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The Divinum Auxilium  
Family of Schools

# Advent Update



DIVINUM AUXILIUM



S<sup>c</sup> EDITH STEIN



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# Letter From The Founder

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy and Holy Advent from The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools!

As we enter this season of hope and expectation, I reflect with deep gratitude on the blessings God has bestowed upon our school community, and on the generosity of those who make our mission possible.

Each morning, our upper school students walk to Mass bundled in hats and scarves, watching nature shift with the liturgical season. At our Lower School, each day begins and ends in prayer, and the entire community gathers for Holy Mass weekly. Across all three campuses, our faculty and students pray for you, our benefactors, every day.

Because of your support, our students are challenged to grow in virtue, character, and academic excellence. They hike mountains, tend gardens, care for animals, bring comfort to those in need, learn craftsmanship, and experience the joy of authentic Catholic community. Every moment of formation is touched by your generosity.

This Advent Update is our way of saying thank you and showing what your kindness has made possible. Inside, you'll find snapshots of school life since the start of the school year: the joy of Grandparents' Day, the growth of our Farm & Garden Program, the adventures of our Outdoor Leadership initiatives, and the spiritual richness of our annual Consecration to Saint Joseph. You'll also see encouraging statistics, evidence of how your gifts directly support the formation of hearts, minds, and souls.

As we look toward Christmas and the new year ahead, I invite you to continue your partnership with us. Your prayers and support sustain our mission to form young people who love God, serve others, and live courageously in truth.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and families, thank you. May the peace of Christ fill your homes, and may the coming celebration of His Nativity renew your hearts with hope.

With Gratitude,

Dian Schmiedicke  
Founder, The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools



# Together We Build the Future

**The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools comprises three schools offering a Classical Catholic Education rooted in the tradition of Western Civilization with one vision of the human person:**

**Divinum Auxilium Academy** (preK-6) is a Classical Farm School with a Montessori foundation and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

**St. Edith Stein School for Girls** (7-12) nurtures the feminine vocation through academic, spiritual, and emotional formation to build up young women filled with confidence, skill, and joy.

**St. Joseph the Just School for Boys** (7-12) forges young men of character through the intellectual, physical, and practical arts, challenging students to grow in virtue to fulfill their individual vocations to know, love, and serve God, their families, and communities.

**100%** Of upper school students participate in daily Mass and devotions

**100+** Miles hiked by students in backpacking trips.

**11:1** Student to faculty ratio

**100%** Single-Sex core faculty at upper schools

**118** Enrolled Students

**28%** Students served with tuition assistance

*The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools prioritizes a low-tech, high-connection learning environment that nurtures curiosity, resilience, and real-world competence from our youngest learners through our graduating seniors.*

# Life at Divinum Auxilium Academy, St. Edith Stein School for Girls, & St. Joseph the Just School for Boys

## GRANDPARENT'S DAY



We were blessed to welcome grandparents from all over the country for our annual Grandparents' Day. They joined their grandchildren for prayer, shared meals, classroom visits, and student-led tours. From praying the Angelus together, playing volleyball outside, admiring impressive Practical Arts projects, and sharing a meal, the day was filled with smiles, gratitude, and a deep sense of family.

We are truly grateful to every grandparent who joined us. Your presence continues to strengthen the faith, love, and wisdom passed from one generation to the next.

## CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH



Our school community gathered for a beautiful morning of prayer as we consecrated ourselves and our schools to our patron, St. Joseph. After attending Mass, faculty, students, and families joined our parish priest to pray the consecration, entrusting our work, our families, and our schools to St. Joseph's protection and guidance. Dedicating our schools to St. Joseph's care each year is an important tradition, anchoring our mission in trust, humility, and the guardianship of the Church's beloved patron.

## FARM AND GARDEN PROGRAM

This program continues to flourish as students have taken part in hands-on stewardship of God's creation. They raised and sold chicks, cared for chickens, gathered eggs for families, and helped raise pigs and turkeys for the nourishment of our community.

Students also cultivated gourds, herbs and seasonal crops, offering our tables things that are beautiful and delicious. Through this work, they gain practical Skills, awareness of their connection to nature, and a deeper understanding of their call to stewardship.



## GERMAN ADVENTSMARKT

At our recent Adventsmarkt, St. Nicholas delighted the children as he visited our live Nativity Scene, complete with a turkey, rabbit, goats and a Highland calf. Each year, the event brings our community together with warm Glühwein, handmade arts and crafts, and a welcoming bonfire where families gather to sing Advent hymns and watch the town parade pass by.



# Outdoor Leadership Program

This fall our upper school students spent a combined total of 8 days on the Appalachian Trail covering over 100 miles. In between hiking, singing, praying, eating and a little sleeping, were special skills lessons in backpacking gear, orienteering, survival and trail etiquette.

This program is designed to take students out of the familiar and comfortable and develop habits of competence, teamwork and mental toughness. The retreat-like format also makes space for silence, prayer, journaling and communal worship.

As this program grows our hope is that students, stripped of the press of the daily schedule and the many distractions offered by our current culture, will learn how to access the interior quiet needed to contemplate scripture and to engage in a true dialogue with their Creator God.



## You're Invited

*to our most important fundraiser of the year.*

Every year, we host "The Beautiful Life" Mardi Gras Benefit for The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools to support the schools.

Join us February 7 at 5 PM for an evening filled with fun, community, and festivity - all in support of our mission to form the next generation in truth, beauty, and goodness.

Enjoy a cocktail hour with silent auction, followed by a Cajun-inspired, four-course dinner and live auction.



Follow the QR code to reserve your tickets or sponsor the event.

# STAY TUNED!

Mark your calendar and join us for these upcoming events.

**Saturday, January 17**

All Schools Christmas Celebration

**Friday, January 23**

March for Life

**Saturday, February 7**

Mardi Gras Benefit Event

**Thursday, March 19**

Solemnity of St. Joseph – All Schools Pilgrimage

## Thank you!

This Advent season, we are grateful for your support of The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools. We could not do this work, nor serve these children and their families, without your partnership. Every lesson taught and every moment of formation is strengthened because of your steadfast commitment to the value of authentically Catholic education.

As we approach the close of 2025, we invite you to make a financial contribution to The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools.

Your generosity is fully tax-deductible and has a direct impact on our ability to form hearts and minds, support families, and continue offering a truly Catholic and Classical education rooted in prayer, beauty, and grateful stewardship.

The Divinum Auxilium Family of Schools is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID #46-0622341

To make a secure year-end gift, visit <https://bit.ly/DAFSDonate> or scan the QR code. Contact [dschmiedicke@divineassistanceacademy.org](mailto:dschmiedicke@divineassistanceacademy.org) to make a tax advantaged gift directly from your IRA to reduce your taxable RMD or to gift appreciated securities.



Your prayers and financial support are vital to sustain this work as we prepare to welcome the joy and hope of the Christ Child this Christmas.

# THE O ANTIPHONS

**O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love:** come to teach us the path of knowledge!

**O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:** come to rescue us with your mighty power!

**O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people:** come to save us without delay!

**O Key of David,** opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

**O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:** come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:** come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

**O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:** come to save us, Lord our God!

*The Roman Church has sung the "O Antiphons" since at least the eighth century. Prayed with the Magnificat from December 17–23, they draw on Old Testament messianic imagery to proclaim Christ as the fulfillment of all hope. Their repeated cry of "Come!" captures our longing for the Divine Messiah.*

