



— December 5, 2025 —

# Irish Messenger

Issue 9

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 8 - All School Mass  
8:15am, Solemnity

Dec 9 - Christmas Program at  
Five Points 6:00PM

Dec 10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Early  
Dismissal at 2:00PM

Dec 11 - Sister Magdalena's  
Christmas Nativity with K  
and 4<sup>th</sup> grade 9:00AM

Dec 12 - All School Spanish  
Mass for Our Lady of  
Guadalupe

Dec 17 - Preschool Christmas  
Program 8:30AM

Dec 19 - 11:30 Dismissal to  
begin Christmas break

Dec 20-Jan 4 - Christmas  
Break

## Message from the Principal

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent, our school community is filled with excitement and anticipation. This is a special time to slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

I encourage you to take moments as a family to celebrate this season in simple but meaningful ways: lighting your Advent wreath, saying a prayer together, attending Mass, serving others, or sharing daily acts of kindness.

We are also looking forward to our Christmas Program, where our students will share the spirit of the season through music and celebration. It is always a highlight of the year, and we can't wait to see you there!

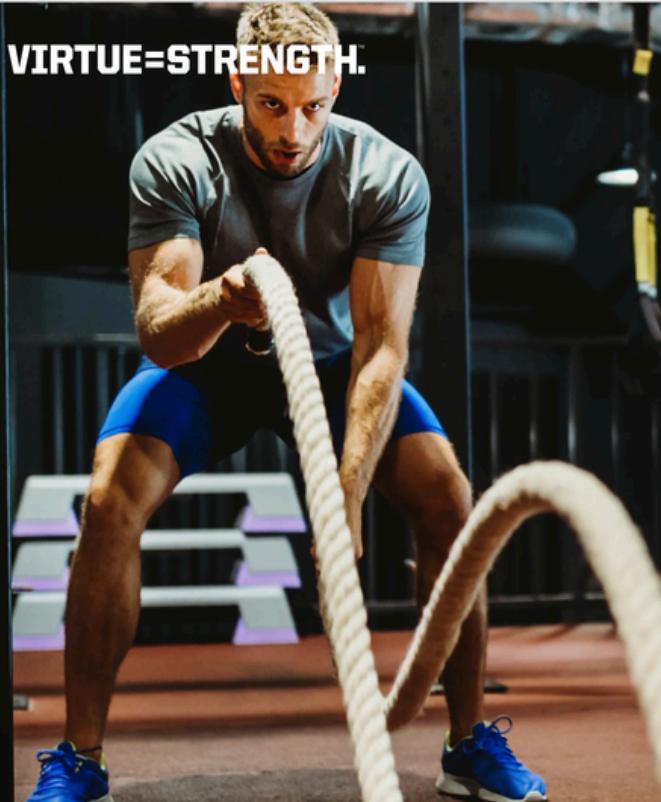
Wishing your family a blessed and joyful Advent.



# VIRTUE=STRENGTH.<sup>TM</sup>

INSPIRE. ENGAGE. STRENGTHEN.

**VIRTUE=STRENGTH.**



## WHAT IS TEMPERANCE?

The virtue of Temperance, or Moderation, is the strength that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods.

Practicing temperance leads to self-discipline, respect for others, and a more balanced life. It helps us live according to God's will rather than being ruled by impulses.

### Phrases to Remind Us to Practice Temperance:

1. "Balance is key in all things."
2. "Less is more; quality over quantity."
3. "Think before you act."
4. "True happiness comes from moderation, not excess."
5. "Self-control today leads to strength tomorrow."

**VIRTUE=STRENGTH.**



## WHAT IS SINCERITY?

The strength to express thoughts and feelings honestly and openly.

A sincere person communicates truthfully and acts with integrity, fostering trust and meaningful relationships.

### Examples of Sincerity:

1. Genuinely apologizing when we've made a mistake or hurt someone's feelings. An authentic apology involves acknowledging what we did wrong, expressing remorse, and making amends, rather than just saying, "I'm sorry" without meaning it.
2. Giving compliments that are heartfelt and specific, rather than generic praise. For example, instead of saying, "Great job," we could say, "I really liked how you explained your project; it made it easy to understand."
3. Being sincere about our efforts in schoolwork and extracurricular activities. For instance, if we are struggling with a subject, we should feel comfortable admitting it and seeking help rather than pretending everything is fine to avoid judgment.

**NEXT  
WEEK**

*This Week*

# Good Disciples



A big thank-you to Mr. Toohill, who went out of his way to clean the snow off Sr. Magdalena's car. Your quiet act of kindness is a wonderful example of true discipleship and care for our community. We appreciate you!



