



ROUNDTABLE

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Lady Knights Crowned PSS High School Hoops Champions

by James Sablan for Marianas Variety



Lady Knights with their coaches, Catherine Attao-Toves (upper right) and Mark Toves (upper left)

Mount Carmel School Lady Knights knocked down all their opponents in their path to their 2016 Public School System Junior High-High School Interscholastic Basketball Tournament Championship title last Friday held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

The MCS Lady Knights maintained a steady performance throughout the double-elimination playoffs taking out every team they encountered by double-digit margins.

They opened up with an early winning stance against Saipan Southern High School and come out victorious 41-16.

Their defense to offense technique worked like a charm in every game creating easy open shots to take control.

Karleen Reyes's ability to finish quickly set the tone connecting four points alone in the first quarter.

SSHS were held to just four points but slowly picked up the pace with Cassadra Camacho in the frontline but could not get back within reach as Jan Travilla joined MCS' assault with back to back to buckets extending a 20 point deficit to secure the victory 41-16.

The Lady Knights continued to reign as they gained their second win over the Marianas High School Lady Dolphins 38-10.

More of the same was seen as MCS' strategy remained effective.

Reyes and Travilla continued their assault grabbing a handful of steals and added range with a few triples to take control.

The Lady Dolphins a scoreless first quarter but later on Joshalyne Floral and Eyham Danan connected two three-point shots to break the cold spell but could not escape the inevitable loss 38-10.

Tinian High School seemed to be on the losing end falling to the losers' bracket early after being defeated by MHS 27-26.

THS worked their way back onto the top as they brought down SSHS 42-28 and followed with redemption handing MHS their second and final loss 25-21 to meet MCS in the finals.

During the finals, MCS' line of defense played a major part in the first canto shutting down THS to just one point while Reyes and Jennifer Villagomez took care of the fast break finishes for a combined 11 points to set the tempo.

THS shook off the cold spell as Sofia Cruz heated up sizzling five points to help cut the lead within half but MCS stayed ahead as Travilla joined to support Reyes holding a double digit gap.

THS spread the floor for better ball movement getting the rest of the team some action but Reyes' continuous beating pushing the deficit even further out of reach.

Her ball-handling skills were outmatched leaving THS defenders in the dust where she was left open for several uncontested shots to secure the win with ease, 45-25.

Advent Reflection

by Bill Mattison, Senior Advisor, Theological Formation, for the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education



"What's with the pink robes?" my second-grade son asks. As one of our ACE colleagues reminded me, "We say 'rose!'" As you know, today is Gaudete Sunday, and the rose-colored robes signify a pause in the preparatory spirit of Advent.

The more old school among us may describe it as a needed break in the penitential spirit of Advent, a brief release of a pressure valve before the second-half "push" of Advent. But something deeper is afoot, and we see it in this Sunday's readings and Gospel. What if Gaudete Sunday is a reminder of God's presence even during our waiting and anticipation, an assurance of the presence of God's joy even as we long for its full arrival?

This Sunday's Gospel begins with dark times. John the Baptist is in prison. He hears word of "the works of the Christ," and sends his disciples to ask if Jesus is "the one who is to come." Jesus responds by pointing to the life that he brings to those captive to suffering, sickness, poverty, and even death. In doing so he makes direct reference to the coming of God's reign as described in Isaiah (Is 35:1-6a, 10; cf. Is 61:1-2; 58:6; 42:1). We imagine John receiving this news from his disciples and breathing a sigh of relief, that despite his imprisonment the "one who is to come" has indeed arrived.

John's imprisonment and relief signifies to us more than simply the assurance that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the Messiah, Emmanuel or "God with us." John's imprisonment symbolically represents the captivity we all experience as we groan for the "everlasting joy" described by Isaiah.

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Announcements

GO VOLLEYBALL KNIGHTS!!!

Congratulations to our Lady Knights for winning yesterday's 2016-2017 CCOSSA High School Volleyball Championships and to our boys for coming in as the Runners Up in a well fought game against Marianas Baptist Academy. You all played with skill, control, and heart. GO KNIGHTS!!!

