

December Faith Formation - SJCS

December is the month of the Holy Infancy. We celebrate the Incarnation – God becoming Man. Of course the highlight of the month is the Solemnity we call Christmas!

But before we get to the feast we prepare during the season of Advent.

December 2 is the beginning of the season of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year.

With the start of Advent, you will likely see an Advent wreath as well as splashes of purple around the church. By now, you have heard Advent described as the four-week period prior to Christmas when Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ.

So, why the purple? Violet or purple is a penitential color. That means that the color reminds us of our need to repent and change our hearts.

Both Advent and Lent have penitential themes. Lent is a longer, more intense time of spiritual recollection and penance.

Advent is a more hopeful season and our acts of penance are part of our preparation for the Lord's coming both now and at the end of time.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.



Saint of the Month



December 6: Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Saint Nicholas is one of the best known and best loved of the Saints. On his feast day, tangerines are often given as a symbol of the gold he gave in order to save three daughters whose father was going to sell them into slavery. Candy canes are also offered as a reminder of Bishop Nicholas' crosier, or bishop's staff. Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of children and an excellent example of GENEROSITY.

Pray for all children who are victims of abuse and violence. In honor of Saint Nicholas' generosity, make a special effort to give care, kindness, and time to those around you.

Service of the Month

TOY DRIVE FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WILL RUN 3-19 DECEMBER. WE WILL PRESENT THESE ITEMS AT MASS ON THE 20TH.

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Parish Activities

CHECK THE BULLETIN FOR MASS TIMES HERE OR IN YOUR PARISH ESPECIALLY FOR CHRISTMAS



School Activities

DEC 6 – SCHOOL MASS 8:15 am

DEC 13 – SCHOOL MASS 8:15

DEC 14 – MOVIE NIGHT, 6 PM

DEC 17-20 – SANTA SHOP

DEC 20 - SCHOOL MASS 8:15

DEC 20 – CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
6 PM - CAFETERIA

DEC 21 – NOON DISMISSAL

DEC 22-JAN 7: NO SCHOOL –
CHRISTMAS BREAK

JAN 8, 2019 – 2D SEMESTER BEGINS

DECEMBER VIRTUES

GENEROSITY: Giving without counting the cost

PATIENCE: Waiting or enduring without complaint

PURITY: Keeping your soul free of sin

(Please reinforce at home)

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a popular custom that is celebrated in churches and homes all over the world. Its origins go back to pagan times. Its Christian symbolism was introduced in Germany in the 1600s.

The wreath is made of a circle of evergreens in which are placed three purple candles and one pink (rose) candle.

The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that the love of God is without beginning or end.

The evergreens represent the hope of everlasting, or eternal, happiness.

The candles remind us that Jesus, the Light of the World, came to Earth to overcome the darkness of sin and selfishness.

The purple candles represent our need to prepare for the coming of the Savior, and the pink (rose) candle—lit on the Third Sunday of Advent—reminds us to be joyful, for the coming of the Lord is near!

