NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL ONE LAWTONS HILL, POTTSVILLE, PA 17901

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DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Merry Christmas!

Thuhad Shelowshi

Advent is a time of preparation. Let us take the opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for the birthday of Jesus. One of our special events during the Advent season happens every Monday of Advent. At the beginning of every week, members of the student body pray together at the Advent Wreath in the Main Lobby. The blessing of the Advent Wreath and our Advent Penance Service help us to prepare spiritually for the birth of Christ. Finally, we celebrate together the joy of Christmas at our school Christmas Liturgy.

Christmas is a special time for all of us. It is a time to recognize God's love and goodness and to know that Jesus has come among us. Especially this year, let us look to the Blessed Mother for help during these uncertain times.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2nd - Advent Wreath Blessing
December 3rd - Progress Reports Issued
December 7th - Maroon Movie Premier

December 8th - Liturgy for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception—10:30 AM

December 11th - Advent Penance Service – 10:30 AM *December 12th - Christmas Dance – 6PM @ Mtn Valley*

December 21st - Christmas Concert – 6PM

December 23rd - Christmas Liturgy @ 10:30 AM; 12 PM Dismissal

December 24th - January 4th Christmas Break

Students must be present on 12/12/25 to attend the Christmas Dance. These students may leave school at 11:15AM with a parent note. Students not attending the dance must remain in school until regular dismissal time. Bus transportation will be provided at normal time. No hot lunch will be served this day.



Christmas Holidays - A Tradition Continues!

We will again be decorating our Christmas tree in the lobby. Students are asked to bring in an ornament to hang on the tree. This has been a great success in the past as the tree symbolized the entire Nativity community. Please remind your children to bring an ornament into school.

Looking ahead: School will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026, for a Teacher/Staff In-Service.



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

While much of our society is already celebrating Christmas, our school family enters into the beautiful season of Advent, a time of joyful anticipation and spiritual preparation, not only for Christmas, but to welcome Jesus into our lives all the time, and someday at the moment we leave this world for eternity. As always, we begin each school week with a prayer service to light the candles of our Advent wreath.

On December 8, we join the universal Church in celebrating a holy day, the Immaculate Conception. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Schlert as our celebrant for Mass.

December also brings the Church's Jubilee Year 2025 to a close. Remember that this was the Year of Hope. Although the year draws to a close, Christians are called to be people of hope all the time, as a way of life.

All are welcome to the closing Mass for the Year of Hope at the cathedral in Allentown on Sunday, December 28 at 3:00pm. We hope to have at least a few representatives from Nativity. Please contact us if you need more information.

Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin Chaplain, Nativity BVM High School Pastor, St. John the Baptist Church



TOYS FOR TOTS

Once again, we are collecting Toys for Tots. Pick up will be in early Decmber. We hope that our turnout will be as great as it was last year!!!



FINANCIAL CONCERNS

Please make yourself aware of the tuition collection policy. It is posted on the school website. It is essential that all families keep their tuition and fundraising payments up to date. Students who have outstanding balances will not be able to receive report cards, take exams or possibly not be able to participate in activities, which includes playing sports.

Seniors who are applying to college must have their financial obligations **up to date** in order for transcripts to be released. Please make every effort to make payments in a timely fashion. It is crucial to the cash flow of the school. Thank you for your understanding!

SERVICE HOURS

All students must set up an account on <u>Mobile Serve</u> to submit and track community service hours. Information was handed out the first week of school and students were given the opportunity to set up their account. However, many students have yet to sign in.

Students must complete and log 75% of their required service hours to attend Prom in the Spring and 100% of their required service hours to receive end of year grades or diplomas.

If you have any questions regarding Mobile Serve, please contact Mrs. Holohan.



Deficiency notices will be sent home on Wednesday, December 3rd. Parents and students should be aware that this is the mid-way point of the second quarter. Deficiencies are a reminder that extra effort needs to be made in the second half of the quarter.

As a reminder, semester classes will be completed at the end of the second quarter and a final average will be calculated for these classes. Since a failing grade in a semester class is a failing grade for the year, the class must be made up either by attending summer school or a program approved by the principal. There is a fee for these programs.

