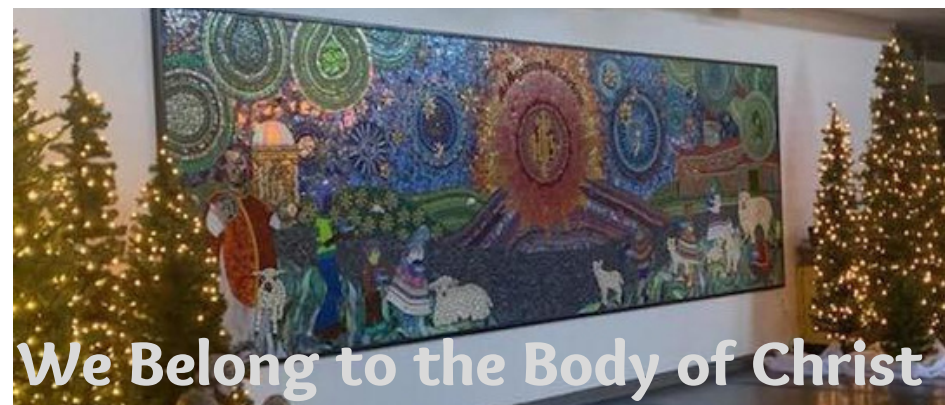


St. Ignatius Catholic School

Faith for Families

December 2022

An outreach of the School Board's Catholic Identity Committee



We Belong to the Body of Christ

Happy Advent!

As the days get shorter and winter darkness creeps in, we are blessed to begin the journey of Advent. It's not difficult to look around the world and be overwhelmed by the darkness of sin and suffering. Advent is a season of preparation and hope, where we are reminded that the light and hope of Christ will always overcome the darkness of despair.

One of the most beautiful traditions we share at St. Ignatius is our morning Advent prayer. Every morning, the whole school joins together in the commons to pray. Classes will take turns leading the school in reading scripture, lighting the candles on the wreath, praying and singing together.

The candles urge us to focus on a different virtue each week as we prepare for Christmas, that our hearts will be open and ready to accept Jesus:

[Hope](#) - [Peace](#) - [Joy](#) - [Love](#)

If you are able, please join for this beautiful experience. If you're not able to join us, consider including the lighting of your family's Advent wreath at dinnertime and join in singing "[Ready the Way](#)" at your family table.

Advent & Christmas Schedule 2022

December 3rd

Parish Advent Retreat
9:30am-3pm

December 8th

Immaculate Conception Mass
8:45am & 7pm

December 13th

Parish Penitential Service
6:30pm

December 24th

Christmas Eve Mass
7pm, 9pm, 11pm*

December 25th

Christmas Day Mass
10am

December 31st

New Year's Eve Mass
5pm



Parish office will be closed December 23-26 and January 2nd

*11pm Mass on December 24th will include incense

~May the hope of Christ
overwhelm our hearts this
Advent Season~

Parish Events

- December 2: St. Ignatius Foundation Bingo Night, 6pm
- December 3: First Saturday Mass, 8:45am
- December 7: Anointing Mass w/ Bishop, 11am
- December 8: Immaculate Conception, Mass at 8:45am and 7pm
- December 11: coffee/donuts after 9 & 11 masses
- December 13: Advent Penitential Service, 6:30pm

Looking for Inspiration?

- Sign up for the [BEST ADVENT EVER](#) email program for daily reflections
- Holy Heroes - [Advent Adventure for Kids](#)
- [The True Meaning of Advent](#) video from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7
- "Open wide your door to the one who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all men." St. Ambrose of Milan

