



ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION NEWS DECEMBER, 2017



Dear Elementary Faith Formation Families,
Daylight has grown shorter. Night time is longer. A spirit of expectation begins to pick up momentum: shopping, giftwrapping, parties, Christmas carols, decorating. Something wonderful is about to happen. We prepare to celebrate Christmas in a great variety of traditions. How many of them are really associated with the preparation for the Christian mystery of Christ's birth? That is why we honor the liturgical season of Advent. Advent (in Latin it means "coming"). With the onset of Advent on December 3rd, Catholics and other Christian faiths throughout the world welcomed a new liturgical year and the awesome time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. This season is the perfect time to allow ourselves the opportunity to prepare within our hearts for the coming of Jesus, not as a baby born in Bethlehem, not at the end of time, but in the present: in the Eucharist and in the goodness we offer to one another.

COL PARISH ADVENT RETREAT

COL welcomes Sr. Edith Prendergast, RSC who will facilitate our first parish Advent retreat: "The Advent Journey: Awake to God's Gracious Peace." Join us on Saturday, Dec. 9th, 9am - Noon. For reservations contact Cathy Johnson: cjohnson@christourlight.net.

ADVENT STEWARDSHIP

Toys for Sacred Heart Toy Drive ends on Dec. 10 – Thanks to your generosity, we will caravan our way to Camden on Dec. 11 with your donations.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th. SEE THE PARISH BULLETIN OR WEBSITE FOR THE MASS SCHEDULE.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY - is a Vatican tradition that occurs on the third Sunday of Advent. Families bring the baby Jesus figurine from their Nativity sets for a special blessing during weekend liturgy. COL will offer this blessing at all masses the weekend of Dec. 16 & 17.

****ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION is on Christmas break beginning on Thursday, Dec. 21st. The Break continues the week of December 25th. Classes resume Sunday, Jan. 7th.****

MID YEAR TESTS

Students in grades 5 & 6 will take mid-year tests on Monday, December 18th or Wednesday, January 17th. Classes will review the previous week and students will have a guide which they will bring home to help them study. Please help your student review. Explain that testing is an important tool that helps to evaluate his/her retention and understanding of material presented in class.

INFANT GIFTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

If your family plans to attend the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass you are invited to bring infant gifts which will be collected during the Offertory. Your donations will be distributed to Good Counsel Home, First Way, and Options for Women to help women with supplies for newborns and infants. Suggested gifts: diaper & wipes, new baby blankets, new baby clothing, i.e.: onesies, pajamas, jackets, socks. Also infant formula and baby food.

LIVING IN THE LIGHT SACRAMENT UPDATE

Children and their families have completed our parish Living in the Light preparation for 1st Reconciliation and will celebrate the sacrament of God's love and forgiveness with their parents/guardians on December 16th at 10am or March 22nd at 7pm.

*****Families of children who will celebrate 1st Eucharist in the spring have received preparation information via "snail mail". Registration forms and fees are due to the Elementary Faith Formation office by Dec. 22nd.*****

CALENDAR UPDATE

DECEMBER

- 11 – Toy collection for Sacred Heart concludes**
- 11 – 7pm Cherry Hill Regional Advent Penance service at COL**
- 16 – 10am – Parish Advent Reconciliation Service AND 1st Reconciliation**
- 18 – Mid year tests for Monday & Home Study EFF students in Gr. 5 & 6**
- 21 – January 6 - No EFF classes**

JANUARY

- 7 – Classes resume**
- 8 – Gr. 3 Monday Parent Visitation – Sacrament activity**
- 11 & 14 – Living in the Light Eucharist prep event for children and parents**
- 15 – Martin Luther King Day – NO MONDAY CLASSES**
- 16 – Gr. 3 Tuesday Parent Visitation – Sacrament activity**
- 17 – Grades 5 & 6 Mid year test for Wednesday evening students**
- 22, 23, 24 -- Progress Reports go home**
- 28 – Parish Pancake Breakfast following all morning masses --- NO 9am Pre-K**

PARISH WEBSITE

Please visit www.christourlight.net for up to date parish news. This newsletter and all important Christ Our Light information are posted there.

IN CASE OF SNOW....

When Chery Hill schools cancel classes or after school activities due to snow on an EFF day or evening, we are cancelled too. Families will receive notification through the Honeywell Instant Alert system.

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. May your Advent journey be filled with the wonders of this awesome liturgical season.

*All good wishes for a Happy Christmas & a Healthy New Year,
Ginny*



A Prayer for Advent

Let there be peace on Earth, Holy Spirit, especially in the hearts of those who are suffering and sad. Let there be peace in our hearts. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen