

# St. Cletus Faith Formation Newsletter

Friday, December 23, 2022



“The Word is made flesh and dwells among us.” The Child is born; God Himself is welcomed into the family of man by a frightened Joseph, a pensive Mary, a few poor shepherds and, of course, as every child knows, by a host of singing angels. “Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth, good will to man.”

Dear Parents,

Our Advent Journey has come to an end in a few days we will once again celebrate the joy of Christmas. Mary’s “yes” changed the course of human history. Like hers, our “yes” is asked for. Christ will not be born again without our consent. The Christian assembly is given yet another opportunity in this last quiet catch-up week to join in stillness and wonder as the mystery of God’s coming. For all of us, the moment of salvation is at hand.

We are called to be still, to contemplate the Christmas story with a new heart...and to say “yes,” so that God’s word can be fulfilled in us. Sit silently; say the word “yes.” How did you feel? Does anything prevent you from giving all?

## Christmas Mass Schedule:

Following is the Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve:

2:00 p.m. – Church

2:30 p.m. – Parish Center

4:00 p.m. – Church

4:30 p.m. – Parish Center

7:00 p.m. (Spanish) – Church

10:30 p.m. – Church

Christmas Day:

7:15 a.m. - Church

10:30 a.m. - Church

8:15 a.m. – Church

12:30 p.m. (Spanish) – Church



**Christmas Break** – We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and break. We will be on break through January 20. Our classes will resume on Saturday, January 21 with our Confirmation Retreat.

During the break the R.E. Office will be closed on the following days: December 23 – 27, and December 30 – January 3.

### **Sacramental Preparation:**

**Confirmation:** Our Confirmation retreat will be on Saturday, January 21, beginning at 12:00 noon with lunch. More information will be e-mailed to families of our Confirmation students.

A reminder—if you have not yet submitted your Saint Report, Church Form, and Sponsor Form, you may turn them in at the retreat. Your letter to Father Elmer will also be due. Refer to your RED Book for information on how to complete your pastor’s letter.

**Special Sacraments Group** – This group is our children from grades 3 – 7 who have not yet received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. The next session, which will focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, has been moved to Saturday, February 4, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

An agenda for the day will be sent out after the holidays. We have scheduled this sacrament for Saturday, February 18, at 10:00 a.m. in the Church. Second graders who were absent from the First Reconciliation service in November will be invited to attend the service.

### One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop and was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that

### One Solitary Life.

The poem above is from a Christmas card I received many years ago from Father Ted Bojcik, the retired pastor I worked with when I first arrived at St. Joseph. It is a beautiful poem that I kept and framed. It is a reminder to me of Christ’s greatness. The message of Jesus was one of love. A message that continues to impact the world.



*For Our Kids!*

[Gospel Activity for Christmas Day.](#)

[Mary and Joseph a Bible Christmas Story for Children](#)

**Fun Activities for Christmas:**

[O Holy Night Song](#)

[Nativity Coloring Page](#)

As I end the newsletter for this week and Christmas, I leave you with this Christmas meditation in the form of the song *Mary Did You Know*, by Clay Aiken. I hope you enjoy it.

[Mary Did You Know](#)

May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path. Merry Christmas.

God Bless,

Lawrence Manetti  
Director of Faith Formation

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