

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

Prince of Peace Catholic Church

Catholic Connections Corner

In honor of St. Francis Xavier's Feast Day on December 3rd, pray for missionaries all over the world who are spreading God's Word.

Fill your children's shoes with small gifts or wrapped candies while they are asleep to celebrate St. Nicholas's Feast Day on December 6th.

Have a Mexican themed dinner with roses as decoration to celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

Choose an activity that will help babies. Pray for pregnant mothers, donate baby items to Catholic Center of Concern, or offer to babysit for free. The Feast Day of the Holy Innocents is December 28th.

Wait to add Jesus to your Nativity scene until Christmas.



Deep Devotion & Joyful Anticipation

According to Father Mike Schmitz, "Advent is a season of deep devotion and joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ." But what does that mean exactly? Well, let's take a look. **Devout** doesn't necessarily mean pious, it can, but it also means firm. Firm in our faith. Firm in our love for the Lord. And what about **joy**, isn't that like happiness? Yes, but so much more. Joy means that we have the ability to be happy regardless of our circumstances. We have a choice and we choose joy. We know that the Father loves us and we choose to abide in His love.

Advent is a time to celebrate and prepare for Jesus' birth as well as His Second Coming. During these four weeks, we are waiting for Jesus, but often times we think of "waiting" in terms of passive patience. We shouldn't. The Church calls us to actively wait for Jesus' Second Coming. Ask yourself this question: If Jesus came to me today, would there be room in my life for Him? Do I make the time I should for the Son of God? We are encouraged to devote more time to actively pursue the Lord and to be receptive to His love and grace in our daily lives. God is leading us somewhere every time we encounter Him. He



Advent Activities:

1. The POP Penance Service will be 12/19 at 6:30pm. We invite you to attend this event as a family.
2. The Nativity Re-Enactment will be held on 12/23 at 10:00am.
3. Make an Advent wreath and place it in the middle of your living room for all to see.
4. Buy an Advent calendar to joyfully anticipate the days until Jesus' birth. Say a prayer each day you open a door.
5. Bless your Christmas ornaments with the following prayer: *God, we ask you to bless these ornaments that we hold near and dear to our hearts. Each one of these represents a piece of our family's life together. Help us to see one another as precious and important, to treat one another with tenderness and care, and to enjoy and celebrate the joy that each one of us brings to the family. Be with our family throughout this Advent season and in the coming year. Amen.*

wants to change us. Are you open to His call for your life? Take some time this Advent season to grow closer to God and to joyfully prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Meaning Behind the Advent Wreath

DARKNESS AND LIGHT

Before Jesus, the world lived in darkness without fully understanding God's love for them. Jesus is often referred to as the "Light of the World" contrasted with the darkness of sin. As His Advent or "coming" draws closer another candle is lit, bringing more light and erasing more darkness. This symbolism helps us better understand salvation history with the birth of Jesus coming to redeem God's people.

SHAPE, NUMBER, COLOR

Shape: The wreath is circular, meaning it has no beginning or end, which symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us.

Number: The Advent wreath traditionally holds four candles which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of Advent. Each candle represents 1,000 years. Together the four candles make up the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the Savior (Adam and Eve until Jesus).

Color: Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify joy.

FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

The 1st Sunday of Advent- HOPE with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent- FAITH with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent- JOY with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the approaching birth of Jesus.

The 4th Sunday of Advent- PEACE with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, good will toward men."

