



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

Evangelization – In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.



Families enjoy traditions and making memories together. We here at Holy Trinity are a family, and we have many Christmas traditions that bring us closer together and leave us with memories that will last a lifetime. December is full of activities like the Secret Santa Shop for students, cookies and milk day with prayer partners, and collections for the needy. But the key event that we all look forward to sharing together every year is the angel pageant! The gathering of our Holy Trinity family to celebrate our Savior's birth is a joyful night of smiles and songs. When the busy-ness of the season is overwhelming, remember that this is what it's all about – children, family, and God coming to live among us as a CHILD in a FAMILY!



1st Corinthians 13 (A Christmas Version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

In other words:

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.

By Shaun Jaynes, appleseeds.org

On Friday, November 30th, the Student Service Committee hosted a Hunger Banquet for grades 6-8. This Banquet was from Oxfam America's goal to unite all people against hunger. Though it might seem strange that a banquet could fight hunger, this one did. When the kids came down into the Cafeteria, they all picked a ticket from a basket. The ticket, like our lives, was completely random and assigned each person to three separate income groups: high income, middle income, and low income. About 20% of people were in high income, 30% in middle income, and 50% in low income. Before the food was served, Mr. McCusker had some people switch income groups because of various reasons. Some moved from middle income to low income because rain did not come at the right times. Others went up to middle income because they spoke up about their rights. This showed that circumstances can change, and that we should be thankful for what we have because we are not entitled to it. The actual food was also motivational. Low income people had plain rice and a cup of water. Middle income had seasoned rice, beans, and as much water as they wanted. High income people had a delicious meal of chicken, noodles, sauces, and donuts, as low income people ate their plain rice nearby. This showed exactly what our world is like; some lucky people have what they need while the majority of people don't. It's not their fault, but the circumstances and the uncontrollable conditions of life didn't fall in their favor. We should take from this the fact that we are all lucky and that God has blessed us with things that we should use to benefit others who are less fortunate than we are.

-Joseph Loeffler, an 8th Grader



Christmas Eve in Ecuador



On December 3, Holy Trinity students were treated to a talk about Ecuador from a native Ecuadorian. Ecuador is where our school's sponsored friend Britney lives. Did you know that it is warm in Ecuador at Christmas?! It is about 65°F, the warmest time of the year there. People in Ecuador like to pray a novena for the nine days leading up to Christmas. The nine days are like Mary's nine months of pregnancy and waiting for Jesus' birth. They also have parades on Christmas Eve where they carry a statue of the Infant Jesus to mirror Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem. Children ride on horses. Many people dress up in costumes from the Christmas story. People dance and sing in the processions. Christmas Eve is a night for gathering with extended family. Everyone brings presents but keeps them hidden away for awhile. Some of the grown ups take all the children outside to search for the Star of Bethlehem, while a few grown ups stay inside and put all the presents under the Christmas tree. When the children come back in the house, they are thrilled to see beautiful packages under the tree. Then everyone opens presents on Christmas Eve. The oldest member of the family picks up the gifts one at a time, reads the name of who it is for, and gives it to the person. The person opens the gift and thanks the giver. Just like in America, Ecuadorians like to eat delicious foods and sweets during the Christmas season. They have many kinds of rice and some chicken and turkey, and many different kinds of candies and cupcakes. Merry Christmas to Britney and her family! Holy Trinity School is taking up a collection to support Britney and others who live in poverty. See a gift catalog from Food for the Poor at <https://www.foodforthe poor.org/gift-catalog/wb/2018-christmas-8421/>

