



December 1, 2018

The 1st Sunday of Advent

You can now read these weekly newsletters on St. Thomas' website! www.stthomasbath.org
Click on Godly Play and under "What's New?" click on the Godly Play newsletter.

TAKING GODLY PLAY HOME

Today Cinda Wheat led our class while Father Michael was upstairs. Thanks Cinda!

The children were introduced to the beginning of Advent—four Sundays before Christmas Day. We lit the first candle on the Advent wreath (both upstairs and downstairs!).

We then worked on an Advent wreath craft.

Advent is a great season to bring church traditions home, with such things as the Advent wreath and the counting of days until the big event. It's a time to talk about waiting and patience. You might want to forgo playing Christmas carols at home and explain that you're not doing that because it is our time to wait. We will have plenty of time when Christmas comes to celebrate! Christmas is not just one day, but 12 days of celebration.

The next three Sundays in Advent we will be talking about John the Baptist and Mary and Joseph—how they heard the call and answered it.

THEOLOGY FOR PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS

The Saints of Advent

There are some special saints during Advent, whose days you can celebrate at home. The first is **St. Nicholas**, whose feast day is December 6 (we will also celebrate this on Sunday, December 9). St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, and the real Santa Claus. How about giving a small gift on St. Nicholas Day?

St. Lucy's feast day is December 13. "Lucy" means "light." She is most celebrated in Scandinavian countries where there is little light this time of year. Why not celebrate the day by eating by candle light?

St. Thomas' feast day is December 21, and there is a parish party at the Latour's. St. Thomas is the patron saint of our church community. He teaches us to keep following Jesus even if we are unsure or doubting.

You can look for stories about these saints on line and share them on the day as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School Schedule

- December 9, 16 & 23: yes Sunday School. It's Advent!
- December 30 no Sunday School.
- January 6 (The Epiphany) No Sunday School but Christmas pageant in Church (more details soon)
- January 13 (The Baptism of Jesus) there will be baptisms in church!

St. Nicholas' Party

Our St. Nicholas' Party will be after Church on Sunday, December 9. There will be games and good food and a visit from the saint himself. We will also decorate a tree with Advent symbols. If you can bring some food to share, that would be great

Advent Supplies

I have a supply of Advent candles and candle rings available in the narthex. Check out your supply and stock up. Candles are \$2 for four and the rings are \$3 a piece. There are free prayer cards as well.

Christmas Eve Service

There will be a 4:30 pm Service on Christmas Eve geared toward children. We are trying something different this year and not having a pageant, but making the Service much more child-friendly throughout.

Next Sunday (12/9) I will have available a few portions of the Children's Christmas Eve Service that the children may practice ahead of time so they can better participate.

The Epiphany, January 6

Epiphany falls on a Sunday this year and we will do a simple pageant that day. I'd like to

hand out parts ahead of time (only a few parts will have any speaking). We will need a Mary and a Joseph, an angel, a shepherd, a sheep, and three wise men (or women). Let me know now if you want a specific part.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

1. I need two or three people to help make the Epiphany pageant happen. Let me know.
2. I am hoping to have an occasional Sunday upstairs, or working with the adult class, so if you are willing to take the odd Sunday with the kids let me know. If we have a group I can do a little Godly Play training.

Have a blessed week!

Michael