



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF
ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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Dear Parents:

As we mentioned in the E-Newsletter, we are excited to embark on our 3rd annual “**Home for the Holidays**” **Advent home packet**. In the last couple of years we have been really encouraged that so many families have commented how nice it was to have this opportunity to share time and faith with their family. Of course, we can and should do this anytime, but this initiative seems to give people more space to do so.

You may remember from previous years. Instead of meeting here for regular Faith Formation sessions, we are providing materials for you and your family to share faith with each other during the Advent season (see next page). No having to juggle schedules and physically come to Seton. You will be able to do the activities - when you want, where you want and in the comfy confines of your home. ***Not only will this save time, but more importantly it will provide a great opportunity to share your thoughts, feelings and faith with one another on a deeper level.***

Find a time that works best for your family... *perhaps it is the time they are normally in their faith formation group.* **Do the activities together as a family and then turn in the Completion Form** to the Children’s or Youth Ministry Office **when you return in January.** *(You only need to turn in one Completion Form per family (not matter how many kids you may have).*

Please let us know if you have any questions. We pray that you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas Season!

Enjoy being “Home for the Holidays”
God Bless and we will see you at Mass!

-Seton Faith Formation Staff

Preschool 3-4's - Kinder Faith Formation

At Home Session - Advent Packet

Parents and Guardians,

It is extremely important that parents be involved in the faith formation of their children. Many of you are very active here at Seton and in our Children's Ministry programs, teaching and aiding the program in many ways. We wish to give you the opportunity to work with your child one on one with the Advent lesson. Please complete the lesson and activities listed below with your child at home.

1. Read Advent - We Prepare for Jesus
2. Complete Coloring Sheet
3. Complete Advent Bell Activity

Advent - We Prepare for Jesus

Advent is the first season of the Church Year. It is a four week season of hope and expectation. It is a wonderful time of preparation for the great feast of Christmas. Advent is a time of reflecting on all that the coming of Jesus means to us and to the world. We are to live Advent. We are to reach out to others during this season and bring them hope. We are to share God's love.

The scripture readings for the first half of Advent speak to us of hope for the future. We focus on the coming of Jesus at the end of time. We live in constant hope and expectation of living with Jesus in glory. The readings for the second half of Advent focus on the coming of Jesus at Bethlehem. God's promise to his people was fulfilled in a way more glorious than anyone could have expected: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). We celebrate all that Jesus' coming means to us.

Jesus is the light of the world. The candles that we light during Advent remind us of his coming as the light of our lives. Uncovering these themes of Advent help children learn that they are to follow him always in all things. Through prayer, service, and participation, children learn the fruits of living in hopeful expectation of the Messiah. Come, Lord Jesus.

Excerpt from Seasons of Celebration by Patricia Mathson.



Jesus, The Light of the World!

Advent Bell Activity

Materials:

- Yellow Bell
- One sheet of red construction paper - 9" x 12"
- One sheet of green construction paper - 9" x 12"
- List of Advent Activities
- Scissors (Adult supervision please.)
- Stapler or Tape



Instructions:

1. Cut out the bell.
2. Cut the red and green construction paper into 1" x 9" strips.
3. Select an activity from the attached list of Advent Activities.
4. After completing the activity add a link to the bell. The first link should be stapled or taped directly to the bottom of the bell. The other links are added by putting the paper strip through the last loop and stapling or taping the ends together. Alternate red and green links.
5. After adding a link to the chain say the following prayer:

God, we wait for the coming of your Son, Jesus, into our hearts and our lives this Advent. Help us to always follow him as the light of the world. Amen.

6. Select another activity from the Advent Activities list and repeat steps 4-5. Creating new activities or repeating an activity is acceptable. By adding the links to the Advent Bell the children are living Advent - preparing for the coming of Jesus.

Bonus Activities:

Add two links after attending Mass.

Add five links if your family participates in the Giving Tree Ministry.

Advent Activities

The Advent season is a time of reaching out to others with love and care.

Children must understand that during this season they too are called to help others. Discuss with the students ways they can reach out to others. Encourage students to contribute their own ideas. Advent opportunities for service include:



- praying for people in need
- giving blankets to the homeless
- introducing a new child to others
- sending Christmas greeting cards
- trimming a tree at a nursing home
- treating others with respect
- baking cookies and giving them away
- helping a younger child with schoolwork
- contributing to a children's hospital
- celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation
- sharing belongings with a friend.

These and other actions help children live the spirit of love, the spirit of the Advent season. Use these actions as starting points for reflection on the kind of people God calls us to be. *From Seasons of Celebration by Patricia Mathson*



Christmas
Is
Coming!

“Home for the Holidays” - Completion Form

We, as a family, have shared faith and completed the
“Home for the Holidays” activities.

Child(ren)’s Names

(please list all of your kids in the Faith Formation/CREW Program)

What we learned...

Feedback/Input (*positive or negative*) on the process or activities...

Parent Signature

Please turn this page in (*one per family*) to one of the Faith Formation Offices, when you return in January. **Thank you and God Bless!**