Mater Dei Academy Weekly

February 8th, 2019

Upcoming Events and Reminders:

Holy Mass will be on *Tuesday, February 12th* at 8 AM. All are invited to join us! Please let us know if you will attend to ensure enough hosts for Holy Communion.

The servers for Mass will be Madison Hewitt and Xavier Mascari. The readers will be Munro Hewitt and Joseph Storck.

Father will also be hearing Confessions before Mass.

There will be no school on *Monday, February 18th* for Presidents' Day.

For school closings, please tune in to 10TV or 10tv.com. Mater Dei will be listed specifically. You will also receive an email no later than 6:00 AM if we close for the day.

Please make sure your child(ren) comes to school with appropriate coats, hats, and gloves/mittens when needed.

Feast Day: St. Josephine Bakhita

Saint Josephine Bakhita was born in 1869 in Sudan. She grew up happy and relatively prosperous. However, at only seven years old, Josephine was kidnapped by Arab slave traders. She was given the name Bakhita, which means *fortunate.* For the next 12 years she was sold and given away many times, and as a slave, her experiences varied from fair treatment to cruel.

In 1883, Bakhita was sold to the Italian Vice Consul, who was a much kinder master. He took Bakhita to Italy to work as a nanny for his colleague, Augusto Michieli. Michieli then sent Bakhita to accompany his daughter to a school run by the Canossian Sisters, in Venice. While with the sisters, Bakhita felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized in 1890, taking the name Josephine Margaret. In the meantime, Michieli wanted to take Josephine and his daughter back to Sudan, but Josephine refused to leave. The case was brought to the Italian courts. Since slavery had been outlawed in Sudan before she was born, and was not recognized in Italy, Josephine was declared free. Josephine became a novice with the Canossians in 1893 and took her final vows in 1896. She worked as a cook and a doorkeeper at the convent, and also traveled and visited other convents telling her story to them and preparing them for work in Africa. She was known for her gentleness, kindness, and humility. When speaking of her enslavement, she often professed she would thank her kidnappers. For had she not been kidnapped, she might never have come to know Jesus Christ and entered His Church. Josephine died on the evening of February 8, 1947. She was beatified in 1992 and canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

Have a safe and blessed weekend.

Loving God, rewarder of the humble, You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita with charity and patience. May her prayers help us, and her example inspire us to carry our cross and to love You always. Pour upon us the spirit of wisdom and love with which You filled St. Josephine Bakhita. Amen.