

Queen of Peace Roman Catholic Church
Family Faith Formation Ministry
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November/December 2021 News Notes:

Classes:

Year 1: November 4th & December 2nd
Year 2: November 18th & December 9th
Year 3: November 10th & December 8th

A few Reminders:

- Children tithing envelopes need to include a First and Last name and a Telephone.
- Missed the monthly handouts received at the on campus classes, go to <https://qop.org/ministries/fff/>: Year 1, 2 or 3 to print the current information.
- Snack Donations are needed: pre-package, chips, crackers and 8oz bottles of water, etc.

Donation for St. Vincent de Paul:

November: Canned Vegetables

December: Cereal

Please place items in the St. Vincent de Paul's boxes located by the classrooms 2 & 3, Thank You for your Support!

November/December Thoughts

- ❖ Thanksgiving can strengthen your faith. **Thanking and praising God** gives a person immense strength they could never dream of. By reminiscing about everything the Lord has done for you, your faith grows more and more each time you give thanks. ... When you praise and thank God, your mind becomes unencumbered.
- ❖ Turkey, pumpkin pie, parades, and football are synonymous with this secular holiday, but how can Catholics help their families realize that being thankful is at the core of our faith? Most families already incorporate the traditional blessing over the food, but this year try adding one of these suggestions to your celebration:

1) Go To Mass. Challenge your family to really think about the meaning of this holiday. Who are we offering our thanks to as we celebrate? GOD! It's not always fun to get up early and out the door on a day off from school or work, but there's no better way to show our gratitude than to join in the celebration of the Mass. Bonus: Many times parishes will have a small celebration with donuts or treats after Mass.

2) Count Your Blessings. Share with one another about the many things you are thankful for in your lives. Write down what you are thankful for on a tablecloth that can be used from year to year or start a blessings jar and jot down your blessings on a slip of paper. Be sure to record names and ages too!

3) Enjoy The Feast And Fun. Make this day a joyful celebration of fun for all. Incorporate each family member's favorite foods to feast on and then take some time to play together. Whether it's board games or backyard football, cherish the moments together and create memories as you strengthen the bond of family.

4) Plan A Way To Serve Together. Think of a way to show your gratitude through an act of service that you will do as a family before Christmas. Visit a homeless shelter, rake the neighbor's leaves, bake cookies for a friend in need, or ask your family's input for more creative suggestions.



❖ Advent begins on Sunday, November 28, 2021

Advent is marked by the 25 days, or four Sundays, before Christmas. It is defined as a time of “**coming into place, view, or being; arrival**”. Advent is simply taking time each day, starting December 1, to prepare for Christmas.

The four traditional advent themes for the four advent Sundays are:

- God's people -The Candle of Hope. Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. ...
- The old testament prophets - The Candle of Peace. ...
- John the Baptist - The Candle of Love. ...
- Mary the mother of Jesus - The Candle of Joy.

Why is 1 pink and 3 purple?

Three candles are purple and one is rose or pink. The **first candle represents hope**. The second candle peace. The pink candle, generally lit on the third Sunday of Advent, represents joy.

Faith-based activities December

- Visit a “live” nativity scene.
- Go to a candlelight church service.
- Read the Christmas story in the Bible.
- Make and decorate a birthday cake for Jesus.
- Spend time on your bellies playing with the family nativity scene and acting out the story

Family Saintly Activities:

November

- ❖ **Talk to your children about how we are all called to sainthood.** Work on self portraits and title them “Future Saint” or “Future Saint (Child’s Name)” for All Saints Day on November 1st.
- ❖ **Make a King Cake or Cake/Dessert Shaped like a Crown** as a “sweet” way to mark the Feast of Christ the King. (This date changes each year. It is the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year.) Quick King Cake: <https://www.reallifeathome.com/easy-king-cake-20-minutes/>
- ❖ **Have a fish dinner** to celebrate the feast day of Saint Andrew the Apostle. Say a prayer for those that work to produce food for others. (November 30th)
- ❖ **Attend a musical performance or just have a family sing along/dance party** at home to honor Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music. (November 22nd)

December

- ❖ **Pray for the missionaries all over the world** who are spreading god’s Word. To extend this activity, see what your family can do to help those doing a mission. (Saint Francis Xavier’s Feast Day is December 3rd.)
- ❖ **Fill your children’s shoes with small gifts or wrapped candies** while they are asleep on December 5th to celebrate Saint Nicholas’ Feast Day on December 6th.
- ❖ **Have a Mexican-themed dinner with roses as decorations** to celebrate the feast days of Saint Juan Diego (December 9th) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12th). You can make your own paper roses with this template: <https://www.reallifeathome.com/super-easy-valentines-paper-rose-cutout/>
- ❖ **Try one of these fun, hands on Nativity themed activities:** <http://bit.ly/HandsOnNativity>
- ❖ **Read one of the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.** Wait until then to add Jesus to your family’s Nativity scene. Ask the youngest family member to add Him to the crèche. (Or you can give the honor to someone different each year.)