

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

CATHOLIC



PARISH

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 19, 2021



We Joyfully Proclaim, Celebrate, Witness, and Serve Jesus Christ

<u>OFFICE HOURS</u>	<u>SUNDAY MASSES</u>	<u>WEEKDAY MASSES</u>	<u>RECONCILIATION</u>	<u>PERPETUAL ADORATION</u>
Monday-Thursday: 8:30AM-4:00PM	Saturday: 4:30PM Sunday: 8:15AM, 10:00AM, 11:45AM, 5:00PM	Monday-Friday: 7:00AM & 12:00PM Saturday: 8:30AM	Tuesday: 11:00AM & 6:30PM Wednesday: 6:00AM Saturday: 3:00PM	Daily: 6:00AM-9:00PM Closed Mon. & Thurs. from 2:00PM-3:00PM for cleaning. Code needed 9:00PM-6:00AM

9510 W. 127TH ST. | OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213

(913) 681-3348 | WWW.KCASCENSION.ORG | ASCENSIONCHURCH@KCASCENSION.ORG

PASTOR'S CORNER:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas right around the corner, we are presented in the Gospel with the account of the Blessed Virgin Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea, outside of Jerusalem.



When she arrives, Elizabeth responds to Mary's greeting with Spirit-inspired words that we now repeat as part of our "Hail Mary" prayer, "blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Then Elizabeth says, "blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, i.e. the Divine Word of God who became flesh in Mary's womb and was born in a Bethlehem manger, we are encouraged to follow the example of Mary's faithfulness to God's will in her life. Oh, that others would be able to say of you or me, "blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." That you and I would live in such a way that others would recognize the strong faith and trust we have in God.

Mary, I suspect, had no idea of what lay ahead for her as the mother of God's "Son." Little did she know that heartache she would have to endure as she fled from Herod's murderous pursuit, as her son grew in relative obscurity, as Jesus was rejected by the religious leaders when he began his ministry and how he would be persecuted and murdered by the religious and secular powers of the day.

Yet, because of her trust in God's loving care, Mary said "yes" to whatever God had in store for her. As we prepare to celebrate what God has done for us in Jesus, the promised Messiah, may we be given the grace to imitate Mary's trust in God's Love and His help for whatever lie ahead.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, the
Way, the Truth and the Life,

VOICES FROM OUR PARISH:

MAKE ROOM

BY DR. WILLIAM O'LEARY

Servant of God, Dorothy Day once said: "It is no use to say that we are born two thousand years too late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the end of the world have been born too late.

Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts."



Every Advent one of my prayers is that I may have the grace to make more room for Jesus in my heart. Each year I look into my heart and reflect upon how I'm living my life and seek to evaluate if there are areas in my life that I'm not allowing room for Jesus. I want my heart to be that humble stable where He can come into and be with me but if I have too many other things that are taking up that room in the stable of my heart then I miss out.

A BRIEF EXAMINATION

- Consider where you need to make room in your life for Jesus?
- Do I have so many commits that I don't have much time to spend with my spouse, family or friends?
- Am I taking time to reach out to family and friends or am I so busy with good things that if it's not right in front of me I don't think about those that I actually care about.
- Do I have time in my life to pray and seek Jesus?
- How much time do I spend on social media? Could I spend more time praying or reading a spiritual book?
- What am I doing in my life to make room for that relationship, that friendship with God?
- Do I trust in what God has for me more than I trust in my abilities to work things out?
- What kind of habits do I have that cultivate a grateful heart?

This Advent and upcoming Christmas season, consider making room for Jesus who is asking you, "will you make some room for me in your heart?" Because when you do Jesus will bless you in many ways and in the way He knows that is best for you.

Dr. William O'Leary is the Pastoral Associate of Youth Faith Formation, here at Church of the Ascension.

Ascension This Week

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9:30AM - Sunday Scripture Study | St. Mark Rm.
- 1:00PM - Baptisms | Church Sanctuary
 - AA Meeting | St. John Rm.
- 3:00PM - Ascension Praise Band & Choir | Church Sanctuary
- 4:00PM - Al Anon Meeting | St. John Rm.
- 6:00PM - Confirmation Group Gathering | Youth Complex
- 6:30PM - Spirit & Life | Library

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 9:30AM - Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius | St. Martha Rm.
- 3:45PM - Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius | St. Martha Rm.
- 5:30PM - RCIA Class | St. Mark Rm.
- 7:00PM - Boy Scout Troop 218 Mtg. | Parish Hall A/Field A
- 8:30PM - Men's Basketball Age 21+ | Gym A

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 10:00AM - Rejoice Advent | St. Mark Rm.
- 1:00PM - Holy Conversations Book Club
- 6:30PM - Weekly Family Rosary | Church Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 8:00AM - Spiritual Exercises | St. Luke Rm.
- 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal | Church Sanctuary
- 7:00PM - AA Meeting | St. John Rm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

Parish Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

- 10:45AM - Spiritual Exercises | St. Luke Rm.
- 4:30PM - Legion of Mary | St. Luke Rm.
- 7:00PM - Rejoice Advent | Zoom
 - Disciples Dwelling | Rosary Garden
 - SASE Rehearsal | Parish Hall Annex

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Parish Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Christmas Eve, see Christmas Mass schedule (*right*)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day, see Christmas Mass schedule (*right*)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 9:30AM - Sunday Scripture Study | St. Mark Rm.
- 1:00PM - Baptisms | Church Sanctuary
 - AA Meeting | St. John Rm.
- 3:00PM - Ascension Praise Band & Choir | Church Sanctuary
- 4:00PM - Al Anon Meeting | St. John Rm.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES:

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE LOCATION & TIMES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

- Queen of the Holy Rosary (Wea) | 3:00PM
- St. Ann | 3:00PM
- John Paul II | 3:00PM
- Nativity | 7:00PM

CHRISTMAS (DEC. 24 & 25) MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

- 4:00PM | Church Sanctuary & Parish Hall
- 6:00PM | 8:00PM | 10:00PM | Church Sanctuary Only

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

- 10:00AM | Church Sanctuary

SUNDAY (DEC. 26) MASS TIMES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Mass will NOT be celebrated at 4:30PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 8:15AM | 10:00AM | 11:45AM | 5:00PM

SOLEMNITY OF MARY (JAN. 1) MASS TIMES

Not a Holy Day of Obligation; all Parishioners are invited and encouraged to participate in Mass with us!

