



ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

DECEMBER, 2014



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 November 30th, 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.

ADVENT STEWARDSHIP

Toys for Sacred Heart – Thanks to your generosity, we will caravan our way to Camden on Dec. 8 with your donations to the Sacred Heart toy store.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

Our parish food pantry assists local families in need, and your donations are needed now more than ever. This Advent season, please help us to help others. Students are asked to bring non-perishable food to class during the week of December 14th. To assure a variety of items, we suggest the following:

- Pre-K -- cake mix & frosting
- Gr. 1 -- peanut butter & jelly
- Gr. 2 -- pasta & sauce
- Gr. 3 -- canned vegetables & soup
- Gr. 4 -- pancake mix & syrup
- Gr. 5 -- baby food & infant formula
- Gr. 6 -- canned stews, canned chicken, canned tuna fish



Thank you for your generosity!

MID YEAR TESTS

Students in grades 5 & 6 will take mid-year tests on Monday, December 15th or Wednesday, January 14th. 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.

*****ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION is on Christmas break the week of December 21. The Break continues the week of December 28. CLASSES RESUME THE WEEK OF JANUARY 4.***

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY - MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th. SEE THE CHRIST OUR LIGHT BULLETIN OR WEBSITE FOR THE MASS SCHEDULE.

CALENDAR UPDATE

DECEMBER

1ST – 3RD: Toy collection for Sacred Heart continues

6 – Breakfast with Santa (School Cafeteria)

6 & 7 – Fair Trade Festival (School All Purpose Room)

7 – 11am Mass – Rite of Acceptance for families preparing for 1st Reconciliation and 1st Eucharist

13 – 10am – Parish Advent Reconciliation Service AND 1st Reconciliation

14, 15, 16, 17 – COL Food Pantry Collection

15 – Monday classes Grades 5 & 6 Mid year tests

JANUARY

Week of Jan. 4 – Classes resume

5 – Grade 3 Monday Parent Visitation – Sacrament activity

11 AND 15 – Living in the Light 1st Eucharist prep event for children and parents

12 and 13 – Monday Progress Reports go home

14 – Wednesday classes Grades 5 & 6 Mid year tests

19 – Martin Luther King Day – NO EFF CLASSES

20 – Grade 3 Tuesday Parent Visitation – Sacrament activity

20 and 21 – Tuesday / Wednesday Progress Reports go home

25 – 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 is posted there.

Advent is a season of preparation, waiting, and anticipation. We ready ourselves to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ in two ways – by recalling his historical birth over 2000 years ago, and by looking ahead to his second coming.

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



A Prayer for Advent

God of love, thank you for conspiring to astound us with love beyond measure. Expand my imagination and actions so that during Advent and beyond I may create conspiracies of love all along the highways - the holy ways - I walk with your people. Amen.