

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

## December 18, 2016

### TODAY

- Nursery (Room #102) during the 10:30 Mass
- Middle School Edge (DH) 5:30pm
- High School Sunday Night Live 7pm

### MONDAY | Dec. 19

- Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25 / Lk 1:5-25*
- Men's Bible Study (Room #101) 7am
- K of C Officers' Meeting (PC LL #1) 7pm

### TUESDAY | Dec. 20

- Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38*
- **Mass in Chapel** (+Ed Cole) 8:30am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel) 9am-7pm
- Mom's Support Group (DH) 7pm

### WEDNESDAY | Dec. 21

- Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45*
- **Mass in Chapel** (+Anthony Stowie) 6:30pm
- Cantor Practice 6:30pm
- Choir Practice 7pm

### THURSDAY | Dec. 22

- 1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56*
- **Mass in Chapel** (+Anna Lewis) 8:30am

### FRIDAY | Dec. 23

- Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66*
- **Mass in Chapel** (+Anna Lewis) 8:30am

### SATURDAY | Dec. 24

- 2 Sm: 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 / Lk 1:67-79*
- No Reconciliation/Confessions

## Christmas Masses

### The Nativity of the Lord

Saturday, Dec. 24 ~ Christmas Eve

**Vigil Mass at 5:30pm**

*Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25*

**Mass During the Night at 10:30pm**

(Festival of Carols begins at 10pm)

*Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14*

Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

**Mass at 9:30am**



## Bells, Books & Coats

*As you look ahead to celebrating Christmas with us, please add these to your list:*

🔔 **BELLS**—Children are invited to bring little bells to the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.

📖 **BOOKS**—Check out our great selection of Christmas books in our Media Center.

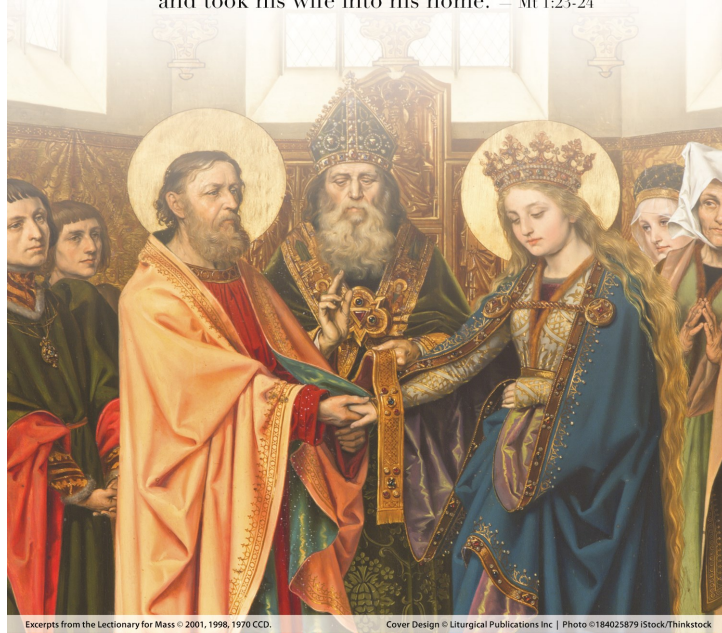
🧥 **COATS**—Make room at the inn by hanging your coats or leaving them in your car for the Christmas Eve Masses.



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## PREPARE and SURRENDER

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke,  
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him  
and took his wife into his home. — Mt 1:23-24*



## Practicing Faith

**Paying attention to dreams.** When we get to be of a certain age, we do not always sleep through the night. We are awakened by dreams, by concerns not yet resolved, by other needs. Joseph has a problem. He wants to be righteous. He does not want to shame another. He sleeps on it. He dreams. And God speaks.

- What might God be telling me in the quiet of the night?
- How will my prayer, my concern be answered?
- What will I choose to do?
- Can I choose to be like Joseph, and choose the holy way?

**Prepare for Christmas:** Read and reflect on The Nativity of the Lord (beginning on pg. 55) in the "Living Liturgy" missal.

**ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH**

3937 Wilson Ave. SW | Grandville, MI 49418  
 616-532-9344 | Fax: 616-538-6340  
[www.spxcatholic.org](http://www.spxcatholic.org)

**Parish & Formation Office Hours:**

9-Noon; 1-5pm Mon-Thurs 9-Noon on Fridays  
 (Formation Summer Hours: 9:30-4:30pm Monday-Thursday)

**Parish Book of Prayer** — This book near the main church entrance is for your prayers of intercession or gratitude. They are part of the intentions at Mass.

**Parish Membership** — Count yourself in! If you worship with us regularly, kindly register as a parishioner. You'll receive parish mailings, and it will help us provide pastoral care should you need it. Contact 532-9344; or [parishoffice@spxcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@spxcatholic.org).

**Infant Baptisms** are celebrated at various times throughout the year. If you believe raising your child in our Catholic faith is one of your most important duties as a parent, call the parish office.

**Sacrament of Marriage** — The lifelong covenant between a man and a woman is a sign of God's covenant with us. At least six months of prayer and preparation are needed before entering this commitment. Please contact Fr. Chris as soon as you are engaged. Couples celebrating an anniversary ending in a "0" or "5" may request a special blessing.

OTHER MARRIAGE RESOURCES: [www.foryourmarriage.org/](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/)

**Pastoral Care of the Sick** — If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound, or anticipating surgery, please contact Rosemary Beahan or Fr. Chris in the parish office. The hospitals do not contact us.

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Rev. Chris Rouech** | Pastor  
 532-9344, ext. 107 | [frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)

**Marilyn Beckwith** | Business Manager  
 532-9344, ext. 102 | [businessmanager@spxcatholic.org](mailto:businessmanager@spxcatholic.org)

**Andy Rebollar** | Pastoral Associate for Parish Life  
 532-9344, ext. 103 | [arebollar@spxcatholic.org](mailto:arebollar@spxcatholic.org)

**Rosemary Beahan** | Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care, Outreach & Christian Initiation  
 532-9344, ext. 106 | [care@spxcatholic.org](mailto:care@spxcatholic.org)

**Meghan Schaut** | Director of Music  
 532-9344, ext. 136 | [music@spxcatholic.org](mailto:music@spxcatholic.org)

**Jane Goudelock** | Administrative Assistant  
 532-9344, ext. 101 | [parishoffice@spxcatholic.org](mailto:parishoffice@spxcatholic.org)

**FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Elizabeth Post** | Director of Faith Formation  
 538-2600, ext. 122 | [epost@spxcatholic.org](mailto:epost@spxcatholic.org)

**Ashley Rottman** | Coordinator of Youth Ministry  
 538-2600, ext. 137 | [youth@spxcatholic.org](mailto:youth@spxcatholic.org)

**Glenda Trytko** | Religious Education Coordinator  
 538-2600, ext. 121 | [gtrytko@spxcatholic.org](mailto:gtrytko@spxcatholic.org)

**Christine Verburg** | Secretary, Faith Formation  
 538-2600, ext. 120 | [formation@spxcatholic.org](mailto:formation@spxcatholic.org)

**Sandy Grandy** | Secretary, Faith Formation  
 538-2600, ext. 118 | [youth@spxcatholic.org](mailto:youth@spxcatholic.org)

**Kim Lobert** | Director of Maintenance  
 538-2600, ext. 116 | [maintenance@spxcatholic.org](mailto:maintenance@spxcatholic.org)

**An Advent View from 40th & Wilson**

FR. CHRIS ROUECH  
[frchris@spxcatholic.org](mailto:frchris@spxcatholic.org)



**YES," IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS," AS THE CAROL SINGS. BUT WE STILL HAVE SIX MORE DAYS OF ADVENT!** Six more days to "prepare and surrender"—which is really what we practice continually as Christians.

Today's gospel passage is definitely one illustration of St. Joseph doing that. He had been preparing to welcome a young virgin girl into his home as his wife, and then he learns she is with child. Oh the pain and scandal! But he believed in a dream. Not HIS own dream. But the dream God gave him. And to that, he surrendered.



