


Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter
November 27 - December 4, 2024

WITH
a Grateful Heart



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



[Download a Thanksgiving Prayer Placemat Here](#)



Upcoming CCD Calendar

Monday

December 2nd

Lesson 11 - *How do we know God loves us?*

Tuesday

December 3rd

Flex Day*

Suggestion - Lesson 22: Advent

[CCD Calendar](#)

*As a reminder, "Flex Days" are not optional in terms of attendance. They are simply days where catechists have a choice about the material to be covered in class. While the calendar suggests a deeper dive into the season of Advent (Lesson 22), catechists can also take the time to do things like review a previous topic, work on an extensive craft project or conduct a service project.



Homeschooling Connection

Week of December 1st

Chapter 10

Christmas Collection

All of the families in our homeschooling program are encouraged to participate in all of our service projects and collections. Please help us with our Christmas collection for homebound members of the parish. (See flyer below.) Items may be left in the collection bin in the vestibule of the church. Thank you!

Reconciliation

In-person CCD students will be celebrating Reconciliation the afternoons of December 9th and 10th. If you would like to bring your child by for confession, we can put him or her in the beginning of the CCD student line and you can be on your way back home quickly. If those days don't work with your family schedule, you can always bring your child to Reconciliation Saturday afternoons from 12:45 - 2:00 in the church. As a reminder, Catholics are asked to celebrate Reconciliation during the seasons of Advent and Lent.



Gospel Reflection Stickers for the Week

This past Sunday the Church celebrated the solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. In this week's Opening Service we talked about how each and every one of us are important members of God's Kingdom. There are about 350 million people living in the United States right now, but most of us are just social security numbers to our government leaders. Not so with Jesus! Economists estimate that there have been a total of 117 BILLION people to have ever lived on planet earth. Amazingly, Jesus has intimately known and loved each and every one of those people. Each one of us is unique, precious and unrepeatable. There has never been another person like any of us ever before - and there have been A LOT of people!

And unlike with our governmental officials, we don't have to wait to communicate with Jesus! He is ALWAYS ready and waiting to hear from us in prayer. What an amazing King!

Please Participate in our Christmas Goodie Bag Collection

Each Advent the CCD Program collects items for inclusion in Christmas "Goodie Bags" which are then delivered to homebound members of the parish the week before Christmas. **Please help us with our annual tradition by sending your child into CCD with the item(s) listed next to your child's grade.** While these gifts aren't viewed as super exciting to most of our students, they are nonetheless looked forward to by our homebound parishioners who tend to be older. Thanks in advance for your help!

When selecting your items, please avoid large containers or boxes as many of our homebound seniors can't lift large items.



CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAG COLLETION

TO BENEFIT OLS' HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Please donate the item(s) listed next to your child's grade. Items will be collected at CCD until December 10th.

- K & GRADE 1:** 2 BOXES OF SHORTBREAD OR HOLIDAY COOKIES
- GRADE 2:** 1 BOX OF TISSUES **AND** 1 CAN OF COFFEE
- GRADE 3:** 1 SMALL JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER **AND** 1 SMALL JAR OF JELLY
- GRADE 4:** 2 SMALL BOXES OF TEA BAGS
- GRADE 5:** 1 BAG OF HOLIDAY CHOCOLATES **AND** 1 PACKAGE OF SNACK-SIZED FRUIT CUPS OR APPLESAUCE
- GRADE 6:** 1 LIP BALM **AND** 1 BOX OF HOT CHOCOLATE
- GRADE 7:** 2 SMALL TUBES OF HAND CREAM
- GRADE 8:** 2 SMALL BOTTLES OF SOAP

**NO BULK-SIZED ITEMS PLEASE!
ANY EXCESS ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO THE
OLS FOOD PANTRY.**

Our Annual Christmas Pageant is Nearly Here!

Our Christmas Pageant is nearly here! Don't forget to sign up to participate in all the fun and excitement. Costumes are provided and there is only one rehearsal prior to the day of the big show, so it's an easy way to help your kids learn about the joy of the nativity. I can't wait to see this year's cast, so sign up today!

Help Bring Christmas Joy to our Parish at our Annual Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 8, 2024



This Advent, the children of Our Lady of Sorrows can help prepare the hearts of everyone in the parish for the coming of Jesus Christ in a very special way: by participating in the OLS Christmas pageant. The birth of our Savior is VERY BIG news worth sharing with everyone! Please help us deliver this exciting message by having your child participate in our upcoming pageant. It's a fun way for kids to learn about their faith and a great opportunity for them to share their many talents - acting, singing and storytelling - with others. The commitment is minimal, costumes are provided and the photos are always PRICELESS!

