

September 19, 2016



Dear 4th Grade Families,

It is that time of year when we begin to prepare for our saint reports and the wonderful All Saint's Day Mass. This week in class we will be doing some introductory work related to saints and give the students an overview of the saint project.

There are often questions as to how the saints are selected and if specific saints can be requested for this project. Hopefully the following will answer any questions you have.

Over the years we have created a large collection of "saint packets" of many wonderful saints. The packets contain kid friendly biographies/information on these saints that are perfect to use when writing the reports. Next Monday we will pass out a saint packet to each child—girls will have girl, boys will have a boy. Once each child has a packet they have the option of trading with classmates or selecting from the extras we have. Our goal is to have no duplicates in a classroom, but students in 4A and 4B can have the same saint. This process generally works well, and it is often very fun to learn about a saint you know little or nothing about. We do try to give students saints that have their name if possible.

If you have a particular saint you have your heart set on there are a few things we will need from you. First, email us (this week) and let us know your choice. If we have that saint as part of our packets—that should be easy. If we do not, it is important that we are able to access quality, kid friendly material to use for the report. We will do our best to assist in this process, but you will need to locate information at home as well and have it to school no later than this Friday the 23rd to have your saint approved. All students will officially be assigned their Saint next Monday the 26th.

Please be understanding of our goal of having no repeats in each classroom. Every saint has a wonderful story—and it is a privilege to be able to honor them with the reports and the Mass.

So, to sum things up:

- All students will be assigned a saint next Monday the 26th.
- If you have a particular saint you would like to request, please do so no later than this Friday the 23rd.
- Thank you for being understanding—and supportive of the process.

Looking ahead...

1. Plan on being available to help your child with some saint report prep work homework next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (26th–28th) This is a pre-writing step that will help the students become “experts” on their saint and more confident as they complete their reports at school.
2. The All Saints Day Mass is Tuesday, November 1st. Each student/family will need to create a costume to emulate their saint for the Mass. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.
3. Please let us know if you have any questions. This is a very special project and event for the 4th graders!

Thank you!
Mrs. Podell and Ms. Simpson