Twice during Advent I used a ladder as a prop during Mass. The ladder was intended to invite you to reflect on all the priorities and projects we each have underway in our lives. If you're like me, you probably have many unfinished (and even more in your head) than accomplishments. I have come to believe that the seasons of Advent and Christmas are not intended to teach us to dwell less on our own projects, but to open ourselves to *God's dreams for us. What is God's deepest desire for you this Christmas?*

**PREPARE and SURRENDER.**

**News in the Mail!**

**This letter was sent to all registered households last week.  
 We're sharing it here to be sure you get the information.**

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

As we prepare to celebrate that night when God sent angels to herald the wonderful news of our Savior's birth, we are pleased to announce wonderful news for St. Pius X Parish.

After careful consideration guided by input from numerous parish leadership committees, our parish will launch a Capital Campaign in late Spring of 2017. The fruits of this initiative will be long-discussed improvements to our campus, including a new youth room, resurfaced parking lots and expanded gathering area.

We're making this announcement now as you prayerfully consider your year-end giving. Know that an early gift of any amount would be accepted with deep gratitude as seed money for the 2017 campaign. An envelope has been included for such an offering. You may also contribute at [spxcatholic.org](http://spxcatholic.org).

The year 2017 will bring additional information about the campaign, including a helpful "Q and A" document responding to the excellent questions received since the Feasibility Study was undertaken last spring. More importantly, there will be a **PARISH INFORMATION MEETING at 7pm Thursday, Jan. 19** to help parishioners grow in their understanding and appreciation for this needed project.

Thank you for being a part of our parish community. It is your embrace of our shared faith in Jesus Christ that gives us the courage to move forward on this journey and promote his kingdom.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Faithfully and prayerfully in Christ,

Scott Alvesteffer  
 Capital Campaign 2017 Chairman

Father Chris Rouech  
 Pastor





## Faith Formation | Religious Education

ELIZABETH POST  
epost@spxcatholic.org

**NATIVITY PROGRAM:** Our elementary Nativity Program was a beautiful event! The children of the parish did a wonderful job telling how the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus. They sang Advent and Christmas carols and ended the night with a fun and delicious cookie reception. Thank you to all who participated in making this a wonderful evening.



### CHRISTMAS SEASON

**SCHEDULE:** There will be no elementary religious education classes from Dec. 18—Jan. 4. Classes resume on Sunday, Jan. 8.

**SACRAMENTS RETREAT:** Mark your calendars! Our next retreat for those preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion is Feb. 12; more details will follow.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE ~ Sunday 5:30-7:30pm

- Dec. 18 ~ Edge
- Dec 25, Jan 1, & Jan. 8 ~ Christmas Break
- EDGE will resume on Sunday, Jan. 15.

### 8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT ~ Jan. 7 & 8 ~ 9am-9pm

All 8th graders preparing for Confirmation are expected to attend this retreat. Sponsors will participate in the retreat from 4-7pm on Saturday, Jan. 7.

**NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB** meets at 7pm Monday, Jan. 9 at 7pm in McDuffee to discuss *The Jane Austin Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler. Contact Linda Stray (lindastray@yahoo.com or 249-8034) or Mary Boehm (538-9635 or meb2904@aol.com) with inquiries.



**FOUND MAN'S GOLD WEDDING BAND** in the back pew on Saturday, Dec. 3. Please call the parish office at 532-9344 to claim it.

## High School Youth Ministry

ASHLEY ROTTMAN  
arottman@spxcatholic.org



### CONFIRMATION RETREAT PLANNING ~ Dec. 18

Those interested in helping with the 2017 Confirmation Retreat should join Ashley and Elizabeth in Room 101 after the 10:30 Mass TODAY.

### UGLY SWEATER ADVENT PARTY ~ Dec. 18 ~ 7-9pm

Dust off those Santa Claus sweaters for our annual pre-Christmas celebration. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday in the company of friends old and new. We'll rock some yuletide jingles, holiday nibbles and maybe even some reindeer games. We will also do a white elephant exchange. Bring a gift (max. \$15) to participate.



**SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE RESUMES** after the holidays on Jan. 15.

**PARENTS DAY OUT** the teens and middle schoolers had a great time watching over our smallest Catholic brothers and sisters last Saturday. Thank you to ALL who participated!



## Pastoral Care, Outreach & Initiation

ROSEMARY BEAHAN  
rbeahan@spxcatholic.org



**HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** Are you struggling and wondering how your family will get through the holidays? Will there be gifts under the tree for the children? We can help...call the Parish Office; information is kept confidential.

**PICTURES FROM THE NOVEMBER MEMORIAL:** Please remember to pick up your loved one's picture from the Nov. Memorial that was in church. The pictures are in the McDuffee Room.



## Parish Life

ANDY REBOLLAR  
arebollar@spxcatholic.org



**THAT MAN IS YOU!** The next TMIY semester starts on Jan. 21. It's never too late to start becoming a better man. If you are wondering about it, or know someone who could benefit, make the step and commit or plant the seed. You never know how God may work through that step. Contact me via email or call 532-9344 for more information.

**MOM'S SUPPORT GROUP:** Join us for an evening of relaxation on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7pm in Danner Hall. Receive a shoulder massage and paraffin treatment on your hands, and learn how to make some of your own beauty care products. RSVP requested. Please contact Jennifer Lawrence at 821-4502.

**PARISH APP ROLLOUT TEAM NEEDED:** Interested in helping with the rollout of our parish app at the end of January? Join us for an info meeting on Sunday, Jan. 8 in the McDuffee Room after the 10:30 Mass. You'll get a sneak peek and find out how'll you'll be needed. No tech experience is necessary, just a willingness to help promote it. Contact me via email or call 532-9344 if interested.

**DON'T GET EUCHRE'D BY MISSING OUT:** Join us on Saturday, Jan. 28 after the 5:30pm Mass for soup and Euchre in Danner Hall. We'll have a movie for the kids and a Euchre tournament for the adults. There'll be prizes, and even a few beginners' tables. The Community Commission will supply the soups, and they invite anyone looking to bring something, to bring a snack food or dessert.



**HAVE A FAVORITE CATHOLIC MYSTIC?:** People like Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and many others spoke truths about our faith, so we'll highlight a Catholic mystic every month through our Facebook page. We'll include a few quotes, writings, or prayers. If there's someone you would like included, contact me via email or 532-9344 and share what you like about them and a quote or two.

## Mass Assignments for Dec. 24 & 25

Mass Coord.	5:30pm Volunteer Needed	10:30pm Volunteer Needed	9:30am Dave & Mary Bristol
Greeters	Kelly & Brooklyn Behrens Maria Cannizzo Horvath Family Purvis Family Smith Family Wiest Family	DeVries Family Don McKinley	Sandy Grandy Sandie Kornelje <b>4 Volunteers Needed</b>
Servers	Will Burdick Jonathan Fuller Makenna Trytko Zack Valko	Allie Arnsman Emma Jaworowicz Kylee DeVries Brendon McKinley	Loren Wilkie Rachel Wilkie <b>2 Volunteers Needed</b>
Eucharistic Ministers	A.J. Burdick Joe Burdick Frank Cegelis Judy Clinger Randy Miller Jen Meyering Donna Vaughn <b>6 Volunteers Needed</b>	Agnes Barker Nancy Benson Brittany Klein Steve LeQuia Amanda London Jerry London Debra Neff Tara Pankratz Norm Riksen Jacob Ruemenapp Kate Ruemenapp Rick Ruemenapp Michele Stutzky	Dave Bristol Mary Bristol Shirley Cigler Betty Cole Tony Grandy Ellen Halfmann Sharon Love Janine Skavnak Elaine Szarowicz Mary Tracey Karen Tanning <b>2 Volunteers Needed</b>
Lector	Students	Brenda Bargaquast Rachel Provost	Angie Zylstra Judy Konopka
	Ushers slots are full	Ushers Needed	Ushers Needed

