



# Religious Education Newsletter Holy Savior Catholic Church

December 2022



November 27 was the start of the church's new liturgical year and the first weekend of advent. Advent is four weeks of preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Many of us jump right into the Christmas season immediately after Thanksgiving with the Christmas decorations and gift buying. In this busy holiday season, we should take time to pause, pray, and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas: the birth of our savior, Jesus.

Every Mass we hear "...As we await the blessed hope, the coming of our savior Jesus Christ." This is part of a short prayer the priest says after the Our Father known as the embolism. This prayer goes to the heart of the Advent season as we wait with joyful hope and expectation on the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways.

We wish the upcoming weeks of Advent preparation and the celebration of Christmas be a blessed and joyful time for you all!

## Upcoming Events

### DECEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> Sacred Heart of Jesus Mass 8:30 AM  
1st Friday Breakfast McGing Hall

4<sup>th</sup> CCD and Adult Education

7<sup>th</sup> Adoration, Benediction, Confession 6-7:00 PM

8<sup>th</sup> Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation) Mass 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM

10<sup>th</sup> Breakfast with Santa 9-10:00 AM Parish Hall

11<sup>th</sup> CCD and Adult Education

14<sup>th</sup> Parish Penance Service 6-7:00 PM

16<sup>th</sup> Mass of Anointing & Healing 8:30 AM

18<sup>th</sup> CCD or Adult Education

24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Mass 5:00 PM and  
Midnight Mass 12:00 AM

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Mass 10:30 AM



### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

#### *Holy Day of Obligation*

December 8, 8:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

The Immaculate Conception is the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without stain, "Immaculate", and born free from original sin from the moment of her conception and was preserved from sin. She was born sinless, "...full of grace." From the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

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Web: [holy-savior-ms.org](https://holy-savior-ms.org)



# DECEMBER EVENTS

## BREAKFAST with SANTA



Join us for a visit with  
Santa and breakfast  
December 10  
9:00 - 10:00 AM  
Parish Hall



## Parish Penance Service

December 14  
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Our 2nd graders will celebrate their  
first confession at the parish  
penance service, please keep them  
in your prayer.

How to go to Confession Video:



Children's Christmas  
Program Practice  
Dec. 11 & 18  
Afternoon  
Time to be determined



## Holiday Mass Schedule

### *Christmas*

5:00 PM Vigil & Children's Program  
Midnight Mass  
10:30 AM Sunday Mass

### *Solemnity of Mary Mother of God*

Normal Weekend Mass Schedule:  
Dec. 31 at 5:00 PM Vigil  
Jan. 1 at 10:30 AM



Feast of  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
December 12



# CCD December Newsletter



## 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 4 brings us the 2nd Sunday of Advent: **Faith**. We are reminded to prepare the way of the Lord.

Matthew 3:3 tells us: "...It was of him (John the Baptist) that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: 'A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11 brings us the 3rd Sunday of Advent: **Joy**. We are reminded of the joy of the coming birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:10 tells us: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."



## 4th Sunday of Advent

December 18 brings us the 4th Sunday of Advent:

**Peace**. This reminds us "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favors."

Luke 2:10 tells us: The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

## Christmas

December 25 brings us the the birth of Jesus. The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas. This candle is called the "CHRIST CANDLE" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for "PURITY" because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.



# CCD December Newsletter

## Advent Resources

**Advent Calendar for Adults** from Loyola Press

Slow down this season and discover the quiet daily moments of hope to nurture your spirit

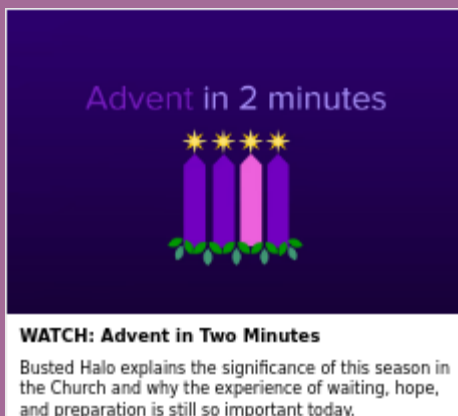


**Brother Francis Advent Videos** (formed.org)

28 three minute videos for each day of Advent



*Check out Busted Halo For a variety of Advent resources*



[Link to Video](#)



[Daily Advent Inspiration](#)

Click each day

**How to Celebrate a Traditional Advent Season**

(leafletonline.com)

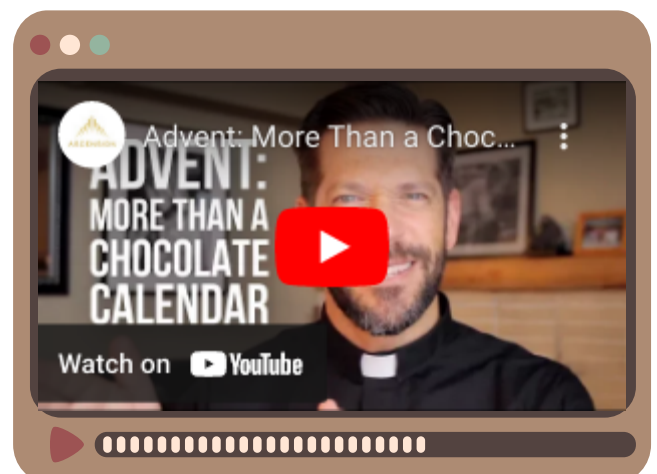
**Advent Ideas for Catholic Families**

(blessedcatholicmom.com)