Family Advent Activities

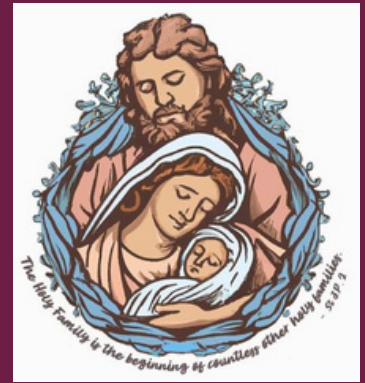
- **Advent Wreath:** One of the most traditional symbols of Advent is the Advent wreath, where every week we light another candle to remind us that we are one week closer to the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus.
 - [Printable Advent Wreath Activity](#)
 - [Advent Nativity Wreath](#)
- **Nativity Scene:** Traditionally, it's fun to "build" your scene throughout Advent, with the culmination of adding baby Jesus on Christmas morning. Consider making your own out of paper, or there are many sets for purchase
 - [Printable Nativity Scene](#)
 - [Little People Nativity Advent calendar](#)
 - [Nativity Scenes for purchase](#)
- **Shepherd's Treasure:** many of us have "Elf on the Shelf," consider this a new or additional tradition where the Shepherd travels around, leading us to Jesus on Christmas morning
- **Celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas** (December 6): St. Nicholas was a bishop in 3rd century Turkey. He is most remembered for helping the poor and sick. The most famous story of St. Nicholas is about him secretly leaving money for the three daughters of a poor man to provide dowries for them. He threw three bags of gold coins in the window of their home, and the coins landed in the girls' stockings, which were hung by the fire to dry. The real St. Nicholas is the origin of various Santa Claus traditions around the world.
 - It is a custom to leave shoes by the fireplace or door on St. Nicholas's feast day. Leave gold chocolate coins (like he gave) and candy canes (like his bishop's crosier) in the shoes of your loved ones.
- **Jesse Tree:** This tradition carries us through the Old Testament events that lead up to Jesus' birth. It helps us to see the story of Salvation and God's Providence. This is a fun daily Activity to incorporate prayer and faith into your daily Advent routine. You can purchase pre-made sets or there are also some where you can print and color the ornaments every day!
 - [Jesse Tree Prayers](#)
 - [How to Make a Jesse Tree](#)
 - [Jesse Tree printable ornaments and DVD](#)
 - [Jesse Tree ornaments and booklet](#)

Accounts to check out

- [Look to Him and be Radiant](#)
- [Catholic Icing](#)
- [Brick House in the City](#)

Faith Filled Christmas Shopping

- [Evangelion](#)
- [Meyer Market Designs](#)
- [Tiny Saints](#)
- [AlmondRodToys](#)
- [The Catholic Company](#)
- [Catholic Companies to Brighten your Shopping List](#)



St. Nicholas

(March 15, 270–December 6, 343)

Nicholas was born in what is now Turkey. Not much is objectively known about Nicholas' life, except that his parents were very wealthy Christians who died when he was young.

Living the life of a priest and then Bishop of Myra, Nicholas had little need for the wealth his parents left him. Instead, he chose to use his wealth to serve God by helping the poor. The most famous legend about St. Nicholas involves him helping a poor man who had three daughters. The man didn't have enough money to pay dowries for his daughters and Nicholas was concerned they would end up being sold into prostitution. Nicholas is said to have thrown three bags of gold (to cover each dowry) into the house via an open window (and into a stocking hung to dry above the fire). We celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas on December 6th. There are lots of fun ways you can celebrate St. Nicholas' Day with your family! A popular tradition is children setting their shoes out the night before, sometimes with carrots or hay for St. Nicholas' white steed. In the morning, children will find small gifts in their shoes—oranges and chocolate coins are traditional; candy canes (in the shape of a Bishop's crosier) and other small gifts can also be given.

Faith for Families - Parent Ed

For those that missed it, we had a wonderful evening in November sharing ways to incorporate faith more deeply into our lives.

Here are some of the highlights

1. Live Liturgically

- **This Advent:** Advent Wreath, Jesse Tree, St. Nicholas
- **Celebrate your family's Sacramental anniversaries** - Grab a cake and pull your Baptismal candle out of the drawer! Set on your calendar (with a reminder!) to celebrate for everyone in your family! Baptism, reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation!
- **Incorporate the Saints** - As their feast days come through the calendar, based on your child's interests and your own! [Saints Alive Podcast](#), [Portraits of Saints](#), [Sacred Saints](#)
- **Following liturgically focused accounts** helps keep us on track!
 - [Catholic Family Crate](#), [Dynamic Catholic](#), [Brick House in the City](#), [Into the Deep Co](#), [Catholic Icing](#), [Look to Him and be Radiant](#)

2. Make it a habit

- Habits are HARD to begin, especially when our kids are older, but the investment is worth it! We want to build these virtuous habits into them so that they can fall back on their own
- Decide and plan around going to Mass every Sunday, Pray guardian angel prayer and/or decade of the rosary every time you get into the car, pray when ambulances/police drive by

3. Make it tangible in your home

- Set up a "prayer table" or corner where you can keep holy things out and displayed in your home. This is a tangible reminder and can be changed with the liturgical season!
- Give your child faith-based gifts! Lots of online sellers are making [pillows](#), [Saint cards](#) and more that are beautiful and functional.

4. Bring a friend!

- Everything is more fun with friends! Maybe there is someone you haven't seen at Mass in awhile - reach out to them this Advent and invite them to share Sunday Mass and then breakfast! Ask a friend to join you at morning Advent prayer and then catch up over coffee! Schedule ahead to attend Thursday school Mass and bring someone along!

Most importantly, the best gift we can give to our kids is to **Grow in our own faith**. No one has all the answers, and that is the beauty of community - we are in this together, and we are blessed to be a part of a community full of people who are all journeying with us! School and Parish, reach out!