

# MARIANEWS

Marian High School – Tamaqua, PA 18252

December 2018

## ADVENT AT MARIAN

By Jordan Woitko

The advent wreath is part of a long ongoing Catholic tradition. It is said that the pre-Christian Germanic people using wreaths would light the candles during the cold and dark December days, to show a sign of hope in the future for warmth and longer sunlit days in spring. In Scandinavia, during the winter season lighted candles were placed in a circle, and prayers were presented to their god of light to change “the wheel of earth back” for longer days and to bring back the warmth of the weather. In the middle ages Christians started to use the advent wreath as their spiritual preparation for the Christmas season.

The advent wreath has a very pure, beautiful meaning. The wreath is layered with evergreens which represents a sustained life. The Advent Wreath has many features that help it relate to our faith. The leaves on the advent wreath even remind us of the crown of thrones, the wreath is a circle, which means it has no beginning and no end. This represents the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life, found in Christ. The four candles found on the Advent Wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Each color has a different meaning, there are three purple candles and one pink one. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifice. On the third Sunday, when the priest wears a rose vestment at mass the rose color candle is lit. The lighting of this candle represents the excitement and good news of our lord entering the world and his second coming to judge those of the living and



Here at Marian Catholic to show preparation for the Christmas season we set up the Advent Wreath in the lobby of the school with colored ribbons to replace the colored candles. Photo by Jordan Woitko

the dead. The light of the candles signify Christ, the light of the world.

During the Christmas season another tradition some people do is take all the three purple candles and the one pink one out of the wreath and replace the empty candle spots with four white candles. Advent could be known as a time to wake up the lord for the holiday season, the wreath and its prayers allow Catholics to prepare for the Christmas holiday.

### Upcoming events -

Jan 2 – Classes resume

Jan 10 – 11 – In-class exams

Jan 15- 17 – exams - Early dismissal

Jan 19 – Semi-formal

Jan 21 – Teacher In-service

Jan 22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter begins

Jan 27- Begin Catholic Schools Week

Jan 27- Open House

Newspapers should proofread!

Mississippi's literacy program shows improvement.



## Boxing Day

By: Zackery Hnat

Boxing day came from the United Kingdom but is still celebrated in many different countries on December 26. And it has nothing to do with the sport of boxing.

This day started way back in the 19th century but the traditions are from the middle ages. It was mostly a day of awarding the peasants, tradespeople, and the poor with a gift. This name originated from alms boxes which collected donations and were presented to the less fortunate. This is traditionally the day servants get off to celebrate Christmas with their families since they have to work on Christmas to take care of their employers. Boxing Day has become a valuable tradition to reward the hard working and those who may encounter struggles. On this day, people recognize the importance of giving back.



Here is a picture of people waiting in line to receive their gift for boxing day.

## Giving the Christmas Spirit to those in need

By Grace Mussoline

As a part of the Christmas season, the Marian Catholic student council sponsored a giving tree as a way to show compassion to those in need. The tree was set up the day after Thanksgiving break and gifts were being collected throughout the month of December. The 100 tags placed on the tree were from Catholic Social Services in Hazleton. By students giving a Barbie doll to a less fortunate 5 year old girl, or giving a monster truck to a less fortunate 7 year old boy, they should then realize all of the things they are given.

During the Christmas season, everyone should have something or someone that they love, and if by participating in this act of giving makes a child in need happy, we have accomplished our goal. As a member of student council, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Student Council's giving tree that is filled with gifts for children in need. Photo by Grace Mussoline

## Who's your Secret Santa?

By Madeline Ruff

The tradition of giving gifts has been around for many years. The joy we get from giving these gifts and receiving them is what keeps the tradition going. In some cases we play the game of Secret Santa. Secret Santa is an arrangement in which a group of friends or colleagues exchange Christmas presents anonymously, each member of the group being assigned another member for whom to provide a small gift, typically costing no more than a small amount. Our very own Marian Catholic FBLA participates in this tradition. You can start this tradition with your family and friends for many more fun Christmases to come.





**“Don't Forget to leave your shoes out for Old Saint Nick”**

By: Grace Lorenz

Has your mom ever reminded you to leave your shoes outside your door so Saint Nick can leave you different goodies such as candy, toys, fruit, and cookies in either your shoes or stocking? The tradition of Saint Nicholas coming to your house is the night of December 5th.

