



Christ the King Catholic Church Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

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December 2018

Advent Wreath History

The Advent wreath probably has its origins in the customs of pre-Christian Germanic people, who used wreaths with lit candles during December in anticipation of the light of the coming spring. Eastern European Christians kept the tradition alive, and, by the 16th century, Advent wreaths were used to prepare for the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.



Blessing an Advent Wreath - A Family Activity

- You will need a Bible and four candles to celebrate this blessing.
- Before your family has gathered for the blessing, select one of the following Scripture passages to be read during the blessing: [Isaiah 11:1-4](#), [61:1-2](#); [Mark 1:1-8](#); [James 5:7-10](#); or [Philippians 4:4-7](#). Have someone volunteer to read the passage.
- Place the Advent wreath on a table and have your family gather around it. Lower the light level in the room to create an appropriate atmosphere for the blessing. Place the four candles (symbolizing the four weeks of advent) on the table and light a single candle for the first week of Advent. Have someone lead your family in the following prayer.

Leader: This week we begin the season of Advent, when the days grow short and darkness closes in. We are preparing to celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus, who is the light of the world. Let's spend some quiet time being aware of the darkness and longing for the light.

(Pause a few moments and then pray the Sign of the Cross.)

Leader: Lord God, bless this wreath and bless us as well. May this wreath remind us of the hope and joy that Jesus brings into the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Advent means "arrival." In the season of Advent, the church prepares to celebrate the coming of Jesus. We recall the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future with hope. We prepare to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but also his presence in our family. We wait for the return of the Lord at the end of time when all hopes will be fulfilled. We await the coming of the light that will shine in the darkness, shining light on our path to peace.

Reader: A reading from [name of book in Bible]. (Reader reads selected passage.)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

All: Amen.

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

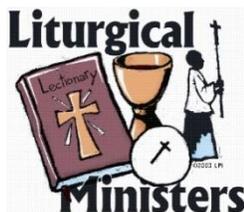
Go to <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent> for more Advent activities.

Sundays 8:30 to 10 a.m.

RCIA is a program for adults and older children who are thinking about becoming Catholic. All are welcome to join us any time.



Teen Eucharistic Ministers are needed for our Youth Masses!



If you have made your Confirmation and would like to become a Eucharistic Minister, please contact Mrs. Ficca as soon as possible.

Dec 9th, Jan 13th & Feb 10th



New - Middle School Youth Group now meets on Sunday evenings with our High School Youth Group!!!

- Meets every Sunday night from 6:15 to 8 p.m. in Ashland House
- ALL public and Catholic school students in middle & high school (Grades 6 to 12) are welcome.

Confirmation Classes for Youth & Adults

Dec 2nd & 16th
Jan 13th & 27th
Feb 10th & 24th

6:15 to 8 p.m. - Ashland House

December Events

- Sunday, Dec 2nd - Faith Formation for Grades 6 to 9 and Confirmation Class
- Friday, Dec 7th - Mass @ 7 p.m. (Immaculate Conception) followed by Adoration
- Sunday, Dec 9th - Youth Mass followed by Youth Group
- Thursday, Dec 13th - N.E.S.T. Planning Night @ 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec 16th - Youth Group & Confirmation Class
- Saturday, Dec 22nd - N.E.S.T. - 5 to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec 23rd - Christmas Decorating Party
- Monday, Dec 31st - New Year's Eve Party / Lock-In ???

Youth Group NEST Night

Saturday, December 22nd - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



All middle and high school students (and their families) are invited to help feed our guests on Saturday, 12/22. A planning meeting will be held on Thursday, 12/13 @ 7 p.m. in Ashland House.

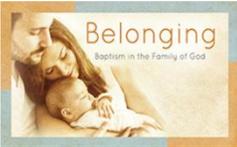


Registration is now open for the Diocesan March for Life Pilgrimage! Contact Mrs. Ficca for more information or go to: <https://evangelizerichmond.org>



Registration is now open for the Diocesan Youth Conference! The deadline for the Early Bird Discount is Dec 18th. Contact Mrs. Ficca for more information.