NEW YEAR'S DAY, JANUARY 1

- 9:00AM | 11:00AM

SUNDAY (JAN. 2) MASS TIMES

Return to Regular Weekend Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS MASS INFORMATION

Historically, the 4:00PM Christmas Eve Mass has been very heavily attended and seating has been limited. We strongly encourage you to attend a later Mass in order to have ample seating for your family and to be able to enjoy the Liturgy to the fullest. To ensure everyone's enjoyment of the Christmas liturgies please:

- To ensure seating arrive at least 20 minutes early before Mass.
- Please do not save seats
- Ten minutes before Mass the ushers are instructed to seat people in any available pews. Please let the ushers know if you or others need special assistance because of physical disabilities.
- Please do not park in fire lanes as you may be ticketed.
- The nursery will not be available on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

UPCOMING ADULT FAITH COURSES

OREMUS: A GUIDE TO CATHOLIC PRAYER

Weekday: Tuesdays

Time: 10:00 - 11:30AM

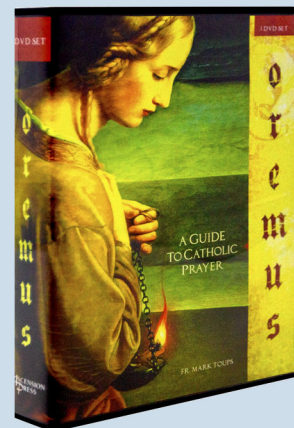
Dates: January 4, 2022 – February 22, 2022

Facilitator: Marguerite Enlow

Location: St. Mark/Matthew Room

Materials Cost: \$20 - includes a workbook and online video access for one year

Do you find it easy to pray? Do you hear God's voice in your daily life and know how to respond? With video presentations by Fr. Mark Toups, *Oremus* teaches you the essentials of a fruitful prayer life. Following Church Tradition and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn to talk to God and hear his voice in Scripture, in your heart, and in ordinary moments. You will become more aware of his close presence, will learn to overcome distractions and dryness, and will recognize desolation and consolation as normal prayer experiences.



YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THESE CLASSES, BUT BECAUSE THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED, YOU WILL NEED TO SECURE YOUR OWN MATERIALS AT ASCENSIONPRESS.COM

REVELATION: THE KINGDOM YET TO COME

Weekday: Wednesdays

Time: 10:00-11:30AM OR 5:30-7:00PM

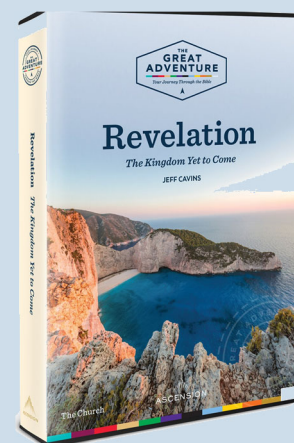
Dates: January 5, 2022 – March 23, 2022

Facilitator: Kim Sutton

Location: St. Mark/Matthew Room

Materials Cost: \$30 - includes a workbook and online video access for one year

Perhaps no book of the Bible fascinates people more than Revelation. This program shows how the kingdom established by Christ in his Church is intimately connected with the kingdom of heaven. In this study, presenter Jeff Cavins pulls back the veil on the rich symbolism present in Revelation. Explore the Church's teaching on the second coming of Christ and the Last Judgment. Understand how God, the Divine Bridegroom, and the Church, his spotless bride, enter into a heavenly, holy, and mystical marriage every time we celebrate Mass.



REGISTER NOW; CLASSES BEGIN IN JANUARY

JAMES: PEARLS FOR WISE LIVING

Weekday: Sundays

Time: 9:30-11:00AM

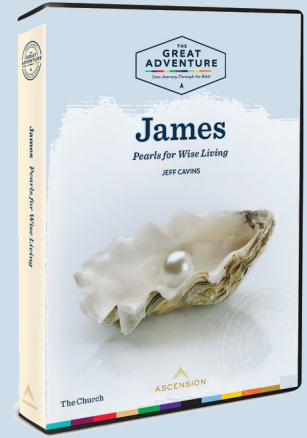
Dates: January 9, 2022 – March 20, 2022

Facilitator: Joyce Grashoff

Location: St. Mark/Matthew Room

Materials Cost: Free! Just bring your Catholic Bible or borrow one from us.

Want the secret to finding joy in the midst of trials? Interested in learning to recognize the source of discord and the way to peace? James, one of the most practical books of the Bible, is a collection of teachings on issues faced by ordinary Christians in everyday life. In this video series, *James: Pearls for Wise Living*, Jeff Cavins shows how the teachings of James speak to those of us who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our faith. Meant to help a fledgling Church live out its faith in the face of persecution and a worldview opposed to the gospel, the book of James will help you discover wisdom you can apply to the present.



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT KAREN NEWKIRK IN THE PARISH OFFICE.

913-681-3348 x142 | KNEWKIRK@KASCENSION.ORG

REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTER ONLINE at www.kcascension.org or return this form to the box in the Gathering Space.

Name: _____

If couple attending class, Spouse: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

		<u>Facilitator</u>	<u># for Class</u>	<u>Materials</u>
OREMUS	Tuesdays 10:00-11:30AM	Marguerite Enlow	_____	Because the deadline has passed, you will need to secure your own materials. You can purchase workbooks/video access at ASCENSIONPRESS.COM
REVELATION	Wednesdays 10:00-11:30AM	Kim Sutton	_____	
REVELATION	Wednesdays 5:30-7:00PM	Kim Sutton	_____	
JAMES	Sundays 9:30-11:00AM	Joyce Grashoff	_____	

Ascension This Week

LARGE GROUP GATHERING FOR ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES DECEMBER 19, 6:00PM YOUTH COMPLEX

Youth Faith Formation (Year 2 Confirmation) and Ascension Catholic School (8th Grade) -- come be a part of a special Christmas Episode of the nationally acclaimed "The Chosen." Join us from 6:00-8:00PM in the Youth Complex.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

YEAR 1 CONFIRMATION CLASSES:

Join us on Sunday, December 19 from 6:00-8:00PM for the Large group Gathering listed above. There will be no Year I Confirmation Class on December 26 or January 2.



YOUTH FAITH FORMATION:

There will be no Wednesday Youth Faith Formation Class on December 22 or 29.

