



ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

DECEMBER, 2019



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 1st, 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: "AS WE WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE"

COL welcomes Mike Patin, who will facilitate this year's parish Advent retreat. Join us on Saturday, Dec. 7th, 8:30am- Noon in the Parish Center (All are welcome). Youth Nite is Friday, Dec. 6th, 6:30 - 8:30pm in the Parish Center (Adults are welcome). For reservations please register online by visiting the parish website.

TEWARDSHIP

Toys for Sacred Heart Toy Drive ends on Dec. 8 – Thanks to your generosity, we will caravan our way to Camden with your donations.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY – MONDAY, DECEMBER 9th.
SEE THE PARISH BULLETIN OR WEBSITE FOR THE MASS SCHEDULE.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word will not be held on Sunday, December 22nd or 29th. We will resume on January 5th.

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. 14 & 15.

****ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION is on Christmas break beginning on Thursday, Dec. 19th. Classes resume Sunday, Jan. 5th.****

MID YEAR TESTS

Students in grades 5 & 6 will take mid-year tests on Monday, December 16th, Tuesday, January 7th, and Wednesday, January 8th. Classes will review 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: diapers & wipes, new baby blankets, new baby clothing, i.e.: onesies, pajamas, jackets, socks; also infant formula and baby food.

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 14th at 10am or March 26th at 7pm.

*****Families of children who will celebrate 1st Eucharist in the spring will receive preparation information via "snail mail". Registration forms and fees are due to the Elementary Faith Formation office by Dec. 15th.*****

CALENDAR UPDATE

DECEMBER

- 6 – Advent Retreat – Youth Night – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Adults are welcome)**
- 7 – Advent Morning Retreat – 8:30 a.m. – Noon – All are welcome**
- 8 – Toy collection for Sacred Heart concludes**
- 14 – 10am – Parish Advent Reconciliation Service AND 1st Reconciliation**
- 16 -- Mid year tests for Monday & Home Study EFF students in Gr. 5 & 6**

JANUARY

- 5 – Classes resume**
- 6 – Monday Gr. 3 Parent Visitation – Sacrament activity**
- 7 – Mid year test for Tuesday students in Gr. 5**
- 8 – Mid year test for Wednesday students in Gr. 5 & 6**
- 12 – 11am Mass Rite of Welcome for those preparing to celebrate sacraments**
- 13, 14, 15 – Progress Reports go home**
- 16 & 19 – 1st Eucharist prep event for children & parents**
- 20 – Martin Luther King Day – NO MONDAY CLASSES**
- 26 – 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