real people + real presence

## Growing in Christ Weekly Stewardship Report

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:** An essential gift God gave us is our free will...the ability to make choices in life. There have been times when I didn't feel like I had a choice, or I didn't like the choices before me, but I could choose. Choice is central to stewardship and to faith. We don't have to give back anything to God. We don't even have to believe in God. As people of faith, we make the choice to do so. Our choices say much about who we are. This Sunday's gospel highlights Joseph's response. He was set to quietly leave Mary after finding out she was pregnant, but received a dream telling him not to. Joseph chose to trust in God, go against his initial instinct and act in faith. He could have said no, but he didn't and his choice paved the way for the Holy Family. What holy options might God be setting before you? How will you be a steward of your free will. ~ by Andy Rebollar, Pastoral Associate for Parish Life

## Time and Talent

### MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 11 & 12: 5:30pm—295 | 8:30am—221 | 10:30am—515

**DEAR MEMBERS OF ST PIUS X:** We would like to give our gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful luncheon provided for our family and friends. We are truly thankful for everyone's time to provide and serve our family. Thank you so much. *The family of Al Kadzban*

### THANK YOU FOR THE VERY BEAUTIFUL POINSETTIA

Your thoughtfulness and caring make it easy for us to want to be at St. Pius X. *Rita McCarthy*

### A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

to the children in the Faith Formation classes for the overwhelming response to the Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive! A special "thank you" to Glenda Trytko, who created a unique competition among the classes, where their goal was to make another class win for the most food items collected. Because of your generosity, the food pantry will be well stocked for the holidays, and will be able to serve many more families in need. God bless you and your families for making someone else's Christmas a blessed one.



## Treasure

PARISH SUPPORT Fiscal Year 2016-17   Week 24/52	Last week 12/11&12/12	Year to Date	Prior Year to Date
Adult Envelopes	\$ 9,856	\$298,266	\$ 299,110
Electronic Giving spxcatholic.org	\$ 2,740	\$103,913	\$ 102,071
Youth Envelopes	\$ 3	\$ 131	\$ 84
Loose Offerings	\$ 825	\$ 15,476	\$ 15,015
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 13,424</b>	<b>\$417,786</b>	<b>\$416,280</b>
Budget Overage/(Shortfall)	\$ (5,061)	\$ (15,104)	\$ -
<b>OTHER GIVING</b>			
Master's Mission	\$ 265	\$ 17,110	\$ 17,118
Special Coll: Religious Retirement	\$ 3,847	\$ 3,847	

St. Pius X has 958 registered households. Last week, 250 contributed either by using an offertory envelope or electronically. Every gift is gratefully received as a sacrifice united with Christ's own self-offering in the Eucharist to share God's love.



## Our prayer list for healing

Please continue to pray for the following and all the sick in our Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound, and those in care facilities. To be included on the Prayer Chain (separate from this bulletin list), call Jason George at (231) 736-7487.