CATECHIST AND AIDE NEEDED:

Our Weekly Youth Faith Formation has 1 large 5th Grade class of students and we need to split the class. Would you be willing to be a catechist or aide for a new 5th grade class? We meet from 6pm to 7:30pm each Wednesday. Prayerfully consider responding to this ministry of handing on the Gospel message to our young parishioners. For more information or to respond, contact the YFF office at 913-681-7683.

CATECHISTS NEEDED LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: CATHOLIC CHARITIES DECEMBER 24-25, DURING ALL MASSES

Thank you for being generous to the Christmas Catholic Charities collection to help even better things happen this coming year in our Archdiocese. Please use your Catholic Charities envelopes, and put in the regular offertory collection during the Christmas Masses. If you are on autodebit and do not receive envelopes, extra Catholic Charities envelopes will be available in the gathering area or you can write Catholic Charities in the memo line of your check.

PROJECT CHRYSALIS DECEMBER 28, 7:00PM ZOOM



Project Chrysalis is a ministry offering hope through Sacred Scripture and community to parents or grandparents who have lost a child or grandchild. While this ministry is not a bereavement group, our mission is to offer support and hope through scripture in a time of transformation. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday December 28th from 7:00-8:15PM via Zoom. For more information and the Zoom invitation link, contact Ken Billinger at 913-634-4210 or email kbillinger@archkck.org.

2021 CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINE JANUARY 5

Thank you for all of your continued contributions to Church of the Ascension. All 2021 contributions must be received in the offertory collection or parish office by January 5 and must include a 2021 date. Any checks with a 2021 date received after January 5 will be recorded as 2022 contributions.

THE CALIX SOCIETY JANUARY 7, 7:00PM CHURCH SANCTUARY



The Calix Society (www.calixsociety.org) is a national association of Catholics in 12-Step recovery. For us, the spirituality of the 12-Steps is greatly enhanced when practiced in the context of our Catholic Faith. If you have been active in your 12-Step group for six months or more, and would like to talk with other Catholics about how they've incorporated their Catholicism into their Steps, call Neil at 913-645-7244, or Mary at 913-747-5039.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT MINISTRY JANUARY 8, 9:00AM (AFTER MORNING MASS) ST. LUKE ROOM

The Bereavement Support Ministry at Church of the Ascension meets the second Saturday of every month in the St. Luke Room, unless otherwise noted on the parish calendar, after 8:30AM Mass for support and education. Our next meeting is on Saturday January 8.



Questions? Contact Patty in the office at 913-681-3348.

ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

BE WATCHFUL, STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH, BE COURAGEOUS, BE STRONG. | 1 COR. 16:13

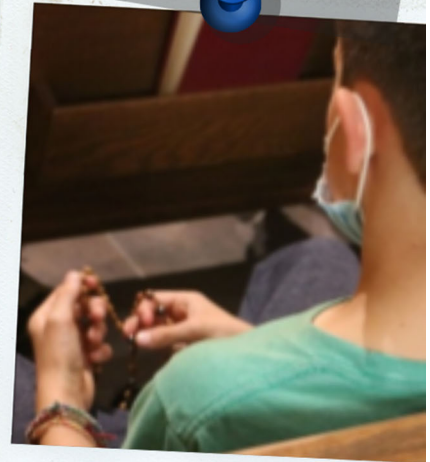
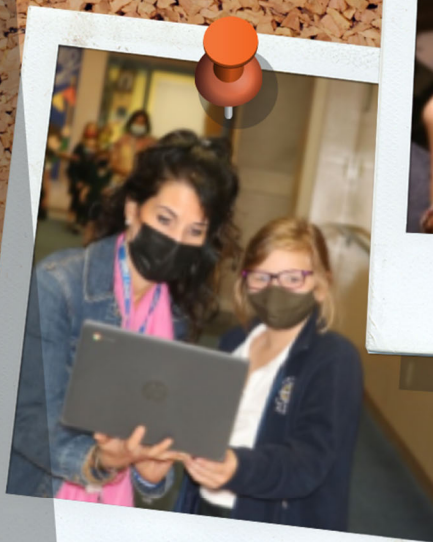


→ God designs all of us for unique purposes.

→ Ascension Catholic School designs learning to encourage students to discern their purpose.

→ Come see Ascension Catholic School.

* Enrollment for 2022-2023 begins in January!

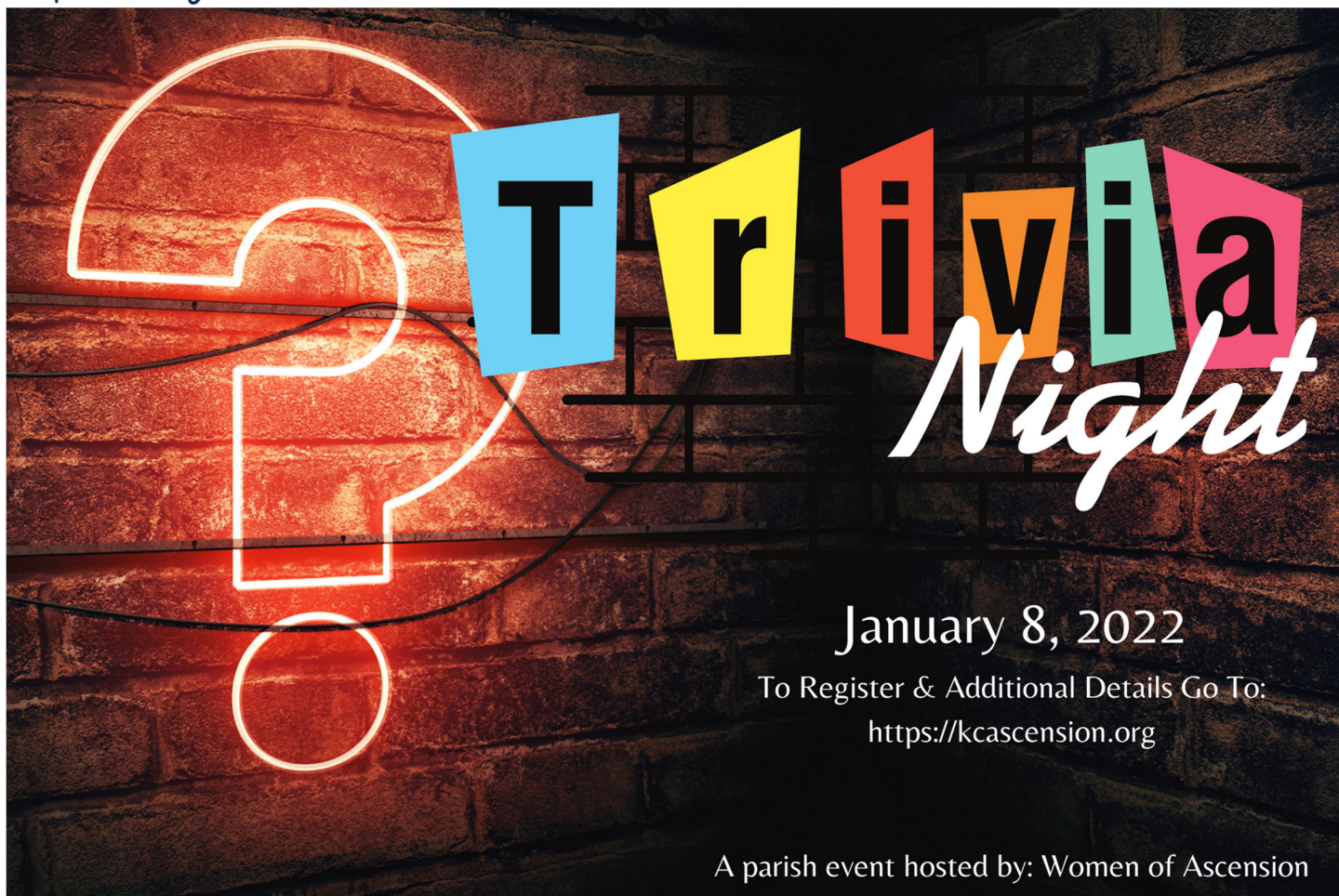


CATHOLIC | ACADEMIC | COMMUNITY

CALL 913-851-2531 TO ENROLL FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



Upcoming Events



Trivia Night

January 8, 2022

To Register & Additional Details Go To:
<https://kcascension.org>

A parish event hosted by: Women of Ascension

POP THE TRUNK FOOD COLLECTION **JANUARY 8, 10:00AM-2:00PM** **ASCENSION PARKING LOT**

The Ascension Knights are hosting a “drive up” food collection. The Catholic Charities truck will be in the Ascension parking lot. Just pull your car up and “pop” the trunk and our volunteers will take your food donations and load them into the truck! Not currently shopping? We gladly accept check and cash donations.

The items needed most continue to be macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pancake mix, spaghetti sauce, pasta, rice, canned meat, canned tomatoes, canned black beans, canned tomato soup, canned tuna, canned peas and canned fruit.

For questions, call Joe or Johnette Martin 913-481-8663.

YOUTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT **JANUARY 9, 6:00PM & JANUARY 16, 3:00PM** **YOUTH COMPLEX**

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT: We are officially going to rebrand and restructure each of our youth ministries starting this coming spring semester. Our high school ministry will now be called 'Rise' and our middle school ministry will now be called 'Fire'. This is bundled with transitioning our ministry days to Sunday!

RISE: will meet weekly on Sundays immediately after the 5:00PM Mass. Our Rise spring kickoff will be Sunday, January 9th after the 5:00PM Mass in the Youth Complex.

FIRE: will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 3:00-4:30pm. Our 'Fire' spring kickoff will be Sunday, January 16th from 3:00-4:30PM in the Youth Complex.

STEUBENVILLE STL MID-AMERICA:

A high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens are invited to encounter Jesus Christ through dynamic speakers, engaging music, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens. For more info about the conference, scan the QR code. :

STUBENVILLE

FLOAT TRIP + EUCHARISTIC ADORATION + RAFTING WARS

JULY 15-19



COME
encounter
JESUS
like
never
before



OPEN TO INCOMING 9TH THROUGH
OUTGOING 12TH GRADERS

GUADALUPE HOUSE

JANUARY 11, DROP OFF BEFORE 4:30PM
ST. JOHN HALLWAY

Our Lady of Guadalupe House is an organization run by the Sisters of the Fraternity Missionaries of the Poor of Jesus Christ. The Sisters reach out to the poor and homeless in Kansas City, Kansas, and Ascension provides them with supplies needed for their ministry. If you are interested in supporting the Sisters with their cause by donating supplies, please visit kcascension.org and click on Volunteer Signups/ Guadalupe House. Please drop off supplies to the Parish Hall by 4:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.



ST. MARY'S FOOD KITCHEN

JANUARY 14, DROP OFF BEFORE 8:30AM
ST. JOHN HALLWAY

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Kitchen has discontinued their hot lunch for sack lunches.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? We need 15 people to make 15 lunches every month.

SUGGESTED LUNCH ITEMS: Sandwiches, chips, dessert, fruit, etc. Details on the sign up genius. Please sign up on the web site under volunteer opportunities. Great for service hours!

QUESTIONS: Contact Jean Hinman at 913 908-9811.

CALLED TO LOVE AGAIN DIVORCE SUPPORT

JANUARY 29, 6:30PM
ST. LUKE ROOM

Do you have questions about the annulment process? What's next after divorce? Save the date for a meeting on Annulments with special guest Fr Gary. For more information: calledtolove143@gmail.com.



MEALS FOR PRIESTS

If you are interested in cooking and providing a meal, please visit our webpage at kcascension.org and click Volunteer Sign Ups, Meals for Priests. If you have questions, please contact Patty in the parish office at 913-681-3348.

Weekly Prayer

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

- 7:00AM +Mary Ann Markovich by Ann & Larry Klein
12:00PM +Sue Seever by The Pat Ward Family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

- 7:00AM +Thomas Owens by Family
12:00PM +Larry Lawrukiewicz by Barbara & Gene Huerter

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

- 7:00AM Brian Fisher by Waters Family
12:00PM +Mary Jo Reisen and +Bill Culpepper by Marguerite & Keith Enlow
+Vincent Avila by Jann & Carl Faltermeier
+Greg Bono by Dick Kane

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 7:00AM +Sue Seever by The Pat Ward Family
12:00PM +Mary Louise Doran; +Cathy Owens; and +Dennis Potter by Ascension Parishioners

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 4:00PM Christmas Memorials
Fr. Mohan
Fr. Gary
6:00PM Christmas Memorials
Fr. Gary
8:00PM Christmas Memorials
Fr. Viet
10:00PM Christmas Memorials
Fr. Gary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 10:00AM Christmas Memorials
Fr. Gary

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 8:15AM Living & Deceased of Ken Rethman Family
Fr. Viet
10:00AM +Catherine Owens by Phyllis & Michael McEntire
Fr. Gary
11:45AM +Teresa Montesana by Dianne Karis
Fr. Mohan
5:00PM Ascension Parishioners
Fr. Gary

