

ADVENT 2021

ST. MARK CONNECTIONS



IMPORTANT Dates

November 28
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6
SAINT NICHOLAS FEAST DAY

December 8
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 12
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

December 25
NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(CHRISTMAS)

December 26
THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MARK

 November 2021						
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
28 Mass (8:00am) Wonderful Life Study (9:15am)	29 Mass (5:30pm) Wonderful Life Study (6:15pm)	30				

 December 2021						
Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 K-8 RE Class (6:15-7:30pm) Communal Reconciliation (6:30pm)	2 Mass (5:30pm)	3	4 IMPACT (9am-3pm)
5 Mass (8:00am) Wonderful Life Study (9:15am)	6 Mass (5:30pm) Wonderful Life Study (6:15pm)	7	8 K-8 RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)	9 Mass (5:30pm)	10	11
12 Mass (8:00am) Wonderful Life Study (9:15am)	13 Mass (5:30pm) Wonderful Life Study (6:15pm)	14	15 K-8 RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)	16 Mass (5:30pm)	17	18
19 Mass (8:00am) Breakfast in Parish Hall (9:15am) RE Christmas Program (9:45am)	20 Mass (5:30pm) Wonderful Life Study (6:15pm)	21	22 K-8 RE Class (6:15-7:30pm)	23 Mass (5:30pm)	24 Christmas Eve Mass (6:30pm)	25 Christmas Mass (9:00am)

We hope you will mark your calendars and join us!

Watch our Facebook pages for updates:

* StMark Iowa-Falls * Mary Mark * Franklin Hardin Catholics



Ideas for your family to grow in the faith this season!

Advent Brings a New Liturgical Calendar

Our new Church calendar begins the First Sunday of Advent

- Why does the Church have a different calendar? Why is this calendar important?: <https://shrineofstjude.org/learn/liturgical-seasons/about-the-liturgical-calendar/>
- The Liturgical Calendar helps us journey with Jesus: <https://teachingcatholickids.com/the-liturgical-year-a-journey-with-jesus/>
- Pick up a copy of the current Liturgical Calendar in the church entrances.

Advent... Let us Prepare for Our Savior's Birth

Learn more about this important time in the Church year.

- Five Fast Facts About Advent: <https://cathfamily.org/5-fast-facts-about-advent>
- Don't let your family be too busy to lose focus of what this season is truly about. www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/young-voices/busy-catholics-guide-advent-10-tips-observing-season
- The Advent Wreath is more than a decoration. Here are prayers to say while lighting it each week. www.catholicyc.ca/blog/advent-wreath-at-home
- How do you set up your Creche/Nativity Scene? Our RE Christmas program last year focused on just this topic. It will be made available again this year on our Facebook page, or contact Brenda Strayer to have a copy emailed to you.
- See below for ideas of way to grow in your faith at St. Mark this Advent Season.

Local Advent Faith Formation Offerings

We hope you will take advantage of some of the following as we prepare for Our Savior's arrival. Materials in church entrances.

- **Magnificat Advent Reflections** - Booklet of daily devotional reflections for each day of Advent.
- **"Little Blue Book"** - Booklet of daily reflections for each day of Advent.
- **Blessed is She** - This Daily Journal for women offered for the Advent and Christmas season. Cost of book \$15. Contact Brenda Strayer ASAP if you are interested in a book.
- **Word Among Us** - Daily meditations for Advent.
- **Advent Video Bible Study Series** - A 4-session Bible Study based around the scenes and themes of the beloved Christmastime film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, emphasizing that it is Christ who makes our life precious. In-person gathered sessions will be held following Sunday morning and Monday evening Masses. If interested in a virtual option, let Brenda Strayer know.

Saint Nicholas Feast Day - December 6

Learn more about this Saint that is more known as "Santa Claus"

- As a family, make the recipe below as you discuss who this man was.
- Learn more about St. Nicholas and the many ways you can celebrate him and his life at: www.catholicicing.com/how-to-celebrate-st-nicholas-day-ideas-printables-and-more

End of the Year of Saint Joseph

Advent 2021 - Journey With St. Joseph

The Year of St. Joseph comes to a close on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2021. Sign up for this daily email series (and encourage parishioners to do so) and continue to honor St. Joseph as we enter into the Advent season. Spend a few moments each day of Advent on a Journey With St. Joseph, and explore Joseph as a man of courage, love, and acceptance. The messages also include suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through additional online articles and prayers. Sign up at www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/advent-year-in-our-church to receive the daily messages beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021, through Christmas.

Immaculate Conception - December 8

Do you know what this day is truly about?

This is probably the most misunderstood celebration in the Church.

- Eight things you need to know about Immaculate Conception: www.ncregister.com/blog/8-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-immaculate-conception
- Honor Mary by crowning her with flowers. www.proflowers.com/blog/how-to-make-a-flower-crown
- Learn about the origins of the Rosary and ways it can nurture our Catholic faith. www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/overviews/months/10_1.cfm

Our Lady of Guadalupe - December 12

The Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego with an angel and moon at her feet, and rays of sunlight that encircle her.

- Learn more about this feast day here: www.catholic.org/about/guadalupe.php
- Prayer to the Virgin of Guadalupe: www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=1553
- Watch this video of the story of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady for children: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfk0dmFHhRI

Life with Saints

Each month we will learn about one saint celebrated that month.

Saint of the Month

SAINT NIKOLAAS (ST. NICHOLAS) - OCTOBER 5

Nicholas lived in the fourth century and was bishop of Myra, now in southwestern Turkey. A fictitious biography written by Methodius in the ninth century contains all the miracles and legends we now associate with St. Nicholas. These were spread over Europe and was especially strong in Holland and Belgium. In Holland he has a helper who hands out cookies before the arrival of St. Nicholas on December 6.

The invention of "Santa Claus" can be traced back to the legend of Nicholas and his love for children. The custom of the Dutch Protestants who founded New York of giving presents on his feast day was combined with Nordic folktales about a magician punishing naughty children while rewarding good ones. This gave us the present-day image of Santa Claus.

Nicholas is one of the patron saints of Greece and Russia. In addition, his duties include being patron saint of children, sailors, perfumiers and pawnbrokers. Each of these patronages can be traced to a specific legends written over the centuries.

Cooking with Saint Nikolaas/Saint Nicholas

Speculaas

1 C sugar
1 C brown sugar
1 C shortening
1/2 C butter
1/2 C condensed milk
4 Tbsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp each: nutmeg, cloves, salt
4 C flour
1 tsp baking soda
1/2 C slivered almonds, crushed (optional)

- Mix together the sugars, shortening, and butter. Add the condensed milk and spices and gradually blend in the flour and baking soda. Crush the almonds with a rolling pin and mix in. The dough will be somewhat stiff. Roll into logs covered with plastic or waxed paper.
- Leave in refrigerator overnight.
- Cut onto slices and place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven at 375* for around 10 minutes. Makes about 80 cookies.
- Traditionally Speculaas are imprinted with some pattern created by a wooden mold. If you imprint the cookies with such a mold, they will look better.