Among his many volunteer roles, Mr. Draeger leads our Student Ambassador group, which is offering an all-school Rosary every second Wednesday of the month. This opportunity is part of the Children's Rosary movement, inviting our students to grow in faith through prayer.



Our sports teams showed true discipleship by taking part in the Whip-Mas Tree community activity, collecting canned goods to support Washington Helps Its People (W.H.I.P.). We're proud of their teamwork, generosity, and commitment to serving others!

## Have a Good Disciple Suggestion?

We love highlighting the good deeds of our students, staff, and families. If you witness someone living out their faith through service, compassion, or helping others, please share it with us! Send your Good Disciple suggestions (and a picture, if possible—it always makes the story even better!) to:

Mrs. Smith or Tammy Barron  
[barront@stpatswashington.com](mailto:barront@stpatswashington.com)



## Celebrating the Feast Day of St. Nicholas!

Grant Johnson, an 8th-grade student, was selected by our teachers to serve as this year's St. Nicholas representative. Grant was chosen for the way he consistently lives out his Catholic faith and models strong virtues in his daily life.

Today, Grant joyfully dressed as St. Nicholas, the beloved bishop, and visited each classroom, sharing Christmas cheer and spreading kindness throughout our school. Students were excited to receive small gifts provided by our wonderful Parent Ministry.

As we continue this season of hope and joy, our Parent Ministry wishes all of our families a very Merry Christmas!



# LEGO LEAGUE

## Upcoming Dates

State Qualifying  
Competition at Bradley -  
December 6

🌟 Good Luck to Our  
LEGO League Teams! 🤖



Please join us in wishing the very best of luck to our three FIRST LEGO League teams as they compete at the State Qualifiers this weekend!

### FOR Loop Coders

Coaches: Tim Schlack, Heinz Schlack

Team Members: Henry Chiras, Sadie Gorsage, Grant Johnson, Mason Schlack, Traver Strauser, Gus Cody, Devon Siegle, Max Zuniga

### Raiders of the Lost Code

Coaches: Matt Rademacher, Andy Berberich, Sam Kosiara

Team Members: Jude Cody, Lily Kosiara, Jessica Rademacher, Connor Toohill, Evelyn Berberich, Evelyn Kosiara

### Indiana Drones

Coaches: Nick Toohill, Greg Stevenart, Mike Hatton

Team Members: Rose Berberich, Cecilia Hatton, Matthew Stevenart, Ansel Strauser, Grant Swearingen, Quin Toohill





## Spreading Christmas Cheer at City Hall!

Our students had an amazing time decorating our school's Christmas tree at Washington City Hall this week! We're proud to stand alongside the other Washington schools who also helped bring the building to life with festive spirit and creativity.

Moments like these remind us how special it is to be part of such a supportive and connected community.



A huge thank you to the City of Washington for including us in this wonderful new tradition. We're grateful for the opportunity to celebrate together and help make City Hall shine a little brighter this holiday season!

Merry Christmas, Washington!



A heartfelt thank-you to Michael Gormley for taking time during our Parish Advent Retreat to speak with our junior high students. Your message, presence, and willingness to share your faith and experiences meant so much to them, and to all of us.

We are grateful for the inspiration you brought to our retreat and for helping our students enter this Advent season with deeper reflection and joy.

Thank you again, Michael, for making this time truly meaningful!



# Lady Irish



The girls' basketball season came to an end Tuesday night. They fought hard to advance to the the second round of regionals, but in the end, they came up short.

Thank you to the coaches, players, parents and officials for another season of Irish basketball.



# BASKETBALL

## Upcoming Dates

**Dec 5 - @ Home vs  
Hollis  
5:30pm**

**Dec 11 - @ Home vs. St.  
Mary's Kickapoo  
5:30pm**

**Dec 12/13 - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Tournament @ St.  
Jude**

**Dec 15 - @ Home vs  
Delavan  
5:30pm**

**Dec 16 - @ Low Point  
Washburn  
5:30pm**

**Dec 18 - @ EP Central  
TBD**

**Jan 6 - @ Home vs  
Rankin  
5:30pm**

**Jan 12 - @ D50  
4:30pm**





The high school production of Joseph was enjoyed by several of our classes on November 19th.



7<sup>th</sup> grade enjoying a little play time with their prayer partners before Thanksgiving break.