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

PARISHIONERS:

Bob Barr, Robert Boulter, Hudson Coffman, Karen Elliott, Megan Freking, Scott Graham, Marsha Hatfield-Baker, Jody Hearron, Steve Hester, Baby Harrison Higginbotham, Jackson Hirt, Bob Howard, Pete Ingles, Corky Jacobs, Kathi Jacobs, Joan B. Johnson, Larry Judy, Carrie Kilgore, Jerry and Pat Klimas, John Krim, Mary Lausten, Dale Marti, Joe Martin, Karen Mathes, Kelly Mayer, Michael Mayerske, Sarah Millsap, Deloris Moore, Don Moore, Alice Mumford, Fred Nelson, Carmen and John Nodar, Cathy Oxley, James Palmer, Carmen Porterfield, James Pyle, John Rakos, Becky Reed, Amy Reinhardt, Katy Rempel, Leon Roberts, Phil Rominger, Mark Rulo, Logan Runnells, Susie Santa Maria, Barbara Schulte, Celeste Sharp, Carol Stump, Frank Sullivan, Paul Surles, Fr. Tom Tank, Bill Thomas, Denise Tomas, Sally Virgo, Marilyn Wheeler, George Winkler, Sandra Woodard, Emy Yabut, Fred Zielinski

RELATIVES & FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS:

Salma Akhter, David Angelo, Paul Armijo, David Backstrom, Tom Bales, Colleen Barbour, Benita, John Bergman, Pam Bond, Robert Bozk, Amanda Brower, Colton Joseph Brower, Adalynn Brunton, Dianne Burns, Ardith Cantral, Brian Cavanaugh, Erica Lea Darling, Molly Debocelle, Mike Diekemper, Ellen Dodson, Debbie Duddleston, Kay DuPree, Roberta Edgett, Randy Edwards, August Ehart, Harold Ehlert, Eric Fladung, Cole Fletcher, Michael Fong, Christie Fortino, Jim Fredrickson, Kat Fredrickson, Kelly Fry, Tom Fry, Larry Furguson, Kenny Galyean, Sage Gilliard, Larry Giovannoni, Jim Gloriod, Betty Godar, Mark Godar, Maureen Godar, Jim Gottardi, Greg Gundlach, Tim Hanlon, Walter Hellebusch, Ruth Ann Hickman, Griffin Hinman, Sherina Huber, Wendi Johnston, Chad Jones, Sean Kavanaugh, Mary Kinsley, Stephanie Klein, Donna Kuenzel, Jerome Kuenzel, Jackie Kuwysz, August Larson, Jacob Legleiter, Ron Legleiter, Hardy Lewis, Ellen Locke, Ellen Loschke, Chris Lundgreen, Jack Maher, Judy Malnar, Michael Marti, Karen Martley, Michael Maskill, Charles Mayer, Carol McClemons, Martin McGuire, Melanie McKenzie, Suzie McKinley, Maurya McLellan, Christie Meier, Sr. Marie Micheletto, Jenn Miller, Rodney Moyer, Deana Muth, Jackie Nelson, Lou Newman, Kevin Nestor, Dennis Onnen, Yvonne Ontiveros, Machel Perry, Bobbi Peterson, Ray Peterson, Alex Pujado, Stephanie Pyle, Sue Radke, Mary Radliff, John Rempel, Ann Ries, Nancy Rohla, Debbie Rottinghaus, Tom Rowe, Patricia Russell, Barbara S., Janis Schneider, Brenda Scott, Rita Sheftall, Olivia Sims, Lou Sinos, Julie Slesynski, Nicholas Staber, Jim Steffen, Max Strube, Daryle Tateyama, MitchThomas, Pat Trumm, Ernesto Valencia, Patricia VanCoillie, Cindy VanLeeuwen, Celesta Vaska, Donna Vitt, Mary Winn, John Wise, Tera Wolfe

Due to privacy laws, only names requested by a family member will be added to the sick list. We will retain the names on the prayer list for 6 months. The names of those removed from this publication will be sent to the Ascension Prayer Line for ongoing prayers. If you have any updates, email Patty: pbillinger@kccascension.org.

Weekly Prayer

PLEASE PRAY

FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS:

Captain David Baska, USAF; First Lieutenant Lt. Tyler H. Cordry, US Army; Captain Stephen Cuff, US Army; Lance Corporal Matthew Fischbach, USMC; Lt. Colonel Jason Caranta; Corporal Margaret Gould, USMC; PVT Jacob Hearron, US Army; Senior Airman Courtney Hinemeyer, USAF; Larry Homan, Army; Lance Corporal Brooke L. Jalbert; Captain Jacob Morin, USAF; Captain Dan Prior, US Army; 2nd Lt Tom Stivers, US Army; Sergeant Luke Talken, USMC; Captain Mitchell R Willis, Pilot, USAF.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

We are in need of several adorers - if you'd like to join as an adoration sub or weekly partner, please sign up at this link: https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/28/enrollment/Ascension_Parish.

A personal entry code will be assigned for you to enter between 9:00PM and 6:00AM if you desire to do so; otherwise, stop in to say hello to Jesus any time during the day.

There are a lot of open Hours Christmas Day, so be sure to check to see if you can spend time with Jesus on His birthday!

HOURS THAT COULD USE IMMEDIATE HELP:

- Mondays** - 1AM* beginning January
- Tuesdays** - 12AM*, 2AM*
- Thursdays** - 1AM*, 11PM*
- Saturdays** - 5AM*, Noon*

HOURS THAT COULD USE PARTNERS:

- Tuesday** - 8AM, 10AM, 11PM
- Wednesday** - 7AM
- Friday** - 11AM
- Saturday** - 10AM, 4-7PM

*Asterisks denotes most needed.

Eucharistic adoration is the greatest of actions. To adore is to share the life of Mary on earth when she adored the Word Incarnate in her virginal womb, when she adored Him in the Crib, on Calvary, in the divine Eucharist. (Peter Julian Eymard)

Questions? Contact Debbie Engel: deborasuzanne@gmail.com



BANNS OF MATRIMONY

Ryan Schwab & Madeline Fitzgerald

BAPTISMS

Theodore John Rinne
Theodore Benjamin Brandt

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Nancy Kreutzer, Mother of Kate Zluticky
Cesaria Valdez, Mother of Aurora Passonno
Robert Boulter, Husband of Linda Boulter

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

AUDACITY

There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted in trust in God. The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING | From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

PSALM | Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

SECOND READING | We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

GOSPEL | Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

Family Faith

Reflecting on Today's Mass

DECEMBER 19 | 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Obedience to God's Will

The Readings

Micah 5:1-4a Restoration through the messiah

Hebrews 10:5-10 The second covenant

Luke 1:39-45 The visit to Elizabeth



Key Passage



Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." (Luke 1:45)

Adult Question

When was it hardest for you to trust in God's plan for you, as Mary did? What can help you at such times?



