



The Flame

St. Jude Catechist and Volunteer Newsletter

December 2023

Dear Catechists and Volunteers,

Happy Advent!

The season of Advent helps us to prepare ourselves for the joy, love, peace and hope of Jesus' birth on Christmas. This December, let us open our hearts and minds for the arrival of Christ - the Light of the World.

There are no December sessions, so take this time to relax and be with family. Sessions will resume in January, 2024.

In this edition of *The Flame*, you will find:

- Mass times for the holidays
- Link to the Dropbox - visit this page for sample lesson plans, activity ideas, tips for prayers and your Catechist handbook
- Resources and reminders
- Upcoming events at St. Jude Parish

Peace,

The Elementary Faith Formation Team

**Advent Parish Reconciliation Service - Wednesday, December 13th
6:30 - 8:00 pm**

Special Masses in the month of December:

Immaculate Conception (a Holy Day of Obligation)

December 8th - 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 7:00 pm

December 24th (Sunday Obligation)

8:00 am and 10:00 am *This is a change from the normal schedule*****

December 24th (Christmas Eve) - 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

**December 25th (Christmas Day) - Midnight (Choir Prelude - 11:45 pm),
7:00 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am**

December 31st (New Year's Eve) - 7:00 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am

January 1st (New Year's Day) - 9:00 am

NO SESSIONS IN DECEMBER!

[LINK TO THE DROPBOX](#)

The Dropbox is a shared platform where we will share resources for

you. Click the link below to explore catechist lesson plans, activity ideas, the classroom media guide and much, much more!
In the media guide, you will find links to great online resources from YouTube channels to classroom blogs!

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/pcs7mnwowd_bv9h1ef5hcx/h?rlkey=nh6s3fsrkg8q4l847cn5e1jf9&dl=0



Resources for New Catechists

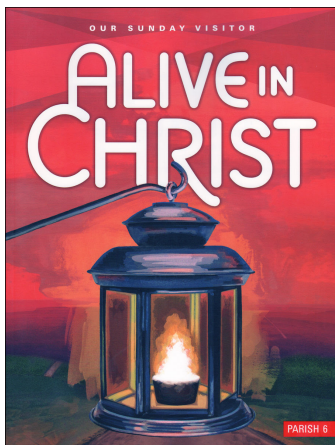
Catechist Training PowerPoint (download for notes): See Dropbox

Example Today at a Glance: [Click HERE](#)

Catechist Kickoff PowerPoint (download for notes): See Dropbox

Volunteer Handbook: See Dropbox

If you are running late (within 1 hour of class start), please call the Faith Formation workroom number: 815-463-4261 or email Berni: bkacor@stjudes.org.



Alive In Christ Lesson Plans and Training Videos

Alive In Christ Lesson

Plans: https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/parish/lesson_planning

User Name: flfjude

Password: jude241

Alive In Christ Training Videos (especially for new catechists)

https://aliveinchrist.osv.com/training/sessions_menu_parish

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

DCFS MANDATED REPORTER TRAINING REQUIRED FOR ALL ADULT VOLUNTEERS

The State of Illinois requires all adult volunteers who work with minors to complete **Mandated Reporter Training** to learn how to look for signs of child abuse and report them. All adult Faith Formation volunteers are required to complete this training to be allowed to work in any children's ministry.

CLICK HERE to go to the DCFS webpage and complete the training. Those who have already completed this training should turn in their certificate of completion.

Please call if you have any questions.

Do not forget to submit your catechetical formation hours. The Diocese of Joliet requires each catechist to participate in activities to help strengthen their faith life. Take time for your own relationship with God. Catechists are asked to complete 6 hours of formation by the end of the Faith Formation year. If an activity helps you grow closer to God, it counts as formation. Please submit your formation hours on our website here: [Formation hours](#).

UPCOMING AT OUR PARISH

Christmas Family Movie Night!



