

Religious Ed. Office
Mon. – Fri. 10:00am – 4:00pm
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Religious Education

December 2023



Advent 2023

Advent begins Sunday, December 3. The Advent season is a time to prepare in joyful anticipation for the coming of God's great gift of his Son, Jesus. It is also a time to think about how ready we are to receive Jesus whenever he comes to us: in those who are in need; in the Eucharist at Mass; and at the end of time when Jesus comes to us in glory. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and souls to celebrate the birth of the Messiah.



Advent materials with scripture readings, meditations and activities were sent to families and/or given to students to help prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Students' Sunday Offerings

Each year at this time we remind our students that we're all called to assist in the ministries of the Church. A box of 52 personal "Student Offering Envelopes" is offered to each student each New Year. Each student is encouraged to get in the habit of dropping an envelope in the collection basket each week. If your child has not received a box, or is in need of a new supply, please let us know.

Christmas Gift Collections

The Religious Education Program continues to partner with the Peace & Justice Ministry and the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the Christmas Gift collection to help our local families and neighbors in need. Please choose a "gift Tag" in the Atrium in support of this ministry sometime soon and reply to its request by Sunday Dec. 11th.



Students are also encouraged to share donations of hats, mittens and scarves, during December, for those in need throughout these winter months.

Christmas 2023

Families who wish to assist in various ministries at our 4:00 and 6:30 Christmas Eve Mass are asked to call or e-mail our Rel. Ed Office as soon as possible. We will need Readers, Greeters and Participants in portraying our "Living Creche". Please call us at 717-235-2156 Ext 225 or e-mail us at reled@sjbnf.org

"Keeping Christ in Christmas" Contest

Our Knights of Columbus have invited all our students (ages 5 through 14) to participate in a "Keeping Christ in Christmas" Contest. Entrants compete in three age groups: 5-7, 8-10 and 11-14. Each poster must reflect the theme and must be an original work of the artist (including concept, layout, slogan, and visual image.) All entries must have their first name and last name, grade and age posted on the back of the entry. All entries must be submitted by Sunday, December 10th. Prizes will be awarded to each age group.

We continue to give thanks!

We continue to be grateful for your child's faithful attendance, and your at-home support as we gather and worship each week, to nurture your child's Faith development. Our abounding thanks also to all our Catechists and Aides who untiringly prepare for their classes as they witness their great love for our Faith with your children.

Holy Day - Feast of Immaculate Conception

***Please Note:** Thursday Night Rel. Ed Classes will begin at 6:30 on Thursday Dec. 7th. Students will attend the 7:00 Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Dismissal will be from the Main Church on Thursday Dec. 7th. Families are invited to join our students and attend the 7:00pm Vigil Mass with them. There will also be a 9:00am and 7:00pm Mass on Friday Dec. 8th.

Brighten Our Foundation

Let's continue to keep our Parish Renovation project in prayerful remembrance. In addition to asking that you and your family be knowledgeable and supportive of this project, we ask that you pray, as a family, for the support of this project and the ongoing needs of St. John's.

Please Pray:

O God, creator, and giver of all good things, bless our Parish family, strengthen our faith, and grant us the spirit of sacrifice. With your grace may we revive the gift of our faith, restore our parish facilities, and rejoice in the blessings you still have in store for us. May we glorify you and grow in love for you as a community of faith, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

"Teen Disciples"

Living as a Catholic in high school is a challenge. St. John's Teen Disciples ministry offers high schoolers a chance to gather, to pray together and to explore the faith in a casual atmosphere. They make time for conversation – and eating too. They just started the "Venture" series: The Bible Timeline for High School. It's a video series which presents the "big picture" of salvation history in a way that is simple to understand. Meetings are held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 in the YM Room. now known as "Teen Disciples," are invited and encouraged to take advantage of the great opportunities offered on Wed. evenings at 6:00pm in the Youth Ministry Room. Contact the Rel. Ed Office or Amy Snyder at snyderfam9@verizon.net for more information.

Weather Cancellations

We follow the **Southern York County School District** cancellation schedule when the school district closes or dismisses early for inclement weather, we **will not** have Religious Education Classes. Any cancellation of classes will be posted on the Religious Education Office voice mail (**717-235-2156, ext. 225**) by 3:30 PM on Wed. & Thurs. and after 8:00 AM on Sunday. **Since** our students come from many areas throughout Southern York County and Northern Maryland, we tend to lean toward the cautious side concerning the safety of our students. If the weather is at all questionable, please call the Rel. Ed. Office at 717-235-2156 ext. 225, to make sure that we are having classes.

Upcoming 2024 Events

Mon. Jan. 1 – **Solemnity of Mary- Happy New Year!**
Wed. 3rd, Thur. Jan 4th. Sun. 7th Religious Ed Classes Resume
Sun Jan 14 -Gr.1- 11:00am Mass followed by Family Prayer # 2
Sun Jan 28 – Gr.2 11:00am Mass followed by Family Prayer #3

*Have a Blessed and Happy Christmas, and
a Holy, Peace-filled New Year 2024*