Saint Nick was a Bishop who lived in the 4th century his parents were very rich. Once they passed away when he was very young he got all of their money. He didn't let all the money that he had affect him. Saint Nick was a very kind man who helped the poor. He was known for giving secret gifts to them. The tradition started when a poor man had 3 daughters and one of the daughters was getting married and the father didn't have enough to pay for it. One of the nights Nicholas dropped a bag of gold down the chimney into the house and the bag fell into the stockings hanging by the fireplace. Nicholas wanted to keep secret hi about giving him the money and begged the father not to tell. For all his giving to the poor he was declared a saint and became the patron saint of children.

So don't forget to leave your shoes out for Old Saint Nick he just wants to leave you a little treat. Every country celebrates this day a little differently than the USA. The tradition will live on for many years to come.



Saint Nick has stopped at this house the night of December 5th. All the shoes are filled with fruit, toys and money. The tradition lives on for the next year.

## AIDS Awareness Month

By: Maggie Joseph

AIDS is a disease in which there is a severe loss of the body's cellular immunity, greatly lowering the resistance to infection and malignancy. This disease attacks the immune system, making it harder to fight off other diseases and infections. According to UNAIDS, There were approximately 36.9 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS in 2017, 1.8 million of these lives were children fifteen years of age and younger. Nearly 5,000 new infections are discovered each day. AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. As of 2018, there has been no cure found to eliminate the virus or reverse it from a patient's system. The awareness of AIDS is important and has a possibility to save a life. This December, we recognize the awareness of AIDS.



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# Christmas at Marian

## MARIAN CATHOLIC CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

*Events are hosted with Christ at the center*

By: Jacob Artz

**HOMETOWN** - Christmas is always known for the presents, more cheerful feelings towards one another, decorations, and cookies. What often gets lost in the shuffle, however, is the reason for the season. Christ came into this world to save souls from Hell and to spread the truth of the Christian faith.

No other event celebrated in the Catholic faith exemplifies His coming into the world more than the Holy Mass. The Holy Mass is a celebration of the divine meeting with the earthly life to reconcile sins and bring the congregation closer to His divine heart. The consecration of the Holy Eucharist is the pinnacle of the Catholic faith when Jesus Christ comes to them in body, blood, soul, and divinity.

The Holy Eucharist is the remedy for our soul while the Advent wreath is the physical symbol of light Christ brings them through the burning of the candle. The candle symbolizes the unceasingly, eternal flame that represents the forgiveness that Christ always has for Catholics in the sacrament of Reconciliation. The evergreens that the candles are situated in are a symbol of the ever present love that Christ has for us because the evergreens do not perish in the winter.

The giving tree has a different type of leaf but is artificial. This can symbolize the dropping off of Christ in Christmas. Yet, giving is still a traditional trait in the Christmas season that exemplifies the increase of giving in society. The presents under the tree are going to less fortunate people in society.

The annual Christmas concert is being hosted by Marian Catholic High School on Wednesday, December 19th to raise the Christmas spirit of all by singing traditional Christmas carols. A 50/50

raffle will also be held to support the people at Marian Catholic.



**The giving tree sponsored by the Marian Catholic student council contains all the gifts below it to give to less fortunate families on Friday, December 7th. Students volunteered to buy gifts to help the less fortunate.**

Marian Catholic always presents its best self around the Christmas season when the classrooms and hallways are decorated festively with Jesus's birth at the center of the season. An emphasis on the Nativity scene, the purity of Mary, and giving back are at the heart of the celebration.



**A Nativity scene is presented in the Library at Marian Catholic High School on Monday, December 10th to show the reason for Christmas as Christ was born in Bethlehem to save all from their sins.**

Christmas is a praising of Jesus Christ, who is the Savior for the Catholic faith, was brought into the world to proclaim the truth and die for the world's sins. This season is a calling to better ourselves in the Catholic faith.





# Christmas Music rings in the holiday season

By Vlad Holoviak

This past Wednesday, December 19, Marian Catholic's annual Christmas concert was held in the gym with many supportive parents and faculty there to view the talent of the students. The picture that I just painted is very adequate. It is also very typical. But why is that? Why is this the norm for every high school concert and musical event? Go to a basketball game and look around. You will see parents and faculty supporting the event. Sounds just like the scenario that I described earlier in the paragraph. The key difference that is very noticeable is the fact that the attendance of a basketball game, or any sports game for that matter, is made up of students by a significant margin. These are students willingly coming to the games to see their friends and fellow classmates perform. Games like that are very likely and occur quite often, whereas musical events are much more rare. There are only 2 year round at Marian, not including band shows at football games and the senior play. But nobody seems to make the effort to attend either of those 2 events, even though they are completely free, unlike sports games. The only chance that students get to see the play is the Friday after when half of the student body isn't even there. And even then, the performance is heavily abbreviated and is basically there just to kill time before the half-day of school ends, and Christmas break begins.