Child Question

When is it hardest for you to obey a parent or teacher? What can help you obey with more trust?

Reflect



Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" -Luke 1:43

When Mary found out she was pregnant with Jesus, she was probably excited, nervous, scared, worried, and happy all at the same time. She needed to tell someone how she felt so she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was probably feeling all the same things since she was pregnant with John the Baptist! God knows that we need other people in our life to talk to and share what we are thinking and feeling. When we share with others what is really going on for us and we listen when others share with us, then we are like Mary, visiting others to share Christ. Sharing ourselves is sharing Christ which can be a wonderful gift for someone else - at this time of year and all year round.

Dear Lord, send me your Holy Spirit to make me like Mary, who will help me to bring Jesus to all those I meet.



Discuss



Who are those I can share with, listen to, or visit to bring Christ to this Christmas? What are some ways I can show Jesus I love him?

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

AT CHRISTMAS

We, as the People of Life, celebrate Christmas as the fulfillment of the promised Savior. The celebration of our Savior's birth brings hope, joy, peace and light to us and a world in great need. The beauty and splendor of the Christmas season provides an excellent time to reach out in love to our sisters, brothers and all impacted by procured abortion and to share with them God's love and mercy, reflected in the birth of His Son, which heals all wounds.

If you or a loved one is carrying the grief and sorrow of a past abortion, please come back to God who is love and mercy. Hope and healing can be found at Project Rachel, a confidential, nationwide Catholic ministry based in forgiveness for all those suffering after an abortion, Catholic and non-Catholic. If this would aid you or someone you know, please take action "now."

For more information, call Project Rachel at 913-621-2199 or e-mail projectrachelkc@archkck.org or go online to www.hopeafterabortion.com. If you are not from this area, that website identifies Project Rachel locations nationally.

Our warmest wishes to all for a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

PRAYER PARTNER INTENTION HOTLINE

If you are in need of prayer, you are invited to call our anonymous Prayer Partner Intention Hotline. Voicemail Number: 1-888-684-6555

COMMON HOME MINISTRY

PREPARE THE WAY!

"Prepare the Way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Reflect on what you and your family might already be doing to live sustainably. Then, consider what you can do better to help care for the Lord's gift of creation.

To paraphrase Anne Marie Bonneau: It doesn't take a handful of people living a perfectly sustainable life; it takes millions of us doing it imperfectly. Pick one thing and get started! (And remember, you don't have to be perfect.)

For idea starters, go to catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/10-ways-you-can-make-difference.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL.



JOIN THE KNIGHTS: The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Men's fraternal organization open to all Catholic men ages 18 and over. Interested in joining the Knights? Contact Brian Kellerman at bgkellerman@yahoo.com or 913-515-6454.

KNIGHTS CHOIR: Contact Dan Tira at tirad@umkc.edu or 913-451-2341 if you are interested in joining.

PRO-LIFE: Please join fellow Knights praying in front of Planned Parenthood, 4401 W. 109th St., Overland Park, every Saturday from 9:30-10:00AM. For more information, contact Rick Lane at crlane@kc.surewest.net or 913-710-7810 OR Jim Baldwin at jim_baldwin@att.net or 913-609-0118.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Knights' Mass every Friday morning, 7:00AM
- Officers' Meeting: Monday, January 3 at 7:00PM (Location TBD).
- Council Meeting: Monday, Jan. 24 at 7:00PM (Parish Hall B), preceded by the Rosary at 6:30PM.

For the above events and more, additional details & sign-ups can be found at www.ascensionkofc.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4TH DEGREE:

Those Brother Knights of the 3rd Degree looking to advance to the 4th Degree and become a Sir Knight please inquire to: info@knightsassembly.3547.com.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEEDS:

Whether you are interested in working directly with teens, happen to be an expert in choosing the best snacks, enjoy doing data entry, love to pray for people, or happen to be skilled in cutting paper the youth ministry department needs you! The Lord has blessed us with an abundance of gifts and abilities. If you are interested in investing in our youth either through ministry of presence or by behind the scenes work (things that don't involve teens) we have a place for you to get involved!

Scan this QR code with the camera on your phone to let us know how you want to join us in furthering the mission of the Church!



WOMEN OF ASCENSION

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8 | Trivia Night | 6:30PM | Parish Hall

Trivia Night is returning and a great opportunity to share in some friendly competition and brain exercises in the month of January. This is a parish wide event. To register and for additional details: kcascension.org/trivia-night/.



Visit kcascension.org/women-of-ascension/ for more information and to register for events.

Questions? Contact Marcia Jacobson in the Parish office at 913-681-3348.

SENIORS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR SHUT-IN

If you are a senior and are homebound or shut-in and are in need of assistance to get groceries or prescriptions, we have volunteers who are willing to help. Please notify Patty in the office at pbillinger@kcascension.org. Stay in and stay healthy.

COVERED IN PRAYER

Do you have a family member or friend who needs prayer and support? We have a group of ladies who lovingly make beautiful lap blankets which are blessed by our priests. Ministry of Care sends these blankets to people who are in need of encouragement and comfort during illness or a tragedy to remind them that they are 'covered in prayer' for healing and strength. If you have someone in your life who could use a reminder that they are loved, please contact Patty in the office at pbillinger@kcascension.org.

SOCIAL & MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE GUIDE

These days of Covid 19 have been impactful on the lives of so many. Are you finding it extremely stressful and difficult coping. Both Social and Mental Health resources are available to you through the Church and local community. To access a list of resources, please visit kcascension.org and click on the 'NEED HELP' icon. Please know that priests and parish staff are available if we can be of assistance.



A FAM Update

ASCENSION FOSTER & ADOPT MINISTRY



Since July, Ascension's NEW Foster & Adopt Ministry has been blessed with enough dedicated volunteers to support TWO families who are currently fostering!

These volunteers form CARE COMMUNITIES; we provide prayers, weekly meals, childcare, and overnight respite care.

