

NewsNotes

Service Commission

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Advent is once again upon us. Wow!, it got here quickly! The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the new Liturgical year. The celebration of Advent is a time to prepare as Catholics for Christmas. We contemplate our great need for God as we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord in our lives and the fulfillment of His Kingdom in the future. But, in reality, it can be difficult to wait and prepare with the secular world's idea of getting decorated in mid-November and celebrating the minute Thanksgiving is over (or even earlier!)

So, what can we do in service of God and others? Use an Advent wreath to remind us of God's eternal nature and the light He brings into our lives. How can we share this light? Perhaps we can use the Feasts celebrated during Advent as a guide. The Feast of St. Nicholas (Dec. 6) is a good time to give treats or toys to children less fortunate than us. A giving tree can be set up at church and donations given out through agencies that support these families. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a good time to provide support to pregnant women and infants. Remember our current President's project and help provide support through the various pregnancy centers throughout the Diocese.

At this time of year, many less fortunate people lack the basic articles of clothing to stay warm. Check with the local schools. Could they use a box of gloves, hats, and scarves for children who have none or come to school without one?

Remember the shut-ins this season. Perhaps arrange to take them to Christmas Mass as they may really want to attend but for various reasons can't get there on their own.

In service to others, we must remember the way Mary and Joseph said yes to God as they gave themselves to Him. It allowed them to experience the fullness of His love. This invites us to also enter a loving relationship with Jesus so that we may bring it to others. Self-giving in service to others results in joy. Ask Mary to assist you in gracefully serving others.

As we go through Advent to prepare for Christmas, may we remember that it is more than gifts and parties. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise. Seek Mary's help in celebrating and honoring God's love and showing that to others.

"O Thou who has given us so much, mercifully grant us one more thing – a grateful heart." -  
George Herbert