



ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

DECEMBER, 2023



Dear Elementary Faith Formation Families,

Daylight has grown shorter. Night time is longer. A spirit of expectation begins to pick up momentum: shopping, giftwrapping, 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.

STEWARDSHIP

Toys for Sacred Heart Toy Drive ends the week of Dec. 3. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity to this annual event.

Parish Giving Tree

Take an ornament from the tree in the Gathering Space of the church and purchase the item (or items if you take more than 1 ornament) and bring the unwrapped gift to the Gathering Space by Dec. 17.

Adopt A Family

Contact Julie DeMarco at 856-667-2440 x327 or email

jdemarco@christourlight.net to sponsor a family for Christmas. Our parishioners have given many families in need a Merry Christmas in years past.

FAMILY ADVENT PACKETS

All EFF families received a packet of suggested activities to journey through Advent. There is an Advent calendar, alternative gift ideas, and a fun booklet that coordinates with favorite holiday movies, to name a few. Check it out!

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY - MASSES THURSDAY & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH. SEE THE PARISH BULLETIN OR WEBSITE FOR THE MASS SCHEDULE.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during the 8:30 & 10:30am Sunday Mass. CLOW is appropriate for children 5 years of age through 5th grade.

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 Thursday, Dec. 21st . Classes resume January 8th.****

INFANT GIFTS ON CHRISTMAS

Families are again invited to bring infant gifts to the Christmas masses. 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. Gifts should be placed under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary.

SACRAMENT UPDATE

Children and their families have completed our parish preparation for 1st Reconciliation and will celebrate the sacrament of God's love and forgiveness with their parents/guardians on December 2nd at 10:30am or March 14TH 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 December 18, 2023 .*****

CALENDAR UPDATE

DECEMBER

2 – 10:30am – 1st Reconciliation

6 – Toy collection for Sacred Heart concludes

JANUARY

7 – COL Music Ministry Christmas Concert, 7pm

8 – EFF classes resume

15 – Martin Luther King Day – NO MONDAY EFF CLASSES

18 & 21 – 1st Eucharist Prep Event I for children and parents

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

COL EFF classes follow the Cherry Hill public schools policy for class cancellations due to weather. When Cherry Hill cancels we do too. If Cherry Hill cancels after school activities we cancel class then as well.

*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.