



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

church of st. mary - lake forest



NOVEMBER 27, 2024

PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT

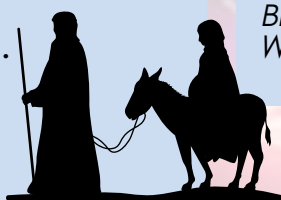
This Sunday, December 1st, we enter into a "new" liturgical year in our faith - Advent. The season of Advent (next four Sundays prior to Christmas) invites us to:

- Remember the birth of Jesus
- Have hope for Jesus' return
- Thank God for becoming human
- Reflect on the unexpected nature of Jesus' birth

Although the world around us is telling us it is "Christmas" now - our faith is calling us to slow down, reflect, and prepare for the coming of the Savior, Jesus.

As you prepare your home for Christmas, we hope that you will include a space for Advent. Perhaps an Advent wreath at your dinner table, candles in the window (a sign of hope, a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem, a reminder of the light of Christ), and spending time together as a family using the Advent activity books handed out at RE Class.

O come, o come, Emmanuel...



IN THE CLASSROOM



COMING UP...

NOVEMBER 28TH-29TH (THU-FRI)

PARISH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
CLOSED

DECEMBER 1ST (SUNDAY):

- NO CLASSES - THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER 3RD (TUESDAY)

- 4:15-5:45PM RE 1ST YEAR-6TH, 8TH (UGC)
- 7:00PM-8:30PM 6TH-8TH (UGC)

PARENTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US AT THE
BEGINNING OF CLASS FOR OUR ADVENT
WREATH PRAYER IN THE ATRIUM (4:15PM & 7PM)

SUNDAY GOSPEL READING: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

JLuke 21:25-28,34-36

Sunday Connection

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. -Loyola Press

Faith in the Family

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER AROUND THE ADVENT WREATH

During the season of Advent, please join your children and the Religious Education community for prayer around the Advent Wreath.

Instead of bringing your children to their classroom, we ask that you bring them to the Advent Wreath:

*Sunday Weekly Classes - Center of PGC
Tuesday Weekly Classes - Atrium of UGC
Intensives - Atrium of UGC*

We will begin our class session in prayer, together, and parents/family are invited to stay and join us for prayer, which will include lighting the candle(s) of the Advent wreath. Following prayer children will be dismissed by class to walk together to their classroom.

TUESDAY RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITY

All families are invited to join us for our Reconciliation Services on Tuesday, December 10th. **Sunday and Intensive** families are invited to join at either the *Tuesday Afternoon Reconciliation Prayer Service or Tuesday Evening Parish Candle Light Reconciliation Service.*

Our children in the Tuesday Afternoon Session, grades 3-6, & 8 will attend our RE Reconciliation Service in the Church which will begin at 4:35pm. Our Tuesday Evening youth in grades 6-8 will attend the Parish Reconciliation Service following the Advent Wreath prayer and attendance and will sit together as a group. Please see flyer below for more information on the Parish celebration.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to "prepare" our hearts to celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus.

ABSENT FORM

Please let us know if your child will be absent by filling out this form and we will notify their catechist.

ABSENT FORM



HAVE YOU JOINED OUR TEXT MESSAGING GROUP?

If you would like to receive text messages for important matters, please join our Remind Text Groups by clicking on the link or texting the following code to 81010:

- [Religious Ed](#) or text @cosmre25 (general text messages)
- [Intensive Session](#) or text @cosmsi25
- [Sunday Morning Session](#) or text @cosmsun25
- [Tuesday Afternoon Session](#) or text @cosmta25
- [Tuesday Evening Session](#) or text @cosmte25

Faith in the Family

HEARTS OF SERVICE - THANK YOU!

This past Tuesday, November 26th, we had a total of 70 volunteers serve at Feed My Starving Children, over two packing sessions. Thank you for taking time and bringing your family to serve with love, energy, and determination to help starving children all over the world. What a blessing to share in this opportunity of service as a community of the Church of St. Mary! Our first session helped pack MannaPacks for Honduras and our second session helped pack for Haiti. Both sessions packed a total of 26,568 meals which is enough to feed 73 kids for a year.

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian charity that provides nutritious meals to children in need around the world. FMSC's meals are called MannaPacks and are designed to help prevent and reverse undernutrition.

Families can continue to support the mission of [FMSC](http://www.feedmystarvingchildren.org) by:

- Volunteering throughout the year
- Purchasing items through FMSC's MarketPlace (fair-trade items)
- Making a donation to FMSC



NOVEMBER|DECEMBER CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

28th, Thursday: Parish & RE Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

29th, Friday: Parish & RE Office Closed

DECEMBER

1st, Sunday: No Classes

3rd, Tuesday: 4:15pm-5:45pm RE 1st Year-6th, 8th (UGC)
7:00pm-8:30pm RE 6th-8th (UGC)

8th, Sunday: 9:00am-11:45am Intensives 6th-8th (UGC)
9:30am-11am RE Kindergarten-5th (PGC)