Please email Colleen McDonald at sorrowschurch@gmail.com if your child in grades K-8 would like to participate. Or sign up electronically via the SignUpGenius!

Pageant Roles

K and Grade 1:

Lambs

Grade 2:

Angels

Grade 3

Shepherds

Grades 4 and Up:

Central Figures

* Costumes Provided for
All Cast Members



Pageant Schedule

Practice

Friday, December 6th

4:30 - 7:00 pm (Grades 4-8)

6:00 - 7:00 pm (Grades K-3)
upper church

Pageant Day

Sunday, December 8th

Central figures
arrive 3:00 pm, upper church

Sheep, Angels and Shepherds
arrive 4:00 pm, St. Joseph's Hall

Pageant Showtime 4:30 - 5:00 pm

Join us for our Christmas Pageant Pizza Social immediately following the show in St. Joseph's Hall
\$25 per family

[Sign Up to Participate in the Pageant Here](#)

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Our parish has something for everyone this Advent. Take a look at all our offerings and then plan on signing up for all those of interest! We hope to see you at an event or two!



PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!

ADVENT AT OLS

+ our Christmas Mass Schedule

CHECK OUR BULLETIN AND WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

<p>Sunday December 1st</p> <p>Advent Wreath Blessing and Decorating 11am-12:30pm (after 10am Mass)</p> <p>Have your wreath blessed and decorated at this favorite family-friendly event.</p> <p>RSVP: Teresa G. at teresa.geis@gmail.com</p>	<p>Monday December 2nd</p> <p>Parish Penance Service 7:00pm-8:00pm</p> <p>Come receive the Sacrament of Confession and have your sins forgiven!</p>	<p>Wednesday December 4th</p> <p>Women's Advent by Candlelight 7:00pm-9:00pm</p> <p>A night of prayer and fellowship for women to focus on the Reason for the Season.</p> <p>RSVP: Colette G. at adventbycandlelightols@gmail.com</p>	<p>Saturday December 7th</p> <p>Waiting with Mary: A Morning of Reflection 8:30am-12:30pm</p> <p>Includes breakfast, a talk by guest speaker Fr. Doug Milewski, adoration, Mass & confessions. Babysitting available!</p> <p>RSVP: John R. at maryleads2@aol.com</p>
<p>Sunday December 8th</p> <p>Children's Christmas Pageant 4:30pm-5:00pm</p> <p>Join us as our parish children re-enact the Nativity story. Family Pizza Social immediately following!</p> <p>Contact Jen N. at jennollois@gmail.com</p>	<p>Monday December 9th</p> <p>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)</p> <p>Mass Times: 7:00 am 9:30am (School Mass), 12:00 noon and 7:00pm.</p>	<p>Sunday December 15th</p> <p>Carol Sing with Live Nativity 4:00pm-5:30pm</p> <p>Join our parish choirs and the Gramercy Brass in our annual Carol Sing. Followed by a live nativity on the plaza. All are welcome - no RSVP needed.</p>	<p>+ CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE +</p> <p>Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve): 4pm, 7pm, 10pm ("Midnight Mass")</p> <p>Wednesday, December 25th (Christmas Day): 8am, 10am, 11:30am</p>



Minimal Prep Advent Traditions for Families

Tired of all the shop and spend messages associated with the secular "Christmas season?" The Church has the perfect antidote: Advent! This time of spiritually preparing for the coming of Christ is beautiful and totally contrary to the frenetic pace demanded by the culture. Let the good folks over at Catholic Icing help you add meaning to the next four weeks. Click [HERE](#) to be directed to more information about 10 Meaningful Advent Traditions (with Little or No Prep Work!)