The second quarter will end Friday, January 16th.

INTERACT CLUB

The Interact Club organized a successful Thanksgiving Food Drive with hundreds of canned goods and non-perishable items collected. The food items were distributed to the local Veterans and to the Holy Family Parish food pantry in Minersville.

Next up for Interact Club members is sending Christmas cards to our local partner schools and to local Nursing homes.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

A Message from the Director of Guidance, Mrs. Brensinger

Please reach out if students are worried about the remainder of the school year. Next month and all year long, please don't be afraid to reach out if needed guidance@nativitybvm.net

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season.



Testing Scores

PSAT and SAT Scores – All scores are available to students who completed the test on the CollegeBoard website. Students will need to log in (or create) their Collegeboard.org account in order to view their scores. Create an account here:

 $\frac{https://cbaccount.collegeboard.org/iamweb/smartRegister?appId=395\&DURL=https://studentscores.collegeboard.org/home\&idp=ECL$

Schuylkill Technology Center Interest for Next School Year

Any Sophomore or Junior student interested in attending STC for the Spring 2027 semester must complete this interest form by December 20th! Current STC students should complete this as wellhttps://forms.gle/kD1M3ie4RqCreCvEA

Here is a packet of this year's course offerings as a reference STC Packet

Scholarships -Juniors and Seniors

Attention Junior and Senior Families now is a great time to search for scholarships. Remember, scholarships are free money! Don't be afraid to Google Search and look for scholarships now! Scholarships are often announced during the school day, and posted on the Guidance Classroom https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ln57Dw8fBs7baCNPMeAeZOF_gMRjvceGIOR5JO3kJwM/edit

Seniors

College Financial Aid Information

Don't forget to complete your FAFSA, See me if you have questions or need help. Apply here https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

I got accepted!!- Be sure to compile a folder with all copies of acceptance letters and financial aid awards! When you have received all of them, please give the folder to Mrs. Brensinger. This is required for graduation. We announce the total money offered to the whole class during graduation.

College Applications and Recommendation Letters

Students are reminded that we recommend doing all college applications in Common App, unless you are applying to a school, not on Common App. This will save the student time, and effort and help them keep everything organized

Transcript Requests

All Seniors in need of transcripts being sent to the schools they have applied to may pick up a form outside of my office in the green basket. This form must be turned in with the one time \$35 transcript fee and must have your resume attached to it if you did not already submit it to Mrs. Brensinger. *Friendly reminder*, no transcripts will be sent if there are <u>any financial holds on the students account</u>.

POT OF GOLD WINNERS

NOVEMBER 19, 2025 Drawing:

Keith Reeser– seller: Kali Smith
 E. Darlan-seller: Brandy Boyer
 Karl Krapf-seller: Kyra Krapf

4) Rachael Trun-seller: Emily Lorence



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jenifer Daubert in the Development office with any enrollment questions. Advertising for enrollment for the next school year will soon be on Nativity's social media platforms.

Open House and Registration

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours of the school will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available that afternoon for those who register. Please contact Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-8110 with any questions.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The Christmas dance is scheduled for Friday, December 12th at Mountain Valley Golf Course. Check in will be from 5:30-6PM at Mountain Valley. Dinner will be served from 6-7PM and dancing will be from 7-10PM. Pictures will be available for purchase from Ruby Laine Photography. Pictures will begin at 5PM at Mountain Valley and will be first come, first serve. Picture order forms will be available in the school office. The menu for the night will include: chicken fingers, tater tots, pasta bar, meatballs, and a salad. Appetizers include: pigs in a blanket, mozzarella sticks, and mini cheese quesadilla. There will be assorted desserts from Momma Millies Bakery. We are looking forward to a great night!

CAMPUS MINISTRY

All are invited to attend the closing celebration for the Jubilee Year of Hope on Sunday, December 28, the Feast of the Holy Family, the same feast on which we began the Jubilee Year of Hope one year ago. The celebration will take place at the Cathedral Church of St Catherine of Siena, Allentown.