...And we need your help!

Several families, who have answered the call to foster or adopt, may receive placements early in 2022 and we need additional Care Communities willing to help support these families.

If you have an interest in learning more about what a Care Community does and how we serve the most vulnerable among us, children in care, please contact us at the number or email below.

A combined Awareness/orientation event will be held at Ascension early in 2022.



God's Work
Our Hands

If you feel called to be The Hands of Christ for Fostering and Adoptive families, contact Peter and Nora Sykes at 913.406.7608 or petersykes2019@gmail.com.

There are many opportunities to serve our community in a meaningful way through this ministry! Your support WILL make a difference!

BEHOLD, CHILDREN ARE A GIFT OF THE LORD. -PS 127:3
...JESUS CALLED THE CHILDREN TO HIM. -LK 18:16

CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY

We provide support for the success of individuals seeking employment in their occupation of choice. Our ministry helps with coping with job loss, professional counsel, branding and networking opportunities.

Shannon Gomez, 913-708-0157, Beth Hartung 913-563-7938, Matt Hartung 913-424-0523, Mike Tracy 913-575-7397. Please visit us on LinkedIn (Church of the Ascension - Career Ministry Resource | LinkedIn)

Are you looking to hire? Please forward your job postings to pioprayhope@gmail.com and we will post them to our LinkedIn page for you.



REPORTING ABUSE

The Archdiocese remains committed to investigating any allegation of abuse of a minor made against any member of the clergy or any Church employee or volunteer — no matter the age of the incident or the current age of the victim. If you suspect abuse, immediately report to civil authorities:

1. Call the Kansas Protection Report Center at (800)922-5330 or report online at Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adult and Child - Prevention and Protection Services (ks.gov)
2. Contact law enforcement if anyone is in immediate danger or injured

If the suspected abuse involves a cleric, employee, or volunteer of the Archdiocese, call the Archdiocesan Report Line at (913) 647-3051 or visit archkck.org/reportabuse. We care about survivors of abuse. Victim Care Advocate: (913) 298-9244

Celebrate like a Catholic!

Our Church celebrates the Christmas season from Christmas Eve through the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (celebrated the second Sunday of the new year).

Here is a calendar of thoughts, devotions, and ideas to keep the party going!

YOUR FAMILY HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE FOUR WEEK SEASON OF ADVENT. WHY LET CHRISTMAS END AFTER JUST ONE DAY?

Your particular Christmas season celebration should be as unique as your family! This calendar is only a starting point; feel free to customize, delete, and insert your own ideas. If you are a parent, be careful not to fill your calendar with activities that over require your energy. Christmas should be enjoyable and restful for everyone, parents included!

Merry Christmas

A CHRISTMAS SEASON CALENDAR OF CELEBRATIONS

* Décor up:

Keep your Christmas decorations and lights up (and on!) until January 10th.

* Sacred and Secular:

Keep Christ in Christmas by connecting family activities to faith. Also remember that you do not have to "over spiritualize" family fun. Spending quality/positive time with loved ones honors Christ!

* Party on:

Plan Christmas parties during the Christmas season rather than prior to Christmas day.

* Slow your Statues:

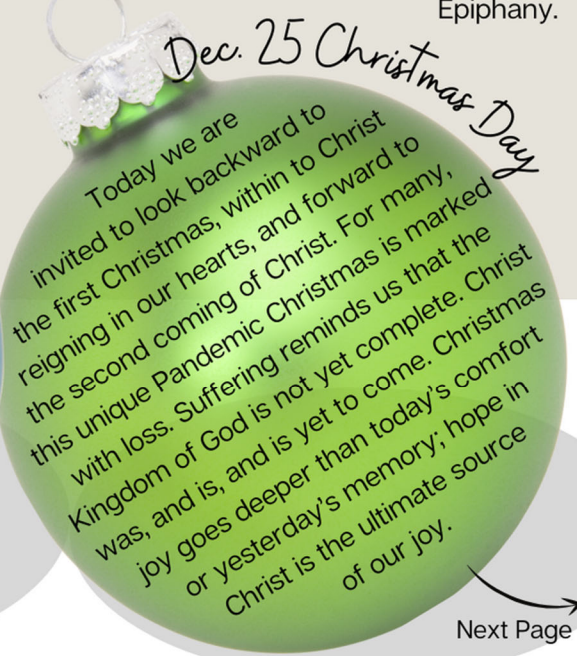
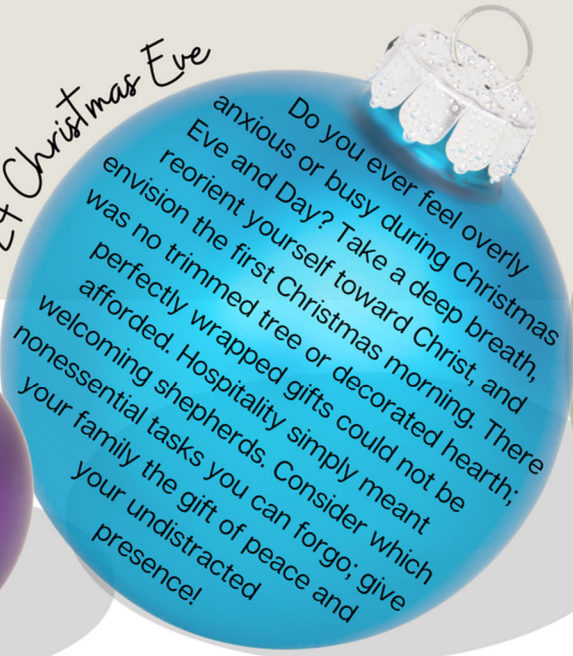
Rather than putting up your entire Nativity set during advent, add only one statue a day leading up to Christ placed in the manger on Christmas morning. Let the Wise Men "journey" toward Jesus by moving them a little closer to Jesus each day, until they arrive on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Do you ever feel overly anxious or busy during Christmas Eve and Day? Take a deep breath, reorient yourself toward Christ, and envision the first Christmas morning. There was no trimmed tree or decorated hearth; perfectly wrapped gifts could not be afforded. Hospitality simply meant welcoming shepherds. Consider which nonessential tasks you can forgo; give your family the gift of peace and your undistracted presence!