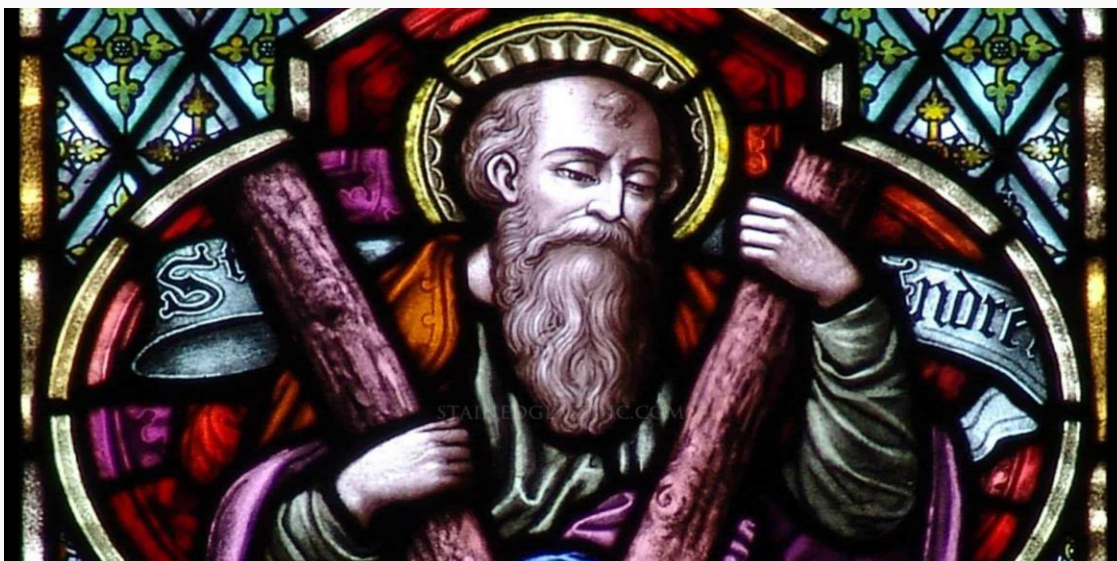
- Advent Wreath
 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
 - St. Nicholas Day
 - Interactive Nativity Set
 - Feast Day of Santa Lucia
 - Feasts of San Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe
 - Family Reconciliation
 - St. Andrew Christmas Novena
 - Jesse Tree
 - O Antiphons
-

Printable Advent Calendar 2024



There sure are a lot of Advent calendars available for purchase - and most, quite frankly, have absolutely nothing to do with Christ. (Admittedly, even the Nolls have acquired a Lego Harry Potter themed Advent calendar. I'm still not 100% sure how Harry Potter ties into Jesus' birth or his Second Coming, but we said thank you for the gift nonetheless.) While chocolates and trinkets are all well and good and certainly help make the countdown to Christmas more fun for kids, the best kind of Advent calendars also have suggestions for spiritual preparation.

Jared Dees at the religioneater.com, has a downloadable printout to help you customize an Advent calendar for your family. Just click [HERE](#).



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Andrew, Apostle

Feast Day: November 30th

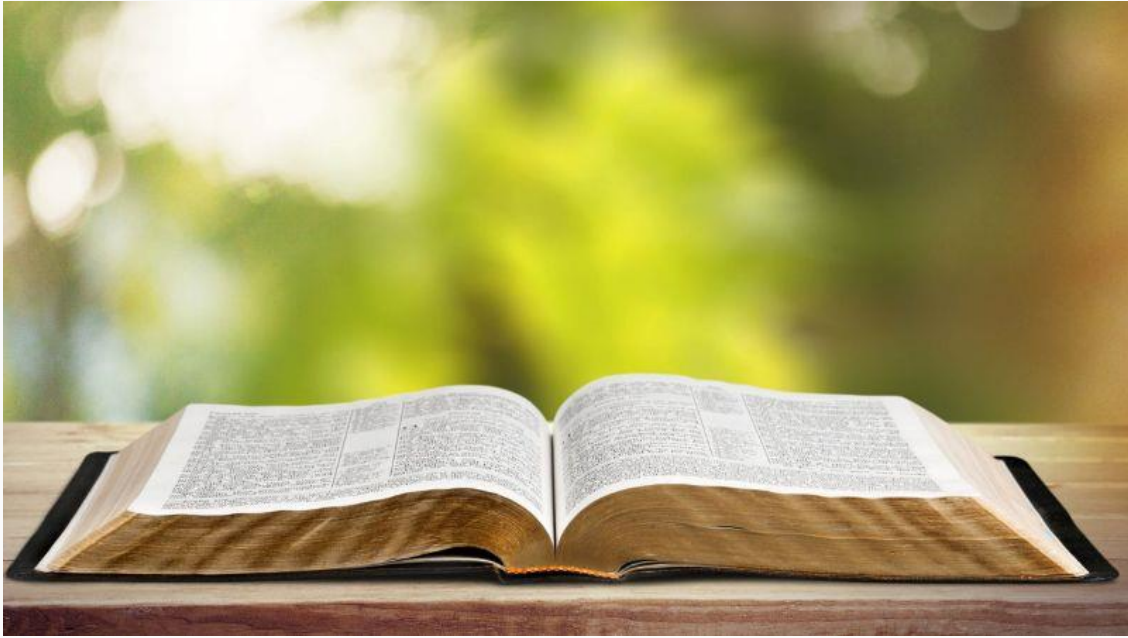
Patron Saint of: Fishermen, Greece, Russia and Scotland

