



ST. MARK'S *Classical Academy*

“where the instruction which enlightens the understanding is not separated from the moral education which amends the heart.” — Alexis de Tocqueville

www.stmarksclassical.org
(215-884-7660)

January/February Newsletter

OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD AT 5:30PM

News & Updates:

Matins. Matins now begins at 8:35 to make it more convenient for parents to join us each morning. Please consider attending Matins with us after dropping off your child(ren). All are also invited to daily Evensong at 2:45.

Achievement Testing - to meet Pennsylvania state requirements, we will be administering standardized testing to students in 3rd-4th grade. Dates for the tests are TBA.

Open House. All Parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend our Open House on February 23rd at 5:30pm at which students will help prospective families get a taste of St. Mark's Academy.

Reminder: in the event of snow or ice, we will follow the closures/delays of the Abington School District.

Snow Boots - students who wear snow boots to school should also bring their uniform shoes with them, so that they can change out of their boots while in class.

On the Calendar:

The Presentation of Christ at the Temple - February 2 at 2 pm.

Chick Hatching - The eggs arrive on February 3rd and will hatch a few days later.

Ash Wednesday, February 10th - Holy Communion & the Imposition of Ashes, 7:30 am & 6:30 pm. All are invited.

No School - February 15th (Staff Development)

Open House - February 23rd at 5:30 pm

Spring Break - February 29-March 4.

Jesus - the Light of the World

Special School Service: Tuesday, February 2 @ 2

FORTY days after the birth of Jesus, Sts. Mary & Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple to fulfill the requirements of the Law (you can read about this in Luke 2:22-40). When the aged St. Simeon saw the infant Jesus, he took Him into his arms and sang a song of praise, which we now call the *Nunc dimittis* (St. Luke 2:29-32). Simeon prophesied that Jesus is “A light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel” (Lk. 2:32).

To remember and commemorate this important event in Jesus' life, the Church has regarded February 2nd (the 40th day after Christmas) as a very important holy day in which candles would be dedicated to the service of the Church. Candles are a natural fit to the theme of the day as they help us to remember that Jesus is “the true light which lighteneth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9).

In anticipation of this feast day, full day students will be dipping beeswax taper candles on Wednesday Jan 27th. On Feb 2nd, the candles that they made will be blessed and set apart for sacred service by our bishop, The Rt. Rev. David Hicks (during a special school service at 2pm). The candles will then be used by the church throughout the year for services that are held at the Children's Altar.

Hymns in Lent:

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb 10) and comprises the 40 day period leading up to Easter Sunday. During Matins and Evensong, we will be learning:

Forty Days and Forty Nights (Heinlein)
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days (St. Flavian)
The Glory of These Forty Days (Spires)
Jesus, Lover of My Soul (Aberstwyth)
In the Cross of Christ I Glory (Rathbun)
All Glory, Laud and Honor (St. Theodulph)
Ride On! Ride On in Majesty! (Winchester New)