

ST. MARK FAITH FORMATION

Advent 2020 - UPDATE

Happy (Liturgical) New Year!! As we begin a new calendar year in the church this weekend with Advent, I wanted to send out a quick Faith Formation update on focusing on Advent or Christmas.

- 1) **December RE Family Session** – Mark your calendars... our next family session will be held on Wednesday, December 16 (6:30pm via Zoom). We will be doing a special activity using Nativity sets. Please have your family's nativity set nearby during our session. If you do not have one or it is not possible to be near yours, please print off the nativity color pages attached to this email and have them available. (Feel free to color them prior to our session if you'd like.) *I will also have some copies available in the chapel entrance for anyone wanting to pick them up.* This will be in place of our Christmas Program this year.
- 2) **Advent Blessings Booklet** – While we cannot gather as normal during this special time of the year and with all the gathering changes many are struggling. I encourage you to spend some extra time with your youth and help them reflect on their blessings each day. There were special booklet forms in the recent materials bags for each of your children. You can use those as a way of keeping track and possible reflection in the future.
- 3) **Mary's Meals apparel** – Buy gifts that help others this Christmas season. We are currently selling apparel items for youth and adults with all proceeds going toward Mary's Meals through *Sunday, December 13*. The purchase of every item will feed one child for an entire year!! Attached is a catalog to look through to see the variety of items offered. Payments can be made in cash, check or online and we can arrange contactless pick-up. Orders will be placed with me. **ALL ITEMS WILL BE HERE BEFORE CHRISTMAS!!** Let me know if you have any questions regarding orders.
- 4) **Mass Reflections** – Please watch our Facebook page weekly for discussion questions to help you focus on that weekend's Gospel reading.
- 5) **Advent Reflection on FORMED** – Check out our social media pages for ways to grow during this Advent season using FORMED. This is a great Catholic resource with a wide variety of materials written, audio, or video.
- 6) **Advent Materials** – Special Advent materials have been provided for all parishioners.
 - a. *Advent Pamphlet* – Handed out in the recent materials bags with weekly prayers and reflections.
 - b. *Magnificat Booklets* – Special Advent Companion booklets are available in each church entrance, free for all.
 - c. *Blessed is She books* – There are still a few of these daily reflection journals for women available. Contact me ASAP if interested.

As always, thank you for all your support of the St. Mark Faith Formation programming.

Brenda Strayer

St. Mark Director of Faith Formation