

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

- As we have entered into Advent, a reminder that we have:
 - Advent Candles and Wreaths
 - Word Among Us Booklets
 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
 - Extra Times for Confessions
 - Decorating the Church 12/21 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 11th.

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 Thursday.
- The Sunday after is the Feast of the Holy Family.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- Mary, Mother of God is on New Year's Day but is not observed as a Holyday this year because it falls on a Thursday.
- The Solemnity of the Epiphany (the Feast of the three Kings) is on Sunday, January 4th.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

- The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is on January 11th, and it marks the end of the Christmas Season.
- Ordinary Time begins on January 12th.

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 5th which should be Epiphany Eve (but gets moved to closes Sunday).
- 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 522-534 (Preparing for Christmas)
 - You are encouraged to continue reading.
 - Watch the three short videos on Christmas

HOMEWORK

- Parents at Home:
 - See that your children complete their homework assignments.
 - Sing Christmas Carols with your family
 - Take your children to Confession in Advent
 - Talk about Saint Nicholas and the spirit of giving
 - Set up a Nativity Scene in your home
 - Read Chapters 1 and 2 of Saint Luke's Gospel to your children

FAMILY PRAYER

