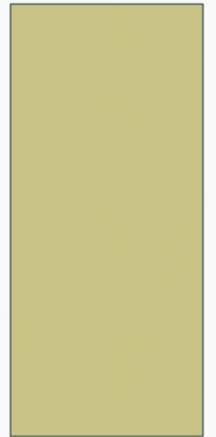


# FAMILY FAITH FORMATION – 2025/2026

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 Prayer

# ADVENT

- 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; 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

- Before considering Advent in greater detail, we need to understand the Liturgical Year, its purpose and how it works ...

# ADVENT



# ADVENT

- There are many different calendars ...
  - Gregorian Calendar
  - Julian Calendar
  - Jewish Calendar
  - Chinese Calendar
  - Mayan Calendar

# ADVENT

- All have their various feasts and seasons.
- Some are lunar calendars. They calculate their dates and seasons with reference to the moon.
- Some solar calendars. They calculate their dates and seasons with reference to the sun.

# ADVENT

- The liturgical calendar is neither.
- It bases its seasons and feasts with reference to the life of Christ.
- Its purpose is to review the 33 years of the life of Jesus Christ over the course of one year.

# ADVENT

- There are five seasons in the Liturgical Year. They are:
  - Advent
  - Christmas
  - Ordinary Time
  - Lent
  - Easter
  - Ordinary Time (again)

# ADVENT

- The two great feasts around which all the other feasts and seasons are built are:

Easter

&

Christmas

# ADVENT

- Easter celebrates our Lord's Resurrection from the dead.
- By our Lord's death and Resurrection, He conquered sin, Satan and death.
- He also liberated us from these things.

# ADVENT

- To prepare for Easter, we have the Season of Lent.
- Lent is a period of 40 days in which we pray, fast and give alms as ways of purifying ourselves of sin.

# ADVENT

- Lent concludes with the Sacred Three Days – The Sacred Triduum:
  - Holy Thursday
  - Good Friday
  - Holy Saturday

# ADVENT

- The Easter Season begins with the Easter Vigil.
- It continues for 50 days and ends with the great Solemnity of Pentecost.

# ADVENT

- Christmas celebrates the Incarnation and the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Christmas is observed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and is the traditional date of the birth of Christ.
- Christian writers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century referred to this date decades before the Roman feast of the unconquered sun was instituted.

# ADVENT

- To prepare for Christmas, we have the Season of Advent.
- Advent is a period of four weeks in which we prepare and look forward to our celebration of Christmas. Again, our preparations involve spiritual works.

# ADVENT

- The Christmas Season begins after sundown on Christmas Eve.
- It continues through the Solemnity of the Epiphany – traditionally 12 days after Christmas – on January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- It ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – Usually the Sunday after Epiphany.

# ADVENT

- Ordinary Time has two segments
- The first between the Christmas Season and Lent.
- The second between the Easter Season and Advent.

# ADVENT

- The Liturgical Year begins:
  - On the First Sunday of Advent
- The Liturgical Year ends:
  - On the Solemnity of Christ the King

# ADVENT

- During the Liturgical Year we review:
  - The time before the coming of the Lord
  - The Nativity (birth) of Jesus Christ
  - The coming of the Wise Men (Magi)
  - The Baptism of the Lord
  - His time of teaching
  - His suffering and death
  - His Resurrection
  - His Ascension into heaven
  - The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost

ADVENT

A photograph of four lit purple candles in the foreground, with a bokeh background of warm, golden lights. The word "ADVENT" is overlaid in white serif font in the center-right of the image.

ADVENT

# ADVENT

- The first Sunday of Advent reminds us that just as Christ came first when He was born in Bethlehem, so He will come again at the end of the world.
- However, at this second coming, He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

# ADVENT

- Advent then takes us back to the time before Christ's coming.
- We hear of the Israelite's longing for the coming of the Messiah.
- There is a mournful quality – how much longer must we wait?

# ADVENT

- Spiritually, we can place ourselves in that position and consider what it was like before Christ came.
- We can listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah.

# ADVENT

- We can prepare ourselves and make straight the way of the Lord into our hearts.
- We can cast out sinful habits and renew our desires to serve God in all things.

# ADVENT

- Saint John the Baptist calls us to conversion.
- He invites us to be washed of our sins as were the people who went to the Jordan River to be baptized by him.

# ADVENT

On the last Sunday of Advent, our Blessed Lady appears as well, and we are reminded that her days of confinement are almost complete and she will soon give birth to the Savior of the world.

# ADVENT

- The last seven days of Advent prepare us in a more immediate way for the celebration of Christmas.
- During this time, we sing the “O Antiphons.”

# ADVENT



# ADVENT

- These can be found in the Hymn, O Come, O Come Immanuel. They are based on titles of Christ found in Isaiah:
  - 17 December: O Sapientia – Wisdom
  - 18 December: O Adonai – Lord
  - 19 December: O Radix Jesse – Root of Jesse
  - 20 December: O Clavis David – Key of David
  - 21 December: O Oriens – Morning Star/Dayspring
  - 22 December: O Rex Gentium King of Nations
  - 23 December: O Emmanuel – God with us

# ADVENT

- Advent Colors:
- Purple symbolizing preparation.
- Rose on the Third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday) – a mixture of purple and white symbolizing Christmas is near.

# ADVENT



# ADVENT

- Use this Season of Advent.
  - Spend extra time in prayer and reflection.
  - Use an Advent Wreath in your home.
  - Use an Advent Calendar.
  - Guard against the pagan spirit of "the Holidays."
  - Use the Sacrament of Penance and go to Confession.

# ADVENT

- Important Advent Feasts:
  - Saint Nicholas December 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Immaculate Conception December 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12<sup>th</sup>

# HOMework

- Parents at Home:
  - Read from the Catechism:
    - CCC 522-526 (Preparing for Christmas)
    - You are encouraged to continue reading.
  - Watch the two short videos on Advent.

# 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.
- Talk about Saint Nicholas and the spirit of giving. Celebrate his feastday.
- Give something to those in need and have your children do something as well.

# FAMILY PRAYER