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Today we are invited to look backward to the first Christmas, within to Christ reigning in our hearts, and forward to the second coming of Christ. For many, this unique Pandemic Christmas is marked with loss. Suffering reminds us that the Kingdom of God is not yet complete. Christ was, and is, and is yet to come. Christmas joy goes deeper than today's comfort or yesterday's memory; hope in Christ is the ultimate source of our joy.



Next Page

Feast of the Holy Family

In our desire to honor the Holy family, we often gloss over their humanity. We forget that Mary and Joseph married amid "unplanned" pregnancy rumors; they were poor, gave birth in a stable, and lived as refugees; and they once lost their Son for three days. The Holy Family brimmed with love, but their life was not easy or polished! Celebrate your own family (imperfections and all!) with a fun family outing, movie night, or activity.

December 26 Double-Dip!

Feast of St. Stephen

Have you ever wondered why we honor St. Stephen (the first or "proto"-martyr) on the day after Christmas? Why does the Church link martyrdom to Christ's birth? The answer is wrapped in the gifts under your tree! The tradition of gift-giving points us toward the one perfect gift: Christ. St. Stephen reminds us of the gift we offer God in return: the imperfect (though beloved by God!) gift of our total self, offered in joyful trust.

December 27 Feast of St. John

The theme of Jesus as the Word of God is emphasized during Christmas (Jn. 1:1). Have you ever wondered why? Read Gen. 1 and Jn. 1:1-18, and then consider the two main parts of the Eucharist. Discuss this theme with your family, and introduce a Christmas Haiku contest. (A Haiku is a simple poem that follows a 5/7/5 syllable pattern). Why are our words important? How do our words relate to The Word?

Dec. 28 Feast of the Holy Innocents

Today we remember the little children massacred by Herod (Mt. 2: 1-18). We remember that we were once little too. God often reveals Himself in small ways (and through "small," humble people!). We consider the mystery of Christmas, of God incarnate as a baby. "He could have approached us through beauty and power & strength, but He has chosen to come to us through littleness and humility" (Caryll Houselander).

December 30

Speaking of Christmas sales (see Dec. 29th), consider buying extra strands of Christmas lights. Children may enjoy choosing and hanging Christmas lights in their bedrooms, a playroom, or a secret fort. Connect the new Christmas lights to the theme of Christ as the light of the world. What happens when one light is turned on in a dark room? Does darkness ever overpower light? How does light "feel" compared to darkness? Reread the Gospel from Christmas Day (Jn. 1:1-18).

As you adjust your internal calendar to embrace the full Christmas season, you will discover "after Christmas" sales happening during Christmas! If you are a parent or grandparent, this is an excellent time to pick up gingerbread house kits or other Christmas crafts/sweets on sale. There are many creative ways to connect secular Christmas traditions to Jesus, but also remember that positive family fun is also a great way to honor Christ and share His love.

December 31

Perhaps you are more than ready for 2021 to end – what a year! Likely you can easily list losses and complaints, but challenge yourself to closeout 2021 with gratitude. Together with your family, create a "Top 21 for 2021" list and post it in your home. What are the top 21 ways that you have been blessed during this year? Try to include a few "silver lining" blessings (graces received due to a loss). Thank God in prayer. Read Jas. 1:17.

December 29

Solemnity of Mary

Today's New Year greetings are actually one month late! The Church's New Year began with Advent; it began with Mary, with Jesus gestating within her womb. Today's New Year also begins with Mary, celebrated as the Mother of God. No matter the calendar, Mary is honored on the first day because Jesus was first made incarnate through her. Mary always leads us to Jesus; has she lead you to receive Jesus at Mass today?

Next Page

Jan. 2 The Epiphany of our Lord (Observed)

Following a rare astrological anomaly, Wise Men journeyed, seeking a foretold King. The star did not shine upon earthly grandeur, but merely upon a baby, born to peasant parents who were not in possession of power or prestige. How did the Wise Men recognize the One whom they sought? How do we? Gold for a King; Frankincense for a God; Myrrh for a Man. What can we offer our newly born Lord? Only our friendship, trust, and love.

Jan. 4 Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Have you experienced dissonance with your friends or the family during the past year due to accidents of life separate us from our dearest friends, but let us not despair ... the more we are united to [God] by love, the nearer we are to [others!].” Extend Christmas grace to those from whom you have grown distant; let Christ be the bridge.

January 3

“A tree is know by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love” (St. Basil). Consider making a “family sized” New Year’s resolution. Collaborate with your family members to set a shared resolution that promotes familial growth in authentic friendship, kindness, and love. Choose a resolution that is doable/attainable and (at least somewhat) fun!

January 5

“Everyone who breathes, high and low, educated and ignorant, young and old, man and woman, has a mission, has a work. We are not sent into this world for nothing. ... God sees every one of us; He creates every soul for a purpose. He needs ... every one of us. He has an end for each of us; we are all equal in His sight. ... As Christ has His work, we too have ours; as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice.”
-St. John Neumann

January 7

If your family’s Christmas season spirit has been waning, then look for fun ways to reiterate that Christmas is NOT over. Institute an ugly Christmas sweater day. Play Christmas music in your home. Turn on all of your outdoor Christmas lights (you still have those up, right?!) Invest in an extra activity that the whole family will enjoy (outdoor ice skating, a movie night, a dinner out, or an evening around a backyard fire pit).

January 8

If you typically rush through holiday baking, making all of your favorite treats before Christmas day, then you may want to rethink your baking schedule! Why rush through recipes for a single day when the full Christmas season allows time to enjoy the process? Today, bake holiday treats with your family. Notice the warmth of the stove and the sweet smell in the air. Enjoy the process and the result! Draw ties to the warmth of Christ’s love and the sweetness of His presence!

January 6

Giftwrap your favorite puzzle and set it out for your family to discover. Yes, you can giftwrap items that you already own! Work on the puzzle in spurts, over time, with each family member. Use the puzzle time as conversation time, catching up with each family member about what is important to them. Consider the interdependent nature of families and of our Church. Each member contributes their unique “self” to the whole, like puzzle pieces.

January 9

Celebrate Jesus’ Baptism by recognizing your own! Find the Baptismal dates of your family members and note them on your personal calendar. If you cannot find original certificates, contact the church where the Baptism occurred and inquire. Determine a simple way to celebrate a simpler anniversary going forward. Or for Water from church and bless some Holy family members with it. Reflect: what happens during Baptism?

Congratulations! You partied like a Catholic and Celebrated the Entire Christmas Season!

The Baptism of our Lord

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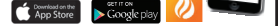
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WHY IS IT?

Retiring soon? Let's talk.



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