The afternoon will include:

2pm – A beautiful choral presentation of Vivaldi's Gloria, by the Cathedral Choir.

2-3pm – The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in English and Spanish.

3pm – The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass closing the Jubilee Year celebrated by Bishop Schlert.

Please email Mr. Rogers at trogers@nativitybvm.net if are interested in attending.



ATHLETICS - Follow all of our teams on Big Teams Fan Central!

The winter sports season has begun with student athletes preparing for competition in basketball, wrestling and swimming. Both the boys and girls basketball programs will be led by new coaching staffs for the 2025-2026 season. Coach Bill Reed and his staff of Mike Yordy, Jennifer Curran and Morgan

Matlock will have the Golden Girls ready for their first game on Tuesday December 2nd when they travel to Bethlehem Christian. The first home game will be Friday December 5th against Mahanoy Area at 6:00 PM. The Hilltoppers are coached by Brady Burke and his staff of Patrick Schneck, Tanya Burke, Haidyn Urquiza and Eli Feisel. They will travel to Riverside and Schuylkill Haven before opening their home schedule on Saturday afternoon December 6th against Pittston Area.

We will have three wrestlers compete this season. Junior Erin Talmadge wrestles a competitive schedule consisting of invitationals to prepare for the District XI tournament. Our guys join the Pottsville Crimson Tide as members of the coop program. Junior Stephen Karinch will look to build off his two-year varsity experience and senior Kaiden Renn makes a return to the mat after missing last year due to injury. A new opportunity to participate on swim teams was made possible by the PIAA Faith-based initiative which provides students who reside in a school district to join their teams. We have students that are members of the Pottsville Area, Mahanoy Area and Blue Mountain High School swim programs and look forward to following them throughout the season.

MUSIC PROGRAM



Schuylkill County Band & Chorus Students:

Chloe Covell Hailey Mills Bo McDonald Sara Marie Toyar

County Band Student:

Adam Zawisa

The Band & Chorus Christmas Concert will be held on December 21, 2025 @ 6PM.



GREEN & GOLD CLUB

Merry Christmas!!

The Green and Gold Booster Club is thankful for the support we have been given by the families, staff and students at Nativity. In this time of giving, volunteering your time at Nativity can bring friends and fun into your life while giving back to the school and its students. Green and Gold welcomes all who want to help and looks forward to welcoming more volunteers into its family.

Gift Certificates:

The gift card cut off date to order for Christmas is December 12th. Any orders after that will be in stock only.

Upcoming Events:

The Green and Gold's Annual Basket Auction will be May 2nd and 3rd, 2026. This is a big fundraiser for us. If you see any really good deals out there while you are doing your Christmas shopping, or if you receive any unwanted presents this Christmas please send it into school as your donations. Donations can be dropped off in the school office at any time!!

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our November gift card calendar. Our profit was over \$2,750. Thank you very much!!!!!!

Raffle Update: December 11, 2025. Tickets are now available for the \$20,000 Green and Gold Raffle. Drawing will be held on December 11th. Any family who agrees to sell five (5) raffle tickets will be entered into a drawing to win a \$500.00 tuition credit to Nativity. Tickets are \$100 and there will only be 555 tickets sold. For more information, please contact Diane Yaneck @ 570-622-8110 or stop by the office.

SCHOOL STORE

Our annual Christmas Open House will be Wednesday, December 10, from 4:00-6:00. Come enjoy holiday shopping with families and friends at the school store. Free gift with purchases over \$50.00. Drinks and Momma Millies cookies will be available along with the spirit of Christmas! Entrance will be on the side down the ramp.

Nativity apparel including some new items plus Nativity uniform clothing will all be available.

Any students needing community service hours will have the opportunity to volunteer at this event. We will definitely need some helpers. Please see Mrs. Eckley at the store if interested.

Families or friends who cannot attend this event can stop in school store Monday through Friday 11:30 – 1:00 or we will also be selling clothing Wednesday, December 17 at the boys' basketball game.

Merry Christmas!! Sue and Amanda

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