This shows how much sports overshadow the music program at this school. What we need is a new attitude. One that makes both sports and music equals. Instead of just promoting all the sports games over the loudspeakers, maybe mention the concert. Or at least give a little recognition. That's not asking too much.



Band performs *Jazzy Holidays* for an appreciative audience. Photo by M. Costello

Chorus sings their hearts out in *Do you hear what I hear*. The harmonies were wonderful. Photo by M. Costello



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Despite the small attendance of students, the Christmas concert was enjoyed by all that did attend. The concert band performed such wonderful music as *Jazzy Holidays*, *The Christmas Song* (Chestnuts roasting on an open fire ), *Christmas Collage* and a *CMU Christmas Concert*. After the intermission Sarah Halupa and Abby Digris performed a duet on the piano of *Sleigh ride*. Then the chorus came on to sing for us such wonderful sounds of *Do you hear what I hear?*, *An Advent Aleluia*, *Carols around (and a Round)*, *See that star*, and *Jazz Gloria*. The evening ended with chorus alumni that were attending to come up and join in on the annual singing of *Cantique de Noel* (O Holy Night). This was the perfect way to begin the Christmas season and prepare for that holiest of nights – Christmas Eve.

# Hanukkah

By: Rhiannon Malarkey

From candle-lighting to Maccabees and latkes to dreidels Hanukkah is a very beloved and joyous holiday celebrated by Jewish people around the world. Hanukkah is celebrated to remember the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was destroyed by the Syrian Greeks in 164 BCE. Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights and usually takes place in December.

In 167 BCE, the Jewish people rose up in revolt against King Antiochus IV. The leader of the revolt was Judah of Maccabee, and in 164 Judah and his followers were able to capture the Temple in Jerusalem and rededicate it to Israel's God.

For most of the holiday, it is celebrated at home. Important to the holiday is the lighting of the menorah, an eight branched candelabrum to which one candle is added on each night of the holiday until the candelabrum is fully lit on the eighth day. During the eight days, the Jewish people tend to eat foods fried in oil because of the legendary cruse of oil. Some of the most common Hanukkah foods are European potato pancakes, and the Israeli favorite jelly donuts. During this time in Europe, it was tradition to give small amounts of money as well as raisins to children. However, because of the influence of Christmas, which takes place around the same time of year, Hanukkah has evolved into the central gift giving holiday in the Jewish calendar in the Western World.

According to MJL of My Jewish Learning, Hanukkah is not biblically ordained, so the liturgy for the holiday is not well developed. It is actually a quite minor festival. However, it has become one of the most beloved of Jewish holidays. In an act of defiance against those in the past and in the present who would root out Jewish practice, the observance of Hanukkah has assumed a visible community aspect. Jews will often gather for communal celebrations and public candle lighting. At such celebrations, Hanukkah songs are sung and traditional games such as dreidel are played. Like Passover, Hanukkah is a holiday that celebrates the liberation from oppression. It also provides a strong argument in favor of freedom of worship and religion. In spite of the human action that is commemorated, never far from the surface is the theology that the liberation was possible only thanks to the miraculous support of the Divine.

The Hanukkah Menorah and Dreidels



## Freshman Student Council

By: Dylan Seibert



Newly inducted freshman student council members.

Being a leader is a serious job. There is now some new freshman stepping up into leadership roles. The positions that were filled are:

President-Isabella Lesante  
Vice President-Grace Curnow  
Secretary/Treasurer- Rhiannon Dempsey  
Homeroom 1D Rep.-Rhiannon Brady  
Homeroom 2D Rep.-Robert Jones  
Homeroom 3D Rep.-Natalie Nunez

Somebody, somewhere has to make the decisions. Taking on a job like this will teach leadership, communication, and other social skills. For example, the homeroom representatives carry out different objectives and hold slightly more responsibility in their homeroom. As the rank increases so does the responsibility. These class officers plan events and do what they can to better the school as well as their peers' school spirit.