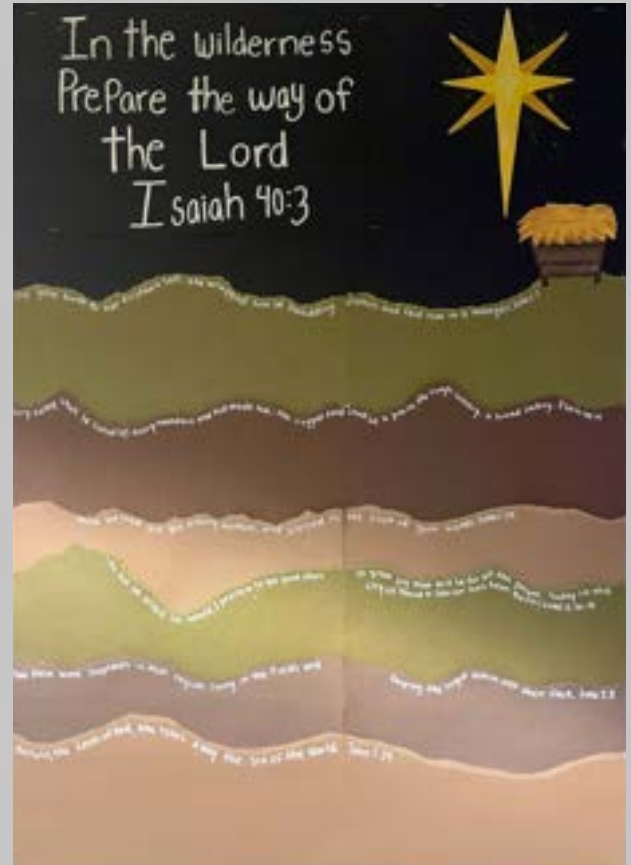
10th, Tuesday: 4:15pm-5:45pm RE 1st Year-6th, 8th (UGC)
7:00pm-8:30pm RE 6th-8th (UGC)
Reconciliation Prayer Service during classes

15th, Sunday: 9:30am-11am RE Kindergarten-5th (PGC)

17th, Tuesday: 4:15pm-5:45pm RE 1st Year-6th, 8th (UGC)
7:00pm-8:30pm RE 6th-8th (UGC)

21st, Saturday: 10:00am Angels and Shepherds Practice
(UGC Gym)

No Classes: December 22nd-January 7th



Religious Education Annual Baby Shower for Jesus

WISH LIST:

BABY SHOWER *For Baby Jesus*

DONATIONS BENEFIT AID FOR WOMEN
WAUKEGAN PREGNANCY CENTER

Bring Donation to Religious Education
December 8th-December 17th (Sunday or Tuesday)

- Baby Clothing (Boys & Girls) in all sizes up to 18 months
- Diapers in all sizes but especially size 4 and larger
- Baby Wipes
- Receiving Blankets
- Infant Bath Towels
- Baby Toiletries (Shampoo, Lotion, Body Wash)
- Pacifiers
- Baby Bottles
- Board Books
- Gift Cards to Target or Walmart



Bring donations December 8th-17th to RE Class

CHRISTMAS SHARING TREE

Support families in need this Christmas through:

**Most Blessed Trinity Food Pantry &
Catholic Charities of Lake County**



Ways to participate:

- Choose ornament and purchase requested gifts
- Donate cash or check in red envelope
- Scan QR code to donate online



Monetary donations due by 12/1. Gift drop-off before 5pm Mass, 12/7, through after 12pm Mass, 12/8.

Thank you to *St. Agnes and St. Catherine of Siena Circles* for organizing!



Candlelight ADVENT ADORATION & CONFESSIONS



with Praise & Worship music

Tuesday, December 10 | 7-9 pm

Church of St. Mary
175 E. Illinois Rd, Lake Forest
all are welcome any time from 7-9 pm



**SIGN-UP
TO VOLUNTEER**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
OPEN TO GRADES 6-8**

Baby Jesus Birthday Party

Saturday, December 7th

10:00-11:30am

SCHOOL OF ST. MARY UPPER GRADE CENTER



A special event for young children and families to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. Join us as we share the Nativity story, fun crafts, and refreshments during this heartwarming gathering.

**Please register online
by November 24th!**

Thank you to *St. Colette Circle* for organizing this event!

WWW.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION.CHURCHOFSTMARY.ORG

around the classrooms and the parish



COR SUMMER SERVICE TRIP

JUNE 24-29, 2025 | KANSAS CITY, MO

open to incoming 9th graders
through graduating 12th graders

REGISTRATION &
INFORMATION



Register by February 17

limited spots available

first come, first serve (literally)

JOIN US FOR KAIROS

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

REGISTRATION
OPEN TO CLASS OF
2025 AND 2026!

St. Francis de Sales
CATHOLIC PARISH
AND
Church of St. Mary



REGISTER AT

TINYURL.COM/KAIROS-20

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DM US OR EMAIL
DARIZMENDI@STFRANCISLZ.ORG OR CHAWKINS@CHURCHOFSTMARY.ORG

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 13th!

Juniors & Seniors: Join COR Ministry for Kairos in January! Don't wait to sign up. Click this [link](#) or the image to register. Any students who have attended Kairos at school and might be interested in leading should reach out to Chase at chawkins@churchofstmary.org!

This retreat is open to ALL juniors and seniors in high school, so please pass it on to any friends who you think would find this meaningful.

Registration is open until December 13th, so take advantage of the Thanksgiving break and sign-up!

WWW.RELIGIOUSEDUCATION.CHURCHOFSTMARY.ORG

around the classrooms and the parish

NILES METROPOLITAN CHORUS AND MUSICA LUMINA ORCHESTRA
MAREK RACHELSKI, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

11TH ANNUAL D-I-Y

HANDEL'S MESSIAH



Des Plaines Theater, 1476 Miner Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016

7:30 PM TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2024

TICKETS at WWW.DESPLAINESTHEATRE.COM/EVENTS/

Church of St. Mary, 175 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045

7:30 PM FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2024

TICKETS at WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM (search for Niles Metropolitan Chorus)



Des Plaines

Starring

Desirée Hassler, Soprano; Corinne Wallace-Crane, Alto;
Jonathan Weyant, Tenor; Aaron Wardell, Bass;
Marek Rachelski, Conducting from the harpsichord



Lake Forest



www.nilesmetropolitanchorus.com (224) 585-3768

**Kick Off the Holidays
with this Timeless Classic!**