YOU'RE INVITED TO THE  
ST. PATRICK SCHOOL

# *Christmas Program*

BAND AND CHOIR PERFORMANCES  
FOLLOWED BY  
K - 8 PERFORMANCES

TUESDAY | 09 | DECEMBER  
6:00 PM | 2025

FIVE POINTS  
WASHINGTON

**"O COME, LET US ADORE  
HIM—CHRIST THE LORD."**



# Christmas Spirit Week

Monday  
December 15

Pajama Day  
When cozy becomes  
the dress code.

Tuesday  
December 16

Ugly Christmas Sweater  
Today we wear sweaters loud  
enough for Santa to hear.

Wednesday  
December 17

Christmas Vacation  
It's Clark Griswold Day!  
Embrace the movie, the  
mishaps, and the merriment.

Thursday  
December 18

Dress Like A Christmas Tree  
Lights, tinsel, branches, if it  
belongs on a tree, wear it.

Friday  
December 19

Christmas Top with Uniform Bottoms  
Top half: Christmas spirit. Bottom half:  
School rules.





ST PATRICK  
SCHOOL

Love • Learn • Lead

**WE ARE HIRING!**

**OPEN POSITION  
AFTERCARE SUPERVISOR  
3-5:30 ON SCHOOL DAYS**

**APPLY NOW**

**MUST BE 21 AND A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE**

**CONTACT MRS. SMITH  
[CSMITH@STPATSWASHINGTON.ORG](mailto:CSMITH@STPATSWASHINGTON.ORG)**



December 2025

**WASHINGTONPARKDISTRICT.COM**

**#smalltownBIGFUN**



**Thursday, December 18**

**Candy Cane Hunt**

**5:15 pm**

**Rotary  
Shelter**

**Remember to bring a flashlight!**



NEED A PLACE TO CELEBRATE?

JOIN US AND SIGN UP FOR A  
**PARK DISTRICT**  
**Birthday Parties**

@ 105 S Spruce Street

Call

309-444-9413

Email

[info@washingtonparkdistrict.com](mailto:info@washingtonparkdistrict.com)



Join us at Rotary Shelter for

**Hot  
Cocoa**



**&  
Cookies**

**in Washington Park**

**December 18 4:30-5:30 pm**



**Edward Jones**

Nicole L. Miller, CFP®, AIFP®  
Financial Advisor



**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2026 SEASON IS NOW OPEN!**



December 2025

# WASHINGTONPARKDISTRICT.COM

## #smalltownBIGFUN



## SANTA BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 6  
9 - 11 am  
\$5 per person (age 1 and up)  
\$7 per person at the door

Five Points Banquet Rooms



Sign up at [washingtonparkdistrict.com](http://washingtonparkdistrict.com)

**DECEMBER 22**  
**DECEMBER 23**  
**DECEMBER 29**  
**DECEMBER 30**  
**JANUARY 2**

DAYQUESTS  
\$35(R)/\$40(NR)



Sign up at [washingtonparkdistrict.com](http://washingtonparkdistrict.com)

### PARTY IN THE USA

Daddy - Daughter Dance

February 11th  
6 pm  
Countryside



## SIGN UP NOW!!!



VISIT [WWW.WASHINGTONPARKDISTRICT.COM](http://WASHINGTONPARKDISTRICT.COM) TO  
SEE ALL OF THE OPTIONS

MUST SIGN UP IN PERSON AT OUR MAIN FACILITY!

Visit with  
**Santa**  
December 6  
12 - 3 pm  
\$45  
Must sign up by November 25

Sign up at [washingtonparkdistrict.com](http://washingtonparkdistrict.com)

Memberships  
Batting Cage

### Team

\$500 starting in  
November

### Individual

\$175 starting in  
November



2 HRS PER WEEK

100% Local

More Information

#### Why Join Us?

- No need to bring baseballs or softballs
- Pitching machine available
- Affordable



### Crushed Glass Tree Art

Tuesday, December 2

Location: Art at the Bodega Studio

\$45/\$50



Sign up online:  
[www.washingtonparkdistrict.com](http://washingtonparkdistrict.com)

## INDOOR SOCCER ACADEMY

SUNDAYS: JAN 4 - FEB 8

\$50/\$55 K-6 3:30-4:30 PM



SIGN UP AT  
[WASHINGTONPARKDISTRICT.COM](http://WASHINGTONPARKDISTRICT.COM)

# Screen-Free(er) January

## What it is:

During the month of January, Washington District Library is asking you to commit to a screen-free(er) month!

What does screen-free(er) mean? That's different for everyone. For many of us, screens are an integral part of work, school, and everyday life — from shopping lists to homework, screens are an essential part of our daily routines.