Volunteers Needed:



Baptismal Prep Instructors

I'm looking for a husband & wife team to teach the baptismal prep class 4 to 6 times per year.

Children's Liturgy of the **Word**

Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministers

Ministers are needed to share the Gospel reading with children 4 to 7 years old during the 11 a.m. Masses. Ministers are asked to commit to serving one weekend per month.

Family Faith Formation Schedule

PreK to Grade 5:
Sundays - 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Grades 6 to 9:
NEW: Sundays - 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.

Dec 2nd - Advent & Liturgical Year
Jan 6th - Christmas/Epiphany
Feb 3rd - Unit 3
March 3rd - Unit 4 & Lent
March 31st - Holy Week & Easter
April 28th - Unit 5
June 2nd - End-of-Year Celebration - 12 - 2 p.m.

Blessing the Family Christmas Tree

Before Christianity came to be, trees that remained green all year round warded off evil spirits and were special to people during the winter. It wasn't until the sixteenth century in Germany that trees were brought inside and decorated. You may bless the tree as soon as you put it up, or you can wait until after you have decorated it. Gather everyone around the tree and designate someone to lead the following prayer. You will need holy water.



Leader: Loving God, we stand before you once again. We stand here ready to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus.

Have everyone extend a hand in a gesture of blessing. Sprinkle holy water on the tree while praying the following:

Leader: Bless this tree, this sign of life and freshness and perseverance in our midst. It stands as a reminder that you are born anew in us each day. Bless our family and friends as we celebrate this joyous season. Keep us safe in our travels, kind in our conversations, and gracious in our giving and receiving. We ask you this in confidence, because we know you love us.

All: Amen. *Conclude with a favorite Christmas carol, such as "O Christmas Tree" or "Joy to the World."*

FORMED RECOMMENDATIONS



2

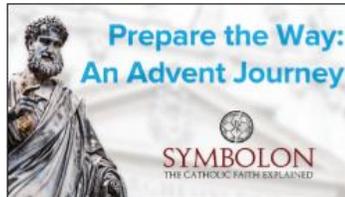
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Study: [Prepare the Way, Week 1*](#)
 YDisciple: [Advent, Session 1: Prepare the Way](#)
 Listen: [Prepare the Way of the King](#)

6

SAINT NICHOLAS

Watch: [Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa*](#)



STUDY



WATCH

8

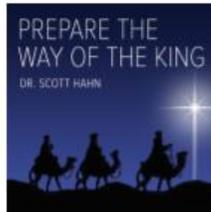
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Study: [Footprints of God, Mary: The Mother of God](#)
 Watch: [Mary of Nazareth](#)
 Read: [Mary: the Church at the Source](#)
 Listen: [Mary: Handmaid of the Lord](#)

9

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

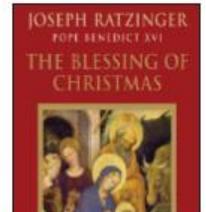
Study: [Prepare the Way, Week 2*](#)



LISTEN



YOUTH



READ

12

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Watch: [1531*](#)
 Listen: [Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego](#)
 Escuchar: [Guadalupe y el Misterio del Verbo Encarnado](#)

16

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Study: [Prepare the Way, Week 3*](#)



FOR CHILDREN



SPANISH

23

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Study: [Prepare the Way, Week 4*](#)

25

CHRISTMAS

Watch: [The Story of the Nativity](#)
 Watch: [Brother Francis: O Holy Night*](#)
 Watch: [Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree](#)
 Listen: [The True Meaning of Christmas](#)

27

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

Study: [Lectio: Eucharist, Session 7: Bread of Life Discourse](#)

30

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Study: [Beloved: The Mystery and Meaning of Marriage*](#)
 Study: [Symbolon: Living the Faith, Session 7: A Love That Lasts*](#)
 Watch: [Marriage: God's Design for Life and Love](#)

* Available in Spanish



- A large screen TVs (55+ inches)
- Help moving some very heavy furniture
- Someone willing to help with minor repairs in Ashland House including painting, wall papering and possibly refinishing hardwood floors