

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Newsletter

Issue: December 2020 St. Mary Magdalen Church



In This Issue:

- calendar
- Advent wreath workshop info
- a look ahead



In just a couple of weeks, we will be ending the Church liturgical year and beginning a new one.

The first Sunday of Advent means that, as far as the Church is concerned, this year is over! And with the way 2020 has been going, I'm thinking that this is something we've ALL been waiting on! Between hurricanes, COVID and all its "accessories" like virtual classes, masks, lines at Trader Joe's, limits to how many can go places, this is certainly a year that we are ready to have end!

I think that, in many ways, this year is giving us a chance to really look at Advent with fresh eyes. After all, Advent is all about waiting! So even though it begins the Church year, for us it is really perfectly situated at the end of 2020! Instead of waiting for Christmas with all the material gifts (and expenses) that it brings, why don't we use this Advent to really prepare our hearts for a new secular year? Take the opportunity as you light your Advent wreath to pray and ask God to help you as you prepare for a better 2021. Use the time to really think about what resolutions you can make this new year's that you will actually remember by January 30th 😊 I'm going to try!

Karen Yasik

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

Remember that even though we can't be all together in the hall, we are still having the workshop as a "grab and go" event!

If you go online to

<https://smmchurch.org/advent-wreath>

you are able to sign up online to come through the parking lot November 29th and get a bag with all you need inside – pins, green wires, ribbons, candles, candleholders, a ring and greens. If you don't need the ring, or just need the candles, you can order that too!



Let your family enjoy this tradition that teaches us to "wait in hope."

Especially this year!

NO REGISTRATION DEADLINE

DON'T FORGET!

If you want to attend Christmas Mass this year, you will need to sign up! Signups open on the parish website

WWW.SMMCHURCH.ORG

on December 7th!

And if you have friends who usually only come once a year, be sure that they know we will be only allowing those on the list to enter – with COVID guidelines churches will

ALL be doing something similar for Christmas mass this year.

DON'T WAIT

DECEMBER CALENDAR

November 28th (Saturday) – any family who would like to help decorate the church for Advent, Richard Heiss needs your help! The more hands, the sooner all will be done – begins at 11AM and ends by 2PM!

November 29th – Advent Wreath Workshop Grab and Go – from 9-11 in the parking lot, all your materials will be bagged up and ready for you to go!

NO PREP CLASS NOVEMBER 29TH

December 6th – Feast of St. Nicholas AND in-building class for PREP

December 7th – FIRST RECONCILIATION WORKBOOKS DUE

December 8th – Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary - a holy day of obligation, but unless things with COVID change drastically, mass attendance will not be required

December 9th – Feast of St. Juan Diego

December 11th – Feast of St. Lucy

December 12th – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 13th – VIRTUAL CLASS FOR PREP

December 20th – in-building class for PREP

December 25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

NO PREP CLASS DECEMBER 27th – Feast of the Holy Family

January 3rd – VIRTUAL CLASS FOR PREP

1ST Sunday of Advent – purple candle – Dear God, help each person in our family to wait patiently for the coming of Jesus. Fill us with hope!

Activity – read the Christmas story at either Matthew 1:18-23 or Luke 2:1-20

2nd Sunday of Advent – 2 purple candles – Dear God, help each person in our family get ready to welcome Jesus with open arms. Fill us with your peace!

Activity – Sing a Christmas carol!

3rd Sunday of Advent – pink and 2 purple candles – Dear God, help each person in our family understand the true meaning of Christmas. Fill us with your joy!

Activity – Look for stars wherever you go; think about how Christ is guiding your life like the star guided the wise men!

4th Sunday of Advent – all the candles! – Dear God, help each person in our family to experience the love of Christ. Fill us with wonder and awe at your great love for us!

Activity – collect food for your local food closet and share the love!