A small but brave donkey named Bo yearns for a life beyond his daily grind at the village mill. One day, he finds the courage to break free, embarking on the adventure of his dreams. On his journey, he teams up with Ruth, a lovable sheep who has lost her flock, and Dave, a dove who has lofty aspirations. Along with three camels and some eccentric stable animals, Bo and his new friends follow the Star and become accidental heroes in the greatest story ever told -- the first Christmas. Rated PG!

Friday, December 15th

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Movie will begin at 6:45 pm

St. Jude School Gym
(enter through door #6)

Bring a camping chair,
pillow or blanket to sit on!

We will provide the popcorn
and drinks, feel free to bring
other snacks to share!

Registration Required by
December 12th!

We ask that families RSVP online
on the Faith Formation Event Page!
(see link below)

Wearing Christmas PJs and apparel
is encouraged but not required.

Questions?

Berni KaCor: 815-463-4262

bkaCor@stjudes.org

Family Advent Wreath Making for those families who registered will be held on Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Make your preordered Advent Wreath or pick up your kit in the gym.

The annual Giving Tree project will once again be having a ONE DAY drop-off of gifts on Sunday, December 3rd from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at the south door of the gym (door #3).

We appreciate your support of this most worthy project to help those in need this Christmas. Financial donations can still be made online at studes.org/givingtree.



Holy hours will include: short talks by priests, Scripture passages for meditation, quiet time to speak with Jesus, moments of reflection, music and more. Let Jesus bring you the happiness you seek! Next Holy Hour is Friday, December 1st!
These holy hours are in addition to regular First Friday Adoration during the day and every Thursday afternoon.

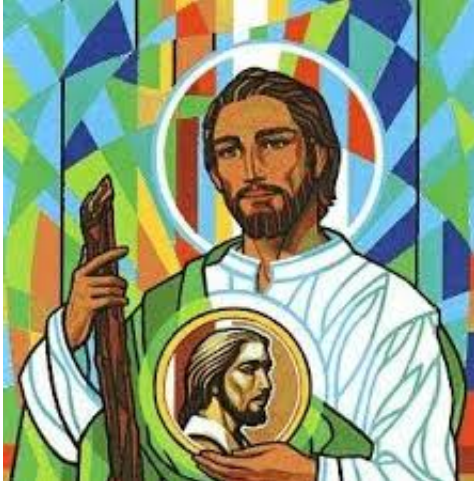
Please see the Faith Formation Newsletter for more events and announcements!
Click Here for [December newsletter](#)

For You Catechists:

Do you follow us on Social Media?

Like and follow us at

St. Jude Parish Faith Formation
on Facebook and Instagram.



Encourage families to follow us as well! We share lots of resources and information this way!



Formed is a streaming service for Catholic Media. They offer programs, videos, books, audio books and more for kids, teens and adults - there's something for everyone!

To access your free subscription to "Catholic Netflix", visit www.FORMED.org and create an account using our special code '8c62ef'.

Catechist Mentor

This experienced catechist is available to you for advice, ideas and support. Please contact her at any time. She is ready and willing to help!

Kelly Phelps: runob17@aol.com

Special Needs Catechist

Please contact DeAnne if you have questions about including and engaging the children in your class who have special needs. If we know a child has a need or accommodation, it will be indicated on your class list.

DeAnne Suarez: dsuarez79@sbcglobal.net

Parish and Faith Formation offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 6th.

All St. Jude offices will be closed for the Christmas holiday starting Friday, December 22nd through Tuesday, January 2nd.

Elementary Faith Formation Staff

Berni Kacor, Administrative Coordinator
815-463-4262 bkacor@stjudes.org

Why is our newsletter called The Flame?

In Icons of St. Jude, he is often depicted with a tongue of flame above his head. This flame represents his receipt of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as one of the twelve apostles present in the Upper Room.

We also have the flame of the Holy Spirit above our heads as we help to form the faith of the families of St. Jude!

The Holy Spirit guides us and speaks through us!

Saint Jude Church | 241 West Second Avenue, New Lenox, IL 60451

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