

Elementary Youth Ministry Newsletter



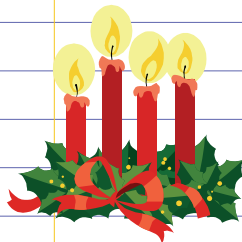
Want a Happy Advent? Focus That Energy!

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Dear Parents,

Advent is a time of preparation and the children have been preparing and learning about the meaning of Advent and our preparation for the coming of Christ. They have been deco-



rating a Jesse Tree (located in the Parish Center)

with scripture reading, people and stories in the Old Testament of the Bible. In this edition of our Youth Ministry newsletter there are ideas and activities to help you enjoy the season with your children. You are your children's best teachers and the more you know and try to live the faith, the better they will grow in faith. Also in this edition, we are con-

tinuing with our 10 good reasons to go to mass and our featured Saint of the month, St. Lucy.

From all of us here at the MBS Parish School of Religion, we wish you and your family a very Happy Advent! and a wonderful Merry Christmas!

Monique Borum

December Events

- 12/5 - St. Nicholas Celebration
- 12/8 - KPCLA St. Nicholas Celebration
- 12/12 - Advent Reconciliation Service 7PM
- 12/15 - Service for Christ Saturday 10AM, 1st Communion Class 12:30PM
- 12/19 - PSR Classes
- 12/24 - Christmas Program 6:00PM

8 Things To Do With Your Kids This Advent

Make A Christmas Puzzle.

There are many different ways to do this. The traditional way would be to purchase a puzzle and take some time during Advent for the family to put it together. Or, you can make your own on the computer or cut out Christmas cards into pieces, first gluing the card to similarly shaped stiff paper, allowing it to dry, and then cutting it into puzzle shapes for your children. This time spent together can bring lasting memories and offer quiet, soothing moments of connection.

Make a child's special Nativity set.

Many Catholic families display a Nativity set - sometimes more than one - yet it often is set up to reflect the décor of the home and may be fragile. To help children connect with the characters and setting of the nativity, help them make a diorama out of a shoe box and old Christmas cards.

Have a Christmas karaoke night.

Have each person in the family pick a favorite Christmas hymn and start singing. Encourage religious themed songs. Consider talking about the words and why this song is sung at

This time of year.

Walk Under the Stars

Go for an evening stroll on a clear night and talk about how Jesus is our star, serving as the Light of our lives. During your walk, have each person explain what he or she did during the last week to show God's light in them.

Wrap and Pray

As presents are being wrapped, pray for the person who will receive the gift.

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Reminders/ Upcoming Events



- * Please encourage your child to remember to complete their homework assignments.
- * Dec 26 - Jan 2nd : no classes
- * 1/6/08 : Epiphany
- * 1/19/08 : Service for Christ Saturday, 1st Communion Meeting 12:30PM
- * 1/27/08 - Youth Sunday

8 Things To Do With Your Kids This Advent (continue)

Shed some light. Make luminaries to show the light of Christ is approaching. Take tin cans (emptied and cleaned up) and punch tiny holes into them. You can even use a star pattern, designing the holes in a symbolic way. Put a little tea light into the can and set it on the porch or on the side of your driveway to light the way to your house. Caution children that the sides of the cans can become hot!

Make a prayer corner. Make a prayerful spot in your home for nightly prayers for the season. Make it a place that is only to be used for calm activity this season. This is a concrete action that helps kids relax during this busy and exciting time.

Explore, explore. Go to the library or check on the Internet for infor-

mation from other countries on things to do during Advent. Or explore international foods of the season and celebrate the universal Church as you talk and share what you learned. You may even find something you like so well that you integrate it into your family celebrations.

Ten Good Reasons To Go to Mass (continuation)

3. We need to be part of a community.

God created us as social beings. When we come together at Mass to pray and worship God, we fulfill a deep need inside of us to be in communion with other people. The people in the parish community give us support, affirmation, and encouragement in our attempt to live the gospel message. They help us to see that we are not alone. They all forth our gifts. They hold us accountable. They re-

mind us that we are all part of the Body of Christ.

“Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath to the Lord, your God” (Exodus 20:8-9)



Saint of the Month - St. Lucy (December 13)



Lucy's name means "light, clear, radiant, understandable." Unfortunately for us, Lucy's history does not match her name. Shrouded in the darkness of time, all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life in the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defense of the faith. Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends grew up. The one that is passed down to us tells the story of a young Christian woman who had

vowed her life to the service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan. Lucy apparently knew that her mother would not be convinced by a young girl's vow so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was a much more powerful partner for life. Through prayers at the tomb of Saint Agatha, her mother's long illness was cured miraculously. The grateful mother was now ready to listen to Lucy's desire to give her money to the poor and commit her life to God. Lucy's name is probably also connected to statues of Lucy

holding a dish with two eyes on it. This refers to another legend in which Lucy's eyes were put out by Diocletian as part of his torture. The legend concludes with God restoring Lucy's eyes. Lucy's name also played a large part in naming Lucy as a patron saint of the blind and those with eye-trouble. Whatever the fact to the legends surrounding Lucy, the truth is that her courage to stand up and be counted a Christian in spite of torture and death is the light that should lead us on our own journeys through life.