



The Second Week of Advent

December 5, 2011

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In the beautiful story of Christmas, we tell young children that the Son of God, whom we call Jesus, is the reason we celebrate Christmas. Jesus is a gift of God's love to us. We speak of the great happiness of Mary, his mother, and of the love and care of Joseph who watched over them. We tell the children that when Jesus was a baby and later a little boy, he was happy doing some of the same things that they enjoy doing today. We share with the children a simple Nativity scene and prepare them to think of the holiday as being a birthday celebration for Jesus.

A good way to help your child wait for Christmas is to select from the ideas below. Not only will the children enjoy the activities, but they will enjoy even more the time you'll spend with them in doing the activities. Your time may be something which is in very short supply during this time of the year, and hopefully, this calendar will provide an impetus to spend a few fun minutes each day with your child.

Take time out of this busy season to share a special childhood Christmas tradition with your children. These traditions are what shaped who you are as a Christian parent and have guided your faith journey.

Advent Suggestions:

- Make an Advent Wreath
- Talk about Mary, the mother of Jesus
- Play a game with your family
- Say a prayer for all sick people
- Make a birthday card for Jesus
- Take a winter walk with your family
- Learn about St. Nicholas
- Sing your favorite Christmas carol
- Have some hot chocolate and popcorn with your family
- Say a prayer for your teacher
- Make a gift for someone special
- Read the story of Jesus' birthday

"Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path".

John the Baptist prepared the road for the coming of Jesus. This week spend time as a family helping each other recognize areas where your family needs to change—where conversion needs to take place so that we can recognize the path to Jesus.

December 6— Memorial of St. Nicholas, Bishop

St. Nicholas was a true person and bishop who lived in the 4th Century in the city of Myra, where Turkey is today. Legend tells us he was a healer, bringer of gifts to the needy and a caring pastor of his flock. Children in Europe leave their empty shoes out the night before St. Nicholas' day and



they receive candy, fruit and other goodies. Tangerines are a reminder of the gold he gave to the poor, and candy canes remind us of his Bishop's crosier, a symbol of his care and concern for his flock.

Prayer: God, may we emulate the holiness of St. Nicholas this Advent season. Help us to see those who are in need and respond with generosity to all that ask. We make this prayer through Christ the Lord. Amen.

Upcoming Events and Date Reminders

- 12/6: RC Bookmobile here for kindergarten and primary grade students
- 12/8: Immaculate Conception—holy day of obligation.
- 12/9: Christmas Tree delivery day
- 12/10: Christmas Tree pick-up and Winter Wonderland, 8am—2pm
- 12/12: Preschool Christmas Musical @ 7pm
- 12/15: Elementary Christmas Play @ 7pm
- 12/16: Minimum day—no afternoon care is available; school resumes Tuesday, January 3.

Family Participation Program

- Sept–Dec. tally sheets are due Monday, December 12.
- Unmet volunteer hour are subject to a \$25.00 assessment fee and charged to January statements.

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Upcoming Events

Immaculate Conception Mass – 12/8 @ 12 noon

Please join our elementary students and their teachers as they celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception with our parish community at 12 noon in the church. This is a holy day of obligation; students must be in their dress uniform attire.

Preschool Christmas Musical, Monday, 12/12 @ 7 p.m.

This year's preschool program will be in the parish hall. Students must be signed into their classroom by 6:45, dressed in Christmas holiday attire. Parents may video tape or photograph this special event. Please be mindful of those seated around you that want to enjoy this precious performance, too. Following the musical, the students will return to their classroom for parent sign-out.

P.T.G. Meeting, 12/13, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

All are welcome to attend our December business meeting held in the Parish Library.; contact our P.T.G. President, Rachel Keller, at 899-7058 for additional information

Elementary School Christmas Play, 12/15, 7 p.m.

This play will be in the second floor of the JPII Pastoral Center building. Students must come dressed in their costume and be in their classroom by 6:30 p.m. Parents may video tape or photograph this special event. Please be mindful of those seated around you that also want to enjoy the performance.

\$crip News

- November was a record month for \$crip sales...thank you for planning ahead and supporting this element of our school.
- During the cooler months, \$crip will be sold in the parish hall rather than the courtyard. Selling times are 8:00—9:00 each morning, Monday—Friday.
- Avoid the holiday rush and begin your Christmas shopping early — many of our popular gift cards sell out quickly.
- Last day to place any large orders or pre-order your Christmas \$crip is Monday, December 12th.

Christmas Program Schedule

- Preschool Musical - Monday, December 12 @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall; students must be in their classroom by 6:45 p.m.
- Elementary Play—December 15 @ 7 p.m. in the JPII Pastoral Center ; students must be in their classroom by 6:30 p.m.

School Yearbook is Coming...

Together with Lifetouch, our school photographer, we are offering a school-wide yearbook. This yearbook will be a 36-page, full-color keepsake that will reflect our school's spirit, school events and class photos. **The pre-sale price is \$28.00 if purchased by Wednesday, December 14th;** use the attached order form and return to the school office.