Andrew was Saint Peter's brother, and was called with him. "As [Jesus] was walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is now called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:18-20).

John the Evangelist presents Andrew as a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." Andrew and another disciple followed Jesus. "Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come, and you will see.' So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day" (John 1:38-39).

Little else is said about Andrew in the Gospels. Before the multiplication of the loaves, it was Andrew who spoke up about the boy who had the barley loaves and fishes. When the Gentiles went to see Jesus, they came to Philip, but Philip then had recourse to Andrew.

Legend has it that Andrew preached the Good News in what is now modern Greece and Turkey and was crucified at Patras on an X-shaped cross.



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass then is a bit like looking over the menu before you get to a restaurant: you have a better idea of what you can expect so that you can enter into the experience more fully prepared. And like a good discussion during a meal, discussing the readings and how they can be applied to your family's daily life helps your family to truly go out and proclaim the gospel after leaving the church.

Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the Liturgy of the Word:

[First Sunday of Advent](#)
[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)

KIDSCALENDAR

DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q Who will come in a cloud with power? (SEE DECEMBER 6)</p> <p>• Luke 21:25-28, 34-36</p> <p>1</p>		<p>S SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST</p>  <p>3</p>	<p>S SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>4</p>		<p>A The Son of Man</p> <p>6</p>	<p>S SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>7</p>
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q Who was the son of Zechariah? (SEE DECEMBER 11)</p> <p>• Luke 3:1-6</p> <p>8</p>	<p>I THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p>  <p>9</p>	<p>O OUR LADY OF LORETO</p> <p>10</p>	<p>S SAINT DAMASUS I, POPE</p> <p>A John (the Baptist)</p> <p>11</p>	<p>O OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE</p>  <p>12</p>	<p>S SAINT LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR</p> <p>13</p>	<p>S SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p> <p>14</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q How will the Christ baptize? (SEE DECEMBER 17)</p> <p>• Luke 3:10-18</p> <p>15</p>		<p>A with the Holy Spirit and fire.</p> <p>17</p>				<p>S SAINT PETER CANSIUS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH</p>  <p>21</p>
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>Q Who traveled to see Elizabeth? (SEE DECEMBER 26)</p> <p>• Luke 1:39-45</p> <p>22</p>		<p>C CHRISTMAS EVE</p>  <p>23</p>	<p>T THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS DAY</p>  <p>25</p>	<p>S SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR</p>  <p>26</p>	<p>S SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST</p>  <p>27</p>	<p>T THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS</p> <p>A Mary</p> <p>28</p>
<p>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH</p> <p>Q How many days were Jesus' parents looking for him? (SEE DECEMBER 30)</p> <p>• Luke 2:41-52</p> <p>29</p>	<p>A Three days</p> <p>30</p>	<p>S SAINT SYLVESTER I, POPE</p> <p>31</p>	<p>Word of the month:</p> <p>CRÈCHE</p> <p>Models of people and animals present at Jesus' birth.</p> 			

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[Download the December Catechist Magazine Calendar HERE](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: Advent is a liturgical season of the Church that directs our hearts and minds toward the anniversary of the Lord's birth and:

- A) Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.
- B) the long physical and spiritual journey undertaken by the Wise Men from the East.
- C) the need to spread the Good News of Jesus' birth through symbols and song.
- D) the creation of the Universe by God the Father.



Answer: A - From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

Confused about Particular Judgement versus Last Judgement? Click [HERE](#) for a quick 3-minute video from Jared Dees at the religionteacher.com.

Joke of the Week

Question: *What did the turkey say to the computer?*

Answer: Google. Google.

Jen Noll
Catechetical Coordinator
jennollols@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald
Religious Education Assistant
sorrowschurch@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x285

[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)