

DECEMBER

While January 1st and the “New Year” is still a month away, our new Liturgical Year has begun. The season of Advent is a time of waiting... and hope offering us an opportunity to practice patience, peace, and goodwill (by sharing hope with others).. As we enter the season of Advent, the Church invites us to slow down, prepare our hearts, and joyfully await the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is a time of hope, reflection, and anticipation—a reminder that Christ is present with us now and will come again in glory. December is often filled with busy schedules and excitement, but it also offers us as Catholic parents, the opportunity to teach our children the values of gratitude, generosity, and faithfulness. As the countdown to Christmas begins, consider some of the follow activities to share with your family:

- Display an Advent wreath (crafted together is even better). Light a candle and say a prayer each Sunday evening as you gather for dinner.
- Count down the days to Christ's birth with an Advent calendar. Attempt an act of kindness each day!
- Set aside a few minutes each day to pray as a family. You can find an Advent Prayer for families on the next page.
- Put a Nativity set on display, but don't add your Baby Jesus until Christmas!
- Sing Christmas carols & hymns and read stories about Advent and Christmas as a family. There are great books for children of all ages!
- Be sure to learn about this month's saints and holy days: Saint Nicholas (12/6), Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (12/8), Our Lady of Guadalupe (12/12), Saint Lucy (12/13).

THE CHILDREN PREPARED MATERIALS TO HELP CELEBRATE ADVENT AT OUR LAST FAITH FORMATION CLASS. THEY SHOULD HAVE ALL THE PIECES TO HELP WITH A “COUNTDOWN” THAT INCLUDES DAILY ACTS OF SERVICE AND KINDNESS.



JOIN US FOR MASS AND OUR ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING EVENT ON DECEMBER 6TH AT 4:00. THE CHILDREN WILL HANG THE ORNAMENTS THEY MADE AT FF CLASS. WE'LL SING AND ENJOY COOKIES AND COCOA. THIS EVEN IS PART OF OUR FAITH FORMATION “CLASSES” SO WE HOPE YOUR FAMILY WILL ATTEND!

FAITH FORMATION SERVICE PROJECT

Throughout 2025, you've heard Father John talk about The Jubilee Year of Hope. During our class in early November, we talked about what it means to be and how we can be Pilgrims of Hope - sharing love, faith, and hope with others. I tasked the children with gathering nonperishable food items to be shared with families in need. Our Holy Family community has adopted 6 families to support during the Christmas season. It is our hope that we can fill 6 boxes of food, one for each family. Some children brought food items to our last November class. If you are able to donate nonperishable food items, please send them to class on 12/14 as we'll be packing the boxes that day. We would also gladly accept grocery gift cards to help our efforts.



CLASSES AND EVENTS

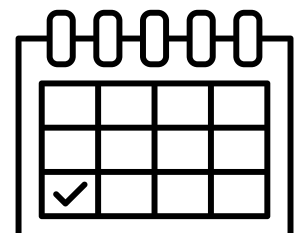
DECEMBER 6
4:00 Mass and Tree Lighting at St. Mary's

DECEMBER 14
Class after 9:15 Mass

DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Mass

Sign Up

PK-7TH GRADE CLASS SCHEDULE



CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Prayers and Songs for Advent and Christmas

Advent Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love.

Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love. Amen.

[O Come O Come Emmanuel](#)

Awaiting Baby Jesus

Advent Prayer

My heart is beating, filled with joy,
awaiting Mary's baby boy.

For with this child, we embrace
the birth of God's most precious grace.

Baby Jesus, soon to come!

For us comes the Promised One.

Baby Jesus, God's own Son,
you will be the Chosen One
to lead our flock into salvation.

Our eternal life awaits.

The birth of Jesus brings us nearer
Heaven's holy gates.

Sing with joy, and count the days,
for soon to come, the Lord we'll praise.

Rejoice that Jesus will soon arrive,
the Messiah and our faith alive.

Amen.

And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud, and majesty and awe

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

Click the titles to share songs of worship for Advent & Christmas

[Advent Song:](#)
[Hope, Peace, Joy](#)
[and Love](#)

[The Whole World](#)
[is Waiting for](#)
[Love](#)

[Go Tell it on the](#)
[Mountain](#)

[Silent](#)
[Night](#)

[Away in a](#)
[Manger](#)