

# St. Cletus Faith Formation Newsletter



Friday, December 2, 2022

Dear Parents,

This Sunday we celebrate the *Second Sunday of Advent*, and we light the second purple candle, which is the candle for *Peace*. The peace of God allows us to see others through Heaven's eyes, as we help show others that God is here on earth, and His kingdom is present everywhere. Peace from God allows us to trust in His promises through restful, tranquil faith, in spite of the problems we may encounter.

To view a reflection on the Second Sunday of Advent from the USCCB, click on the link below.

<https://bible.usccb.org/podcasts/video/2022-12-04-reflection-4>.

## PRAYER for the Second Sunday of Advent:



Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of Your only-begotten Son, that through His coming, we may be worthy to serve You with purified minds and hearts. We thank you for Your everlasting peace through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

## Breakfast With Santa:

Plan on joining fellow parish families for the fourth annual *Ho Ho Holiday Breakfast with Santa* on Sunday, December 4, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. The cost is \$5.00 at the door and includes a continental breakfast, crafts for children, a special appearance by Santa, and the ever popular – OLD FASHIONED CAKE WALK!

This will be a great family activity, following our Faith Formation classes. Plan on attending!



## Sacramental Schedule:

The months of January and February will be very busy with our Sacraments & Sacramental preparation. Following are some important dates, so mark your calendar!

**Thursday, January 19** – First Communion meeting for all families of our parish whose children will be receiving the Holy Eucharist in May 2023. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Morrissey Hall.

**Saturday, January 21** – Our Confirmation Retreat will begin at 12:00 noon in the Parish Center. We will conclude our Retreat by attending the 5:00 p.m. Mass.

**Saturday, February 4** – The Reconciliation Class meeting for children in grades 3–8 needing to receive the Sacrament for the first time. The meeting will be held in the school building from 9:30–11:15 a.m. in Room 201. Enter through Door # 3.

**Saturday, February 11** – The SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION is at 1:00 p.m. in Church. Bishop Robert Casey will be the celebrant.

**Saturday, February 18** – The Sacrament of First Reconciliation for the grades 3–8 Reconciliation Class at 10:00 a.m. in the Church.

## **RE Class Schedule**

Classes are in session this week (December 4 & 5) with our Teen Seekers meeting on Wednesday, December 7.

Our last class before Christmas Break will be next week, December 11 & 12, with our Teen Seekers meeting on December 14.

Following our next classes, we will be on an extended break for the holidays. We will continue to send out our weekly newsletters throughout the break on Fridays.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Catechists Wanted** – We are looking for a permanent Catechist to work with one of our third grade groups beginning in January.

We are looking for individuals to serve as substitute catechists. **If you are able to help us, please contact me at the Faith Formation Office.**

**Monday Evenings** – I am looking for students who are willing to help out on Monday evenings (starting at 5:30 p.m.) by monitoring the doors for our catechists and students.

## **Social Concerns Service Opportunities**

Following is an update from Kendall Grant on service opportunities from our Social Concerns Committee.

### **Giving Tree**

This is our biggest year yet! Our annual Advent Giving Tree Project--a St. Cletus tradition—is well on its way! There are several ways to get your tag if you are still looking.

**Church Narthex:** Trees will be available before and after Masses in the Church narthex. Trees will be labeled by category so you can easily find what type of tag you are looking for.

**Online Form:** We have a simple form you can complete to request tags, and then we will e-mail you information for tags based on what you requested—all contact-free.

Visit: [www.stcletusparish.com/givingtree](http://www.stcletusparish.com/givingtree).

**Email/Phone:** Or you can email [kgrant@stcletusparish.com](mailto:kgrant@stcletusparish.com) or leave a message at (708) 215-5418, and we can get back to you with tag information.

## For Our Kids!

### Sunday Readings and Resources for our children and families.

**Catholic Kid's Media** – For this Second Sunday of Advent we meet John the Baptist. A fun Catholic HOMILY for kids based on the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A. To view, click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMCKyfO2X8Y>.

### My Time With Jesus - Advent

<https://youtu.be/fFTTt1AxINs>.

**Saint Spotlight** – This week we celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas. Let's learn more about this saint, who is known as the patron saint of children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1Xn4dWEFdk>

## AN ADVENT TRADITION FOR FAMILIES

For many families, preparing the manger for Jesus is an essential part of Advent.

December is here. We are four days into Advent. We are a mere twenty-four days from Christmas.

The Christmas busy-ness has already begun—decorating the house, preparing for guests, putting up lights, buying gifts, writing cards, etc....

It's far too easy to get far too busy far too quickly at this time of year. You may be feeling stressed already.

So how about an Advent tradition that brings you and your family back to the true purpose of this season—not so much preparing a house for guests (though that's important, too), but preparing our *hearts* for Christ Himself, the most important Guest of all?

In order to keep the focus on Christ, many families have an annual tradition of “preparing the manger” for Him. This is not a one-time activity, but a simple daily routine throughout Advent that helps keep Christ at the center of everyone's day. It is an especially suitable tradition for children, but everyone can participate.

Here's how it works. You start with an empty manger, and for every good deed you do throughout the day, you add a piece of straw. If you are rich in good deeds during Advent, the manger will be full of soft straw when the Divine Guest arrives. The more good deeds you do, the softer the manger will be.

On Christmas Day, place a figure of the Baby Jesus in the manger, made soft and comfortable by all those good works.

You can use real straw, paper strips, yarn, or another material for the straw. For the manger you can use a basket or box, or build one yourself. You can get creative with this wonderful tradition and add your own elements—some families take straw *out* if one of them does something bad, which works as a teaching tool! (Taken From – GET FED Bite-Sized Faith).

Thank you for your continued support. Please look for our weekly newsletter each Friday.

God Bless,

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Director of Faith Formation

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