**Cathecist Cafe** faith formation ideas

**Printable Advent Calendar for Kids**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 First Sunday of Advent I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.	28 I will do my work well today and with joy for God.	29 I will obey my parents, my teachers, and others in charge of me.	30 I will be kind in a special way to someone I don't like much.	1 I will work hard today and do my best.	2 I will keep calm and not lose my temper when I am pushed or treated rudely.	3 I will try to show special love for someone who seems unhappy or lonely.
4 Second Sunday of Advent I will secretly do a kind act for someone.	5 I will eat more of what is good for me today and less of what is not.	6 I will donate like new toys and books to someone in need.	7 I will be a peacemaker today in school and at home.	8 I will honor Mary in a very special way today by being cheerful.	9 I will do some work for my parents to help them out after a day of work.	10 I will be satisfied with the things I have instead of asking my family for more.
11 Third Sunday of Advent I will try to be patient today.	12 I will find a quiet place and sit for a few minutes, just letting God love me.	13 I will give a quiet place and sit for a few minutes, just letting God love me.	14 I will try to be more thoughtful of others.	15 I will make a special effort to be kind to those I find it hard to like.	16 I will speak kindly to all I meet today.	17 I will be helpful at home these last days before Jesus' birthday.
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent I will not complain today, even if I must do things I don't want to do.	19 I will thank God for all he gives to me.	20 I will be grateful and thank God today for all the food I have.	21 I will give a smile to all I meet today.	22 I will do a kind act for each member of my family.	23 I will do what I can to please my parents and family in a special way today.	24 I will welcome Jesus with great love and offer him all the good acts I have performed and the prayers I have said during Advent.
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	ADVENT 2022 May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.					LOYOLA PRESS A JESUIT MISSION www.loyolapress.com



[Link to Video](#)



# CCD December Newsletter



The O Antiphons are rich with meaning and make a truly wonderful Catholic tradition. Each night for the octave (8 days) before Christmas, 17th to 23rd December, we ask Christ to come, and call him by a different name. Each of these names starts with "O". The O Antiphons get across 2 messages: each one highlights a different title for the Messiah (listed below), and each one refers to the prophecy of the Messiah from Isaiah. These may be said as evening prayer.

**December 17** Isaiah 11:2-3; 28:29

O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

**December 18** Isaiah 11:4-5; 33:22

O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

**December 19** Isaiah 1:1; 11:10

O Root of Jesse's stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!

**December 20** Isaiah 9:6; 22:22

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

**December 21** Isaiah 9:1

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**December 22** Isaiah 9:5; 2:4

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:

come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

**December 23** Isaiah 7:14 come to save us, Lord our God!

## THE SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS

### HISTORY

According to tradition, St. Francis of Assisi was the initiator of living nativity scenes. The practice became popular and later on, figures were used instead of people and animals.

### THE FIRST MANGER

It is said that the first nativity scene was built in Naples, Italy in the late fifteenth century and was made clay figures.

### THE MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE

### EXPANSION

Charles III ordered the mangers to be spread throughout the Spanish and Italian kingdom. The Franciscan friars carried this tradition to America.

### NOWADAYS

The figures of a nativity scene can be of different sizes (even real size) and they represent the different scenes of the birth of Baby Jesus

INFORMATION FROM ACIPRENSA.COM

CatholicLink



## THE STORY OF SANTA CLAUS

### St. Nicholas

That's not me...

St. Nicholas of Bari was born in Lycia (today's Turkey). From an early age he was a very generous person, especially towards the poor. He also had the custom of giving secret gifts to children.

Nicholas moved to Myra where he was ordained as a priest, and later as a bishop.

He was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution and only released when Constantine the Great came to power.

St. Nicholas is associated with Christmas because of his tradition of giving secret gifts to children. His feast day is on the 6th of December.

CatholicLink



# CCD December Newsletter

## Thanksgiving Lesson

PreK through 6th grade met in the parish hall November 6 for a group lesson on giving thanks to God. They shared why they are thankful and created thankful hats.



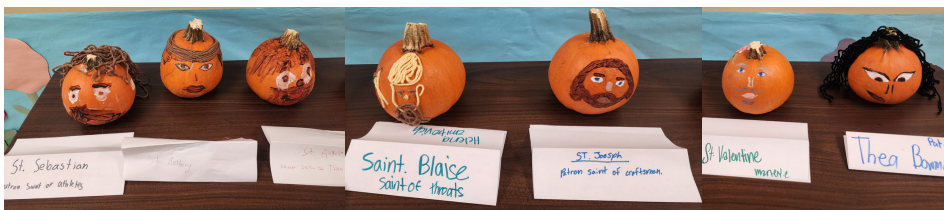
## Confirmation Retreat

November 5 was the 9th & 10th grade Confirmation retreat where they learned about the sacrament, had bible relays, and got to know each other with team building. Special thanks to our Confirmation Catechist, Julie Cross.



## All Saints Day

7th and 8th graders learned about saints in class and painted saint pumpkins.



## Prayer Rocks

4th graders painted prayer rocks in class.



## Youth Thanksgiving

7th through 12th graders and their families gathered November 13 for a Thanksgiving potluck.





# CCD December Newsletter

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Search**  
A RETREAT  
FOR TEENS; BY TEENS



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**January 13-15, 2023**  
Camp Wesley Pines  
Gallman, MS

**EXPLORE THE CALL**  
FOR I KNOW WELL THE PLANS I  
HAVE FOR YOU....



SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

JEREMIAH  
29:11-13

### Deadline December 13

SEARCH is a unique retreat experience designed for youth in grades 11th & 12th who have a strong desire to deepen their faith and relationship with Christ. A retreat "for teens, led by teens." Dec. 13 is the deadline to sign up at this link: [Search Registration](#)

Cost is \$125.

## Christmas Break

### Christmas Break

We will not meet December 19 through January 7 due to the Christmas holidays. We will resume January 8.



### CYO Garage Sale

CYO garage sale is in January. More information to come on when to drop off donations.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## *A Savior Is Born*

