

# FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2023/2024

SAINT PATRICK'S & SAINT LUKE'S



# THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- To help you learn more about God so that you can deepen your own personal relationship with Him.
- To give you the confidence to speak about your Catholic faith with others.
- To help you as you guide your children in their own personal relationship with God.
- To provide you with an opportunity to spend more time with your immediate family and also with our parish family.
- To provide you with a short time for prayer and an opportunity to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

# THE PURPOSE OF FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

- The Catechism of the Catholic Church is divided into 4 sections. They are:
  - The Creed – What we believe
  - The Sacraments – How we are sanctified
  - The Commandments – How we are to live
  - Prayer – How we relate and interact with God
- This year we will be studying the Sacraments

# ADVENT REMINDERS

- Advent is late this year and will be short.
- Christmas will be on a Monday. Plan to attend Mass twice on that week. Once for Sunday and once for Christmas.

# ADVENT REMINDERS

- Advent has a twofold character: for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas ...
- in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered ...

# ADVENT REMINDERS

- and likewise when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.
- For these two reasons, Advent is a period for devout and expectant delight (Norms 39).

# ADVENT REMINDERS

- During Advent ...
  - Use your Advent Wreaths
  - Use the Sacrament of Penance before Christmas.
  - Decorating the Church 12/18 SP 9 a.m. after Mass
  - Decorating the Church 12/19 SL 9 a.m. after Mass

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- A word about the Christmas Season
- It begins on Christmas Eve and continues through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 8<sup>th</sup>.



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- There are three Masses for Christmas:
  - Mass at Midnight
  - Mass at Dawn
  - Mass during the Day

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Christmas comes from the Old English words “*Cristes-messe*” which means Christ’s Mass – that is the Mass celebrated in honor of Christ Himself on His birthday.
- Christmas is one of five holydays we observe in the United States (the others are Mary, the Mother of God, the Assumption of Mary, All Saints Day and the Immaculate Conception).

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Holydays of Obligation often fall on weekdays but are treated like Sundays for us.
- Therefore, we must attend Mass on Holydays, and they are also to be days of rest ...
- When they fall on Saturday or Monday, several are not observed (Christmas and the Immaculate Conception are observed).

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Christmas is always observed. When it falls on a Sunday, it takes the place of the Sunday Mass Prayers.
- This year Christmas is on a Monday.
- The Sunday after Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family.

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Mary, Mother of God is on New Year's Day (which falls on Monday this year and is therefore not observed as a holy day of obligation).
- The Solemnity of the Epiphany (the Feast of the three Kings) is on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is on January 8<sup>th</sup>, and it marks the end of the Christmas Season.
- Ordinary Time begins on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

When Jesus was born, He fulfilled many prophecies:

- He was of the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:8-13)
- He would be a descendent of David (Is 11:1)
- He was born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- He was born of a virgin (Is 7:14)

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Christmas Trees are evergreens and symbolize new life in Christ
- Ornaments symbolize the fruit eaten by Adam and Eve
- Lights symbolize the light of Christ



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Candy Canes symbolize Jesus the good shepherd.
- They are red and white, the red symbolizes the blood of Christ which washes away our sins and makes our souls pure and white.
- The bold stripe represents the one true God and the three red stripes the Trinity

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Gift giving has several traditions
- One is in imitation of our Father's gift to us, His Son Jesus Christ
- A second is in imitation of the Magi's gifts to the Christ Child
- A third is in imitation of Saint Nicholas

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- The Nativity Scene or Creche ...
- This tradition began with Saint Francis in 1223. He prepared a manger and brought an ox and ass.
- As prayers were said, the baby Jesus appeared and was held by Saint Francis.

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- The Twelve Days of Christmas are counted from Christmas Day through January 5<sup>th</sup> which is Epiphany Eve.
- Epiphany marks the beginning of the last part of the Christmas Season.



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Christmas Carols
- Christmas Foods
- Christmas Cards



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- To make a worthy Confession:
- There must be contrition that includes
  - Sorrow for sins
  - Resolution to sin no more
- Confession of all Mortal sins
- Perform one's penance

# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Jesus came to save us from our sins.
- This explains the tradition of seeking forgiveness and confessing our sins as a way of preparing for our Christmas celebrations.

# HOMEWORK

- Parents at Home:
  - Read from the Catechism:
    - CCC 522-526 (Preparing for Christmas)
    - CCC 325-354 (Creator of Heaven and Earth)
  - Watch the videos on Christmas.

# HOMEWORK

- Parents at Home:
  - See that your children complete their homework assignments.
  - Use an Advent Wreath and Advent Calendar.
  - Take your children to Confession in Advent.
  - Give something to those in need and have your children do something as well.