Linda Padula	Gerry Dekkinga	Bob Brock	Joe Capriglione
Kenneth Schumacher	Mary LaSarge	Judy DeVoe	Erika Yonker
Kelsey Gibson	Andre Miles	Ron Geldersma	Marie Nevins
Robert Kasperlik	Catherine Cesare	Diane & Mary Prindle	Andy Wierzbicki
Joe Lemont	Henry Visscher	Betty DiTrapani	Mike Sartorius
Beverwyk Family	Joe & Margaret Grandy	Rose Reilly	Clara Raaymakers
Anthony McAndrew	M. Forrester	Laurie Bialik	Gina Catania
Jennifer Hassell	Marty Schumacker	Bill Paumier	Christopher Thrall
Mick Vaughn	John Stoddard	Carol Guffy	Bob & Holly Ann Ott
Ben Baird	Derek Bull	Shannon Olman	Diane Austin
Rich Hubbard	Stephen Meurer	Dorothy Rennager	James Raap
Kathy Maslowski	Charles & Mag Frodl	Patrick Bartz	Ilene Topolinski
Deb Russo	Tom & Becky Hoffmann	Ellen O'Toole	Sarah Johnson
Catherine Owens	Mike Connell	Peggy Galt	Justin Vriezema
Jeff Zylstra	Mary Jebb	Markell Barnhart	Lenore Nuffrio
Marlene Strong	Mary Beth Jensen	Pat Rummer	Robert Ryzanca
Cindy Cole	Megan Reynolds	Chris VanderSlice	Mary Benson-Slosser
Jill Moyer	Jim & Mary Ann Norcutt	Leo Raap	Deb Finnigan
Nell Wouters	Allen Mulligan	Jim Stotenbur	Marion & Marie Rythewski
Brianne Bassett	Matt Rich	Bob Bagin	Ken Jenkins
Tom Wojtas	Joe & Winnie Kulaga	Jonathan Kolenda	Sandy Ressel
Kerry Deboer	Donna Waters	Cindy Thrall	John Blanchard
Sr. Jean Marie Wojtas	Pat DeJong	Norm Pokora	Linda Wood
Terri Bernott	Clara Jo Braybrook	Barbara Barney	Zachary Matzke
Ann Berg	Jane Voss	Karen Bourassa	Pam Willemstein
Arlene Dzwonkowski	Tom Villemure	Judy Perrin	Alberta & Vito Licari
Cleo Ruppel	J.D. Sypniewski	Rylie Rau	Pat Grzybowski
Christopher Alighire	Jerry Piela	Larry Kietzman	Judy Wojtas
Ann Ferguson	Connie Alighire	Scott Kowalczyk	Cody VandenBerg
Mark Wilkens	Kim Wheat		

## Christmas Masses at St. Pius X

**SATURDAY, DEC. 24**

5:30pm + with bells for children

10:30pm + with candles

Caroling begins at 10pm

**SUNDAY, DEC. 25**

9:30am

### Christmas Masses at Neighboring Parishes:

Holy Name of Jesus | Dec. 24 ~ 4:30pm & 8pm | Dec. 25 ~ 9:45am & 11:30am  
 Holy Redeemer | Dec. 24 ~ 4pm, 6pm, 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10am  
 St. Sebastian | Dec. 24 ~ 4:30pm, 7:30pm & 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10:30am  
 St. John Vianney | Dec. 24 ~ 4pm & 8pm | Dec. 25 ~ 9am

**MIDNIGHT MASS** and the Prelude of Carols with Brass, Strings and Choirs on Christmas Eve will broadcast live from the Cathedral of St. Andrew on FOX 17 (check your local listings). The concert begins at 11pm and Mass begins at Midnight. Christmas Day Mass will also air live on FOX 17 on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 10am, with a recording of the prelude concert to follow at 11am. Video of the Masses will be able to be viewed in their entirety on the diocesan website Christmas Day at [dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://dioceseofgrandrapids.org).

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## Bless your Christmas Tree

*When the tree has been prepared, but before it is illuminated, the family gathers around it.*

**+ All make the sign of the cross.**

**LEADER begins:** Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**ALL respond:** Now and forever.

**LEADER:** This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise to be such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

*Then the scripture is read by the leader or family member:*  
 Listen to the words of the apostle Paul to Titus:

But when the kindness and generous love of our God our savior has appeared,  
 not because of any righteous deed we have done  
 but because of his mercy,  
 he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us  
 through Jesus Christ our Savior,  
 so that we might be justified by His grace  
 and become heirs in hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

The Word of the Lord. **ALL:** Thanks be to God.

*After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession, followed by the Lord's Prayer.*

*The lights of the tree are now illuminated.*

**Leader:** Let us now pray for God's blessing upon all who gather around this tree: *Pause in silence*

**Lord our God,**  
**We praise you for the light of creation:**  
 the sun, the moon and the stars of the night.  
**We praise you for the light of Israel:**  
 The law, the prophets,  
 and the wisdom of the Scriptures.  
**We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:**  
**He is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace,**  
**who fill us with your love.**

**Lord God,**  
**let your blessing come upon us**  
**as we illuminate this tree.**  
**May the light and cheer it gives**  
**be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.**  
**May all who delight in this tree, respect all life,**  
**and come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.**  
**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us bless the Lord. **ALL respond,** making the sign of the cross. **Thanks be to God. +**

