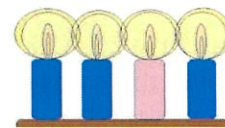


Advent Activities-2023



Advent is a time of expectation and excitement as we prepare for the birth of Christ. Within Advent is the unfolding of beautiful readings that build from one week to another, along with complimentary music, colors, and the rituals surrounding this liminal time. Jesus showed us how to respond to the call for transformative outreach in this world by trying to live out our faith, responding to the call to act as Christ did in all areas of our world, by serving others happily. Here is how each of our Advent Projects works: Please join in as many as you can.

- **November 29th – Family Night:** Immaculate Conception and Saint Joseph students and families are asked to attend an evening of fun and learning. The evening begins at Saint Joseph's with a pizza dinner from 5:45-6:15pm. After, students and their families will be challenging their Catholic knowledge with Bible Bingo and completing a Catholic Escape Room/Break Out Activity. McDonald's gift certificates will be rewarded to ten lucky winners. The evening will conclude at 7:15pm with Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament. All students should plan on attending as this is a required faith formation class. We are looking forward to combining our two programs for the evening to create new friendships and opportunities for families to grow in their Catholic faith.
- **Saint John's Homeless Shelter:** Saint Joseph Parish is Collecting items listed on the back of this paper. There are items with all different prices. There will be a tote in the Narthex of church for you to put your items in. We will start collecting items **December 2nd** and will finish on **December 17th**. The items will be delivered to Saint John's Homeless Shelter on December 18th or 19th. If anyone is willing to help deliver the items, please call the parish office. The shelter has already helped more people this month than last year at this time. There are so many people who are homeless, please give generously.
- **St. Joseph Calendar Raffle:** The fundraising committee is asking each parish family to sell 8 or more calendars. Each ticket pays out in the month of January and February, with a total payout of \$5000.00! Each ticket has 42 chances to win! The winning ticket goes back in for the next drawing. Drawings are Mondays – Fridays with checks being mailed out at the end of each month. These will make WONDERFUL Christmas Gifts! Parish members can pick up their tickets the weekend of November 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th, 25th, 26th, or call the parish office to pick up. Someone will be in the Narthex of church all the weekends until December 31st, **no ticket sales the weekend of December 23-24**. Last year's sale was a huge success; let's try to make this one even better! All proceeds will Help Support the Ministry of Saint Joseph Parish.
- **Bake Sale with Chili to go:** December 9th and 10th there will be baked goods and chili for sale in the gathering space after both masses. The past two years we ran out of chili so we will make more for this year. The recipe is an old family recipe and freezes well. **\$12.00** per container. All proceeds will Help Support the Ministry of Saint Joseph Parish.
- **St. Joseph Good Samaritan Fund:** Supports families with children in our parish who do not have enough money to buy Christmas gifts. Money left over helps people (mostly seniors) with heating and electricity cost over the winter months. There will be a collection at the Thanksgiving Mass on November 22nd at 6:00pm for this fund, or you can place money in an envelope, mark Good Samaritan Fund and put it in the collection basket any of the weeks of Advent or send to the parish office. If you, or someone you know in the parish needs help please contact Father Paul, Deacon Bobby or Mary Van Schyndel by calling the parish office at (920) 869-2244.

- **Advent Pray25 with Hallow** ~ In 2023, prepare your heart for Christmas and rediscover the wonder of Christ's coming into this world and into our hearts by joining Advent Pray25 on the Hallow app. Hallow will guide you in daily prayer for four weeks of Advent with reflections based on different works of C.S. Lewis, including *The Four Loves*, *Mere Christianity*, *The Great Divorce*, and more.

Advent Pray 25 will focus on the three comings of Christ: personally, into each of our hearts, His Second Coming at the end of time, and as an infant in Bethlehem. The daily prayer challenge will help you slow down and find quiet this Advent. In this quiet, Advent Pray 25 will help you see how the desires of your heart point to far more and greater than what the world offers.



We cannot do all these Advent Projects without help from people like you. So, in this time of preparation for the transformation that Christ brings, we thank you for your participation, by supporting these projects. We will all be working to transform our world for the better. Your support will help families give their children an exciting Christmas, help with food, clothing and other basic needs. By participating in the projects, it not only helps others, it will also touch our hearts and help us prepare for the Christmas Season by bringing hope, reconciliation and love to our world. What a wonderful way to live the Works of Mercy!

Items to Collect for Saint Johns Homeless Shelter

Personal Items	Food Items	Cleaning Supplies	Shelter Supplies	Special request	Not Needed
Hand warmers	Regular & Decaf Coffee	Floor cleaner (pine sol, Fabuloso)	Plastic cups 8 to 10 oz.	Gift Cards \$5 to \$10	Children's items
Blankets, twin or full	Juice (bottled or frozen/concentrate)	Disinfecting spray (Microban, Lysol)	Paper coffee cups 8 oz.	Dollar Tree, Gas, Walmart	Perfume or Cologne
Warm, hooded winter jackets, men & women all sizes	Cereal	Quart zip lock bags	Paper plates	Bus passes day/week/month	
Men's tennis shoes sizes 8.5 to 10.5		Cleaning vinegar	Paper bowls		
Insulated ski gloves, men, woman all sizes		Garbage bags 55 gallon	Plastic spoons		
New women's underwear, all sizes		Laundry detergent			