



# SAINT MARIA GORETTI

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## CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

December 2, 2019

Dear SMG Families,

This morning, we began December and our return following Thanksgiving break with our Faith Families Assembly!

Students, faculty, and staff came together for prayer, pledge, and announcements, and then we discussed the virtue we will be focusing on during the month of December, Patience—waiting or enduring without complaint. When faced with situations, people, and events that irritate us, we all have the opportunity to practice patience. As we grow in the virtue, little things bother us less and less.

Some of the Saints students will be learning more about this month who especially emulated the virtue of patience include: St. Monica; St. Isaac Jogues; and St. Rita of Cascia.

The season of Advent ties in perfectly with the virtue of patience. We talked about the origin and meaning of Advent, from the Latin word “Adventus”, which means “arrival” or “coming”. We also read a special book titled, *The Advent of Christmas* by Matt Maher, which simply explains the meaning of Advent and the waiting for the arrival of Christmas. As the celebration of Jesus’ birth approaches, let us prepare, pray, and await patiently the reconciliation of all things this Advent season.

We ended our whole-group assembly with the PreK-3, PreK-4, and Kindergarten students singing a preview of the songs they will be performing during the Christmas Program. They are super excited to sing for parents, families, and guest next week!

In their small Faith Family groups students continued the discussion of Advent, learning about and creating a beautiful Advent tradition—the Jesse Tree. A Jesse Tree represents the family tree of Jesus. During the Advent season, a Bible story is read which relates to Jesus’ family or God’s people. After the story is read and discussed, an ornament is placed on a tree—the Jesse Tree. This is typically done every day in Advent leading up to Christmas while we patiently wait for the birth of Jesus.

As we celebrate the season, I pray that you and your family enjoy this special time together and may it be full of love, laughter, and peace!

Blessings,

Laura Behee, M.Ed.  
Principal

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