winter Word Search

By Brody Pauldine

J B O F M U W A S X R V Y U A M
 E B G D H O A W M T F N E U D T
 E X L W N P F G I X P D E Q G I
 R Y B S S M L L E C Y T G C G U
 T J G F Y F S O I I K F A A N A
 S O T R D E S E D G C B E N I N
 A P R E S E N T S U H R N D D W
 M D V N L N U L T K R T C Y R W
 T C K S P X E G N I I K S C A S
 S X Q R X D N L I S R Y C A O N
 I K B S D K O N O D S J Z N B Y
 R I L I V A V W C X D L D E W T
 H G N O Z M R Q U M Z O J Q O G
 C G S P O G W R S L G L Q Z N H
 I G P B U T A I J E L O S P S V
 A T N A S I U C Y R J F G F K S

CandyCane	Snow
Santa	Skiing
Sledding	ChristmasTree
Snowboarding	Rudolph
Presents	

Can you find the tenth secret word?



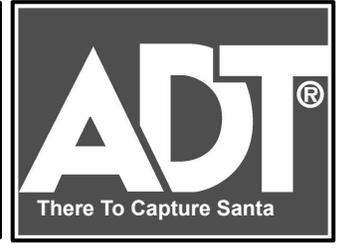
Students accompany the 5th and 6th grade chorus with percussion instruments.



Third and fourth grade chorus play bells while singing *Merry Christmas Bells*.

(Photography Credit: Terra Pritchard)

Not Part of the Plan--By Nicholas Docos



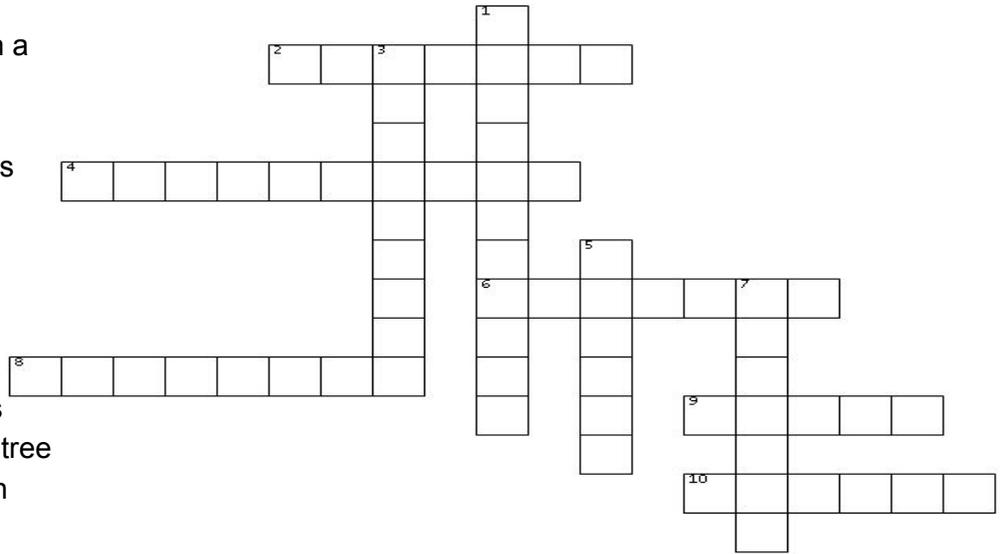
Christmas Crossword--By Alex Allain

ACROSS

- 2. A common treat on Christmas
- 4. A peppermint treat sometimes hung on a Christmas tree
- 6. the most popular reindeer
- 8. Something under the tree on Christmas
- 9. Also known as St. Nick
- 10. Also known as loved one

DOWN

- 1. A molasses treat you eat on Christmas
- 3. Something you put on your Christmas tree
- 5. Something Christians celebrate though November 28th, to December 24th
- 7. Something people wear to bed

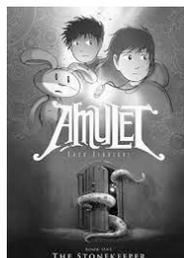


Book Review

by: Gabby Martin

If you like graphic novels or fantasy stories, you will love the book in this month's book review. This is a series, but only the first book will be reviewed. Amulet: The Stonekeeper starts with a young girl named Emily who is in a car accident with her parents and her dad dies. The family moves into her grandfather's old house where Emily finds an amulet and her Mom is taken by a mysterious creature. Now Emily and her brother Navin have to explore a new world to find and help their Mom.

Rating: ★★★★★



Review Corner

Movie Review

by: Chloe Carson

This month's movie review is of a movie that I absolutely love. The movie is the 2018 animated version of Dr. Seuss's *The Grinch*. This is the perfect holiday movie for family, friends and even pets. We can't forget about our fuzzy friends this holiday season, afterall, even the Grinch had a dog! Go snuggle up with your family after a long day of school and work and watch the Grinch's heart grow with love after seeing all the Christmas joy in Whoville.

Rating: ★★★★★