We are asking you to pledge to limit your reliance on screens for entertainment during the month of January. Simply sign the pledge below before January 1, commit to less screentime in January, answer the questions on the back of this sheet, and return the pledge before February 16 to receive a prize.

Everyone who completes the challenge will receive a small prize and be entered to win one of five gift cards to local experiences.

The \_\_\_\_\_ household pledges to reduce  
(Last Name)  
screen time in January by relying less on screens for entertainment.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by (everyone in your household) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## How:

Setting expectations for screen time helps everyone know what to expect. Consider the following boundaries:

- Screen-free zones (i.e. no screens in bedrooms or bathrooms)
- Time limits on devices to curb scrolling
- No screens at the table
- Turn off unneeded notifications
- Screen time together: watch a movie or play a game together
- No screens an hour before bed

The back of this paper has a calendar with a screen-free activity every day. These activities are suggestions, not requirements — make screen-free(er) January work for you!

# Screen-Free(er) January

SU	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
				1 Winter Hike	2 Board Game	3 Hot Cocoa Contest
4 Baking Project	5 Stargaze	6 Paint Snow with Watercolors	7 Send a Letter	8 Dance Party -Take Turns Being DJ!	9 Blanket Fort	10 Home Spa Day
11 Go Bowling	12 Make a 2026 Bucket List	13 Donate old toys and clothes	14 Breakfast for dinner	15 Snowball Fight with Cotton Balls	16 "Would You Rather?"	17 S'mores
18 Jigsaw Puzzle	19 Indoor Obstacle Course	20 Read!	21 Camp Indoors	22 Baking Soda & Vinegar Volcano	23 Craft	24 Volunteer
25 Themed Dinner	26 New Card Game	27 Hide & Seek	28 Go to the Library	29 Marshmallow & Glue Igloos	30 Fingerpaint (Adults Too!)	31 Indoor Picnic

**Answer the following questions, and return this sheet to Washington District Library for a prize!**

What was the hardest part? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite part? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you try anything new? \_\_\_\_\_

# 15<sup>th</sup>



## Diocese of Peoria

PROCLAIMING CHRIST:  
YESTERDAY, TODAY,  
FOREVER

SEE HOW YOU AND YOUR  
FAMILY CAN PARTICPATE IN THE  
DIOCESE'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY!  
MAKE SURE TO SHARE YOUR  
SERVICE HOURS TO HELP THE  
DIOCESE REACH 150 HOURS!

[WWW.CDOP150.ORG](http://WWW.CDOP150.ORG)



ST. PARTRICK SCHOOL

Every Tuesday and Thursday  
we show our Irish pride!

# **SPIRIT WEAR TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS**



**STUDENTS CAN WEAR SPIRIT  
WEAR TOPS (OR MRS. HARRIS  
TOPS ON THURSDAYS) WITH  
UNIFORM BOTTOMS.**

# APPROVED UNIFORMS

## St. Patrick Approved Uniforms

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://st-pats-washington.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

<b>BLANK</b> Sport-Tek Youth Posicharge Polo <b>TEK</b> Youth Polo	<b>EMBROIDERED</b> Sport-Tek Youth Polo	Port & Company Youth Core Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt	Port Authority Youth Value Fleece Jacket	<b>BLANK</b> Sport-Tek Polo	<b>EMBROIDERED</b> Sport-Tek Polo
					
3 Colors  \$13.00	3 Colors  \$21.00	4 Colors  \$23.00	2 Colors  \$33.00	3 Colors  \$14.00	3 Colors  \$21.00
Port & Company Essential Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt	Port Authority Value Fleece Jacket	Sport-Tek 1/4-Zip Sweatshirt	Sport-Tek Sport-Wick Stretch 1/4-Zip Pullover		
				4 Colors  \$21.00	2 Colors  \$33.00
\$21.00	\$33.00	\$36.00	\$40.00		

powered by  ORDERMYGEAR

Questions?  
Dan Crowley  
3095307557  
inkstainzscreenprinting@gmail.com

## Uniform store is open throughout the school year!



SHOW YOUR IRISH PRIDE!

# APPAREL SHOP



OPEN DURING SCHOOL HOURS!

Visit the PND Apparel Store to check a few gifts off your list! We have youth sizes as well as items that are great for everyone including padded stadium chairs and blankets!

Enter through the business office door (Door #13) at the back of the building off Sheridan Rd.

For questions, contact Cindy Dermody at  
[c.dermody@pndhs.org](mailto:c.dermody@pndhs.org).