GO SOCCER KNIGHTS!!!

Congratulations to our Knights for advancing into the IFL Boys Championship game TOMORROW, Saturday, December 16, at 10:30 am at the Hopwood field. Please come and support our boys! GO KNIGHTS!!!

Christmas Break Extended

As an added reward for students' performance at the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Christmas Break is being extended by one day. This means that classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4 (not Tuesday, January 3 as originally scheduled). Merry Christmas!

Knights Football

Interested in joining Mount Carmel School's Football program? Then sign up to train for the 3rd Annual Marianas Bowl, Knights versus Guam All-Stars, January 14-15, 2017, CPA Airport Field.

- Junior Knights (1st Annual Game), 10-12
- Junior Varsity (3rd Annual Game), 13-15
- High School Varsity Football (1st Annual Game), 16-18 (No Weight Limit)

Questions? See Mr. John Blanco.

In the Future

Christmas Break

December 17–January 3

PTO Parent Representatives Meeting

Wednesday, January 4 at 5:30 pm

1st Day of 3rd Quarter

Friday, January 5

ESLR of the Week

#2. Consistently exhibit Catholic attitudes, values and behaviors.

Advent Reflection

continued from front

Waiting is hard. This is why Paul in our second reading enjoins us to be patient, make our hearts firm, and not complain about one another. This is why in the first Sunday of Advent's reading Paul counsels us against the "works of darkness" to which we are all so prone as we wait, and which sadly reflect a lack of hope in God's coming.

Jesus proclaims, "The Kingdom of God is at hand." And of course on Christmas we celebrate the arrival of the Messiah who inaugurates that Kingdom. But even after John knows Jesus is "the one to come" and hears of his works that signify the inauguration of the Kingdom, dark times remain. John is soon beheaded in a gross travesty of justice. Jesus is crucified in a still grosser injustice. And despite the healings, resuscitations, and beautiful transformations in the lives of men and women who follow Jesus, the fullness of the Kingdom as so beautifully portrayed by Isaiah is not yet.

And so we live in hope, that theological virtue for people in times of waiting. We hope for what is not yet, and in the meantime try to keep "our eyes on the prize" and not be sidetracked by "works of darkness" that signify implicit despair. But while we hope we also recognize the real albeit incomplete presence even now of that for which we long. "Go and tell what you hear and see. Children are loved and taught. School communities become beacons of hope. Communities of teachers support and celebrate one another. Young adults find themselves caught up and captivated in God's story as they make life decisions." The Kingdom of God is indeed at hand.

This is why we have Gaudete Sunday. This is why we celebrate even as we continue to wait. The Kingdom for which we long is truly present now, in real and life-changing ways even if not in its fullness. Hope does not simply look to the future as a time of complete fulfillment. It equips us to live now in a manner fitting for the Kingdom. Let us celebrate that real presence on Gaudete Sunday and always. For it is in living lives that proclaim "the works of the Christ" that we are "disciples with hope to bring."

Sports Calendar

IFL (Interscholastic Futball League)

TOMORROW, Saturday, December 17
Championship Game at 10:30 am
MCS vs Whispering Palms @Hopwood

Thank you!



Mount Carmel School's president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero (left), recently received an Education Tax Credit contribution from J&A Enterprises, presented by (from right to left) Jimmy Ham, Justin Gragasin, and Jim Michael Ham.



Maggie Kaipat (left) and her daughter, Cassidee Flores (middle) recently presented an Education Tax Credit contribution to Mount Carmel School's president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero.



Joeten Motors recently made an Education Tax Credit (ETC) contribution to Mount Carmel School. School president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero (third from right), visited Joeten Motors new Kia showroom to receive the contribution from (from left) Tina Togawa, Sales Consultant, Elizabeth Tenorio, F&I Administrator, Matthew Deets, General Manager, Julie Manglona, Sales Consultant, and Galvin Yamagishi, Service Manager.