

# Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Newsletter

Issue: December 2017 St. Mary Magdalen Church



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## **Hurry Up and Wait**

We don't like to wait, do we? We're an instant society, trained by instant coffee, instant soup, and

microwaves! We're used to timing things in seconds instead of hours. We just don't want to wait!

In Jesus' time, their faith centered on being able to do just that. The Jewish people had already been waiting generations for their Messiah to be born. Through all their trials, slavery in Egypt, destruction of the first Temple, their Exile in Babylon – they were called to wait.

Advent is a time when we too are asked to wait. We're asked to take the time to really prepare our minds and our hearts for the coming of the One who would save us all. To honor our commitment to God as he has honored his to us. Is it hard? Absolutely. As a cantor I really want to sing those joyous carols instead of chilling out to Advent angst! But instead I reign in my enthusiasm and remember that like so many other things, it's just a small thing to do in thanks to the One who did it all for ME....

## **ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP** **(FAMILY DAY DECEMBER)**

Just a reminder that Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is our December Family Day. For those who are signed up (and we had to close sign up so we could order materials) please remember that since we are coming in to an established parish program, we have to pay an additional materials fee. PREP is covering part of it, but you are still asked to bring \$10 if you do not need a base ring for your wreath and \$15 if you do need one.

Also, don't forget to bring either scissors or pruning shears! We will have the rings for those who ordered them, 4 candleholders and tapers, ribbon and a variety of devotionals and activities. We'll work on our wreaths and activities for the first hour (10-11) and then do a few extra things after the parish families have headed out (like review our Christmas carols in anticipation of our program on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>!)



Remember that if you are bringing in a gift for the Angel tree, they are due back on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>

**REMINDER NO CLASS**  
**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

**IF YOUR FAMILY IS INTERESTED IN BEING THE ONES TO LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH AT ONE OF THE MASSES, PLEASE SIGN UP AT**

**<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c4eabac29a7f85-advent1>**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday) – FIRST RECONCILIATION FOR ALL 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADERS AND THEIR FAMILIES – ARRIVE BY 9:45, STUDENTS SIT WITH TEACHERS UP FRONT. PLEASE STAY TO THE CENTER AISLES**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> – ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP FAMILY DAY – regular class for PRE-K and KINDERGARTEN in the SCHOOL building – those **signed up** for the family day go directly to the CHURCH HALL. **Please remember to bring SCISSORS or PRUNING SHEARS and your materials fee (\$10 if no base ring is needed, \$15 if it is.)** If you are not signed up please do not drop your students off!**

**December 6<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Nicholas**

**December 8<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary – holy day of obligation**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Juan Diego**

**December 10<sup>th</sup> – CLASSES FOR GRADES K-8**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Lucy**

**December 12<sup>th</sup> – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> – CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN and CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IN THE GYM FOR GRADES 1-8 – parents, feel free to sit in the bleachers, students will be on the floor for this program. Afterwards they will stay with their teachers until you check out with the teacher.**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> – after the Christmas program, if you attend the 11AM Mass Father will bless all of your Baminelli (the infant Jesus from your nativity) at the mass and there is a brunch in the hall afterwards with Santa and more– see more info at**

**<http://www.smmchurch.org/news/baminelli-breakfast-with-santa-dec-17>**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – Masses for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent are at 5PM Saturday night and 7AM Sunday morning – there are no 9 or 11 that day. Masses for Christmas are 4PM, 6PM, and midnight on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and 9AM and 11AM Christmas Day. **NO CLASSES THIS WEEK OR NEXT WEEK ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup>.****

**January 7<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany (The Coming of the Three Kings) – traditionally celebrated January 6<sup>th</sup>. Classes for all students PRE-K through 8<sup>th</sup>**

***Merry Christmas to you and all of your families! May God bless you all with his peace in the coming year! - Karen Yasik***