

# ST. MARY & ST. PHILIP CATECHISTS-AIDES NEWSLETTER



## FOR ALL THAT HAS BEEN, THANKS....

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family. We truly have much for which to be thankful, and to celebrate God's bounteous blessings and gifts in our lives. I certainly am thankful for all of you who help our young Church to come to know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we begin a new liturgical year, heralded by the season of Advent-a time of anticipation and preparation- let us open our hearts to the One who desires to dwell with us. Like Mary, may we receive God's Word each day so that we also may give birth to Jesus by sharing Him with all those with whom we journey.

*"We are all meant to be mothers of God for God is always needing to be born." Meister Eckhart*



**....FOR ALL THAT WILL BE, YES!!!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS OVER THE NEXT MONTH OR SO

### December 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>

<b>Confirmation Rehearsal</b>	<b>Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>St. Philip Church</b>
<b>Confirmation Reconciliation</b>	<b>Dec 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>St. James Church</b>

### Grades 1-5 Christmas Card Project

Kym Schillinger has once again volunteered to coordinate our Christmas Card Project for grades 1-5. She has donated blank Christmas cards and we are asking students to color pictures or write a holiday message. When finished please leave in your class buckets or give to Darleen and they will be delivered to residents in assisted living facilities and nursing homes prior to Christmas. Thank you for your help in sharing the Good News of the holiday season with our seniors.

### Grade 1-5 Handouts –Carrying in Baby Jesus for Christmas Masses

Grade 1-5 Catechists; please send home handouts with students on December 2/3. Deadline to return the form is December 17<sup>th</sup>. If students are interested in carrying in Baby Jesus at the Christmas Masses at St. Mary parish, they can fill in appropriate Mass. If there are too many volunteers, we will randomly draw names.

**Grade 1-6      Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>    Epiphany Pageant Rehearsals Begin    7:15-8:15pm    St. Mary Church**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>                      Grades 6-H.S. Youth Group Christmas Event**

Please join the Grafton Catholic Youth Group for our Christmas Celebration! Saturday DEC 8th, at St. Mary's, 4 pm (Mass of the Immaculate Conception) · followed by Dinner (pizza, salad, dessert) and Youth Christmas Celebration in St. Mary's Hall until 7:00 pm. (no cost for this event.) RSVP by 12/4.

Sign up: <http://signup.com/login/entry/7028637180126>



**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Confirmation    3:00pm                      St. Paul's Cathedral**
- Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal    4:30-5:30pm    St. Mary Church**
- Registration Deadline H.S. Amplify Event**

**December 16<sup>th</sup>**

- Grade 7-8            Gathering Day                      9am-2pm (includes Mass)            St. Philip Church**
- Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal                      4:30-5:30pm                      St. Mary Church**

**“AMPLIFY” DIOCESAN YOUTH NIGHT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

As part of our religious education program curriculum for High School students, we will be attending “Amplify” Diocesan Youth Night. The evening includes dinner, games, praise and worship music, Eucharistic Adoration, and Reconciliation. Open to all youth in grades 9-12. Cost is **FREE**. Parents are asked to drop off and pick up students directly at event location

H.S. students may select 1 of 2 dates and locations listed below:

- Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>                      5:30-8:00pm            St. Bernadette in Northborough**
- Sunday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>                      5:30-8:00pm            St. Joseph Parish Center in Auburn**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>                      Deadline to return forms to carry in Baby Jesus at Christmas Masses**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>                      No Religious Education Classes Christmas Vacation**



**January 6<sup>th</sup>            Epiphany Event and Pageant    9:15-11:30am    St. Mary Hall/Church**

We resume religious education classes with a Family Event to celebrate the Epiphany. Instead of regular classes, catechists are asked to help with an activity from those described below. I would like to see at least 2-3 people on each activity so that all will have an opportunity to float around to participate in other activities if they wish. Please let me know which of the activities below you would be interested in helping with. Know of my gratitude in assisting our families to gather and learn together.



## Epiphany Event

Sun. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>

For all RE students and their families

9:15-11:30am (includes 10:30am Mass/Pageant)

St. Mary's Parish Hall and Church

ALL are invited to join us as we follow the STAR and travel with the Wise Men on their journey to Bethlehem. Along the journey there will be music, drama, games, crafts, hands-on activities for families and children and much more. A clue will be found at each city that will guide travelers in solving an Epiphany mystery puzzle.

### BAKING IN BETHANY

Participants will decorate holiday cookies

### DRAMA AT DAN

Students will perform in Epiphany pageant at 10:30am Mass

### THE POTTER'S SHOP IN JERUSALEM

Participants will mold clay items

### THE CARPENTER'S SHOP IN NAZARETH

Participants will make a wooden Christmas craft



### REFRESHMENTS AT THE WELL IN SYCHAR

Drinks and snacks will be available

### MUSIC IN CANA

Participants can practice singing Christmas carols

### BANNERS IN BETHLEHEM

Participants design and make a banner to take home

### CRAFTS IN BETHEL

A hands-on craft activity will be offered

### COLORING WITH LYDIA IN PHILIPPI

Participants will color pictures and stories of Christmas.

(There will be plenty of purple crayons available)



January 12<sup>th</sup>                      First Penance Retreat   9:00am-12:30pm                      St. Mary's Hall

January 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>                      Classes as usual

**Grade 4 Catechists** — Please use some class time this week to discuss and plan for the Grade 4 Level Mass which will take place on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am Mass. I will be sending out emails to Grade 4 Parents during the Christmas Vacation week to get students to commit to a particular ministry. With Vacation weeks and MLK Jr. Holiday, this is really the only week to work with students on this Mass.

**First Penance Service 1:00pm   St. Mary's Church**

January 19<sup>th</sup>                      First Penance Retreat (snow date)

January 20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>                      Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday—No Religious Education Classes

**First Penance Service Snow date**

January 27<sup>th</sup>                      Grade 4 Level Mass      10:30am                      St. Mary's Church

January 30<sup>th</sup>                      First Eucharist Parent Meeting   7:00pm St. Mary's Hall

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

#### **Extra Craft Items Available**

We have a few extra craft kits available from Oriental Trading. I will leave them in RE supply closet at St. Mary's in a labeled bucket. Please feel free to help yourself.



### ***An Advent Reflection on JOY from the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta (from Franciscan Media)***

Please see link below for a wonderful Advent Reflection taken from St. Teresa of Calcutta. CHOOSE JOY and May the joy of this new liturgical year be shared with others!

<https://youtu.be/UWWMPY15UGI>