

PARENT PAGE

DECEMBER 2006

ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
2001 Woodman Drive, Kettering, OH 45420 254-0622

DECEMBER 8 –Friday
Immaculate Conception

10 - Sunday
Second Sun. of Advent
9:00am RCIA
10:15am Gr. 6-8
10:30am Early Childhood

11 - Monday
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8

17 - Sunday
Third Sunday of Advent
9:00am RCIA
10:15am Gr. 6-8/Prayer
10:30am Early Childhood
Advent Celebration

18 - Monday
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8/Prayer

24 - Sunday
NO CLASSES

25 - Monday
Christmas
NO CLASSES

31—Sunday
NO CLASSES

JANUARY 1 - Monday
Mary, Mother of God
NO CLASSES

4- Thursday
6:45pm Education Comm.

7—Sunday
Epiphany
9:00am RCIA
10:15am Gr. 6-8
10:30am Early Childhood

8 - Monday
Baptism of the Lord
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
4:30pm First Reconciliation Parent Meeting
6:30pm Gr. 6-8
7:00pm First Reconciliation Parent Meeting

14—Sunday
9:00am RCIA
10:15am Gr. 6-8
10:30am Early Childhood

15—Monday
4:15pm Gr. 1-5
6:30pm Gr. 6-8

Advent begins December 3rd!

The students are observing Advent in the classroom with a variety of activities.

On the pamphlet rack in the upstairs connector, we have available a number of handouts containing family ideas for celebrating Advent and the Christmas season in the home. Please take one!

Advent is a time of expectation and waiting for the coming of Christ - in the past, as an infant born in a Bethlehem stable; in the present, as he comes into our lives as Savior, Healer, and Friend; and in the future, as he comes as the Messiah who will reign forever.

The First Sunday of Advent is also the beginning of the church year. We are entering Cycle C of the three year cycle;

the Gospel according to Luke will be read during Cycle C.

We encourage you to make use of the blue Advent booklet that the parish has made available at the entrances to the church and Car Chat, which we sent home last month. What a great way to prepare for Mass or to reflect on the readings after Mass!

We also encourage you to pray around the Advent wreath each day with your children.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD ...

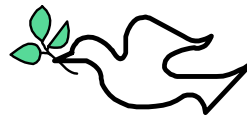
is celebrated during the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses each Sunday for kindergarteners, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders. It is a time for the children to hear the readings proclaimed and discussed on their level, pray the Apostle's Creed, and offer up their own petitions. To eliminate distractions, younger siblings should attend ONLY if accompanied by a parent. As we keep our focus on worshipping the Lord, we are asking parents to reinforce the fact that this is a special time for K-3rd graders to hear and discuss God's Word according to their needs, concerns and spiritual level. The volunteers of CLW feel honored to share this experience with your children.

Growing Peace at Ascension

Thanks to those families who took the Family Pledge of Nonviolence and returned their doves. The doves are displayed on the wall outside the RE Office.

Classes have signed the **Classroom Pledge**. Grades 6-8 signed the **School Pledge** in September; elementary grades signed the **School Pledge** at their Thanksgiving Mass.

Each month the RE classes work on a component of the Pledge. The concept for December is "**TO PLAY CREATIVELY**," which is covered on pp. 19-21 of *Families Creating Circles of Peace*. We encourage you to talk to your children about media violence, the use of toy weapons, and violent play. This would be a good opportunity to talk about avoiding entertainment that makes



violence look exciting, funny, or acceptable.

Congratulations to the Peacemakers of the month for October: Lauren Breitenstein (Gr. 4) and Joel Stewart (Gr. 7). They have received "peace bears" and all students nominated will receive "peacemaker ribbons."

FAMILY RITUAL IDEA

Decorate a large white pillar candle - the Christ candle - and add it to the center of your Advent wreath or use it on the dinner table throughout the Christmas season, beginning on Christmas Eve until the Feast of Jesus' Baptism on January 8.

Blessing

Lord, bless each member of our family. Allow us always to walk as children of the light. Bless also our food and drink which we are about to share and help us to remember that all good gifts come from you. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Early Childhood

On December 17, the children will make an Advent craft and have refreshments during class. After Mass, parents are asked to pick up the children in the PAC.

Middle School

Service opportunities in December: Christmas caroling (Dec. 9), Christmas Dinner at Twin Towers (Dec. 22). See the Youth Ministry web page (www.ascensionkettering.org/youth-ministry) for further details. Each 6th grade student should choose at least one service opportunity during the year; 7th graders - at least two; 8th graders - at least three.

First Reconciliation

Parents will meet on January 8 in the Witzman Center to discuss ideas for final preparations for First Reconciliation on February 10. There will be two sessions: 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 7:00-8:00 p.m. Please choose the session that best fits your schedule. Parents are reminded that they should complete the *Celebrating Our Faith* book with their child before January 29.

Confirmation

Sponsor reflection page #1 (Grade 7) and reflection page #3 (Grade 8) are due by Jan. 8. The completed page should be filed in the Confirmation binder. Binders should be turned in to the RE Office by Jan. 8.

Many thanks to the following parents for volunteering their time and talents to making the Gr. 7 Spirit Day in October possible: Theresa Green, Karen Davis, Julie Pietrantonio, Charlene Kochensparger, Kathie Berry, Kate Fleitz, Stacy Mezera, Larry Kremer, and Melissa Fisher.

Thanks also to the Gr. 8 November Spirit Retreat volunteers: Ann Phillips, Stephenie King, Dianne Kinney, Sylvia Stein, Kathy, Dave, and Vicki Hoover, Margaret Wager, Allesandro Rengan, Julie DiNapoli, and Jill Abrams.

Liturgy

Grades 1-5 will have their Advent prayer service on Dec. 4. Grade 7 students will lead the Advent **Middle School** prayer services on Dec. 17-18.

Mission Education

Students in Grades 1-5 will become members of the *Holy Childhood Association* during the Advent prayer service and receive their membership cards and the Advent issue of the *It's Our World* newspaper. The *Holy Childhood Association* is a Church mission organization which helps children in over 100 countries.

Collection

Thank you for your contributions to our Thanksgiving **food collection**, which was given to the Greenmont-Oak Park Church Food Pantry.

During the rest of the year, the students are encouraged to contribute money in class for the Holy Childhood Association.

Education Commission

The Education Commission meets monthly to evaluate and make recommendations about policies and programs affecting Ascension School and Religious Education Programs. The membership consists of three School parents, three RE parents, and one person representing the parish-at-large. Ex-officio members include the School Principal and the Coordinator of Religious Education. The Commission has three committees working on various projects: Technology, Sacramental Preparation, Family Faith Formation. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in the Parish Office Building and are open to interested persons. If you are interested in serving on the Commission or committees, we would be happy to hear from you.

Ascension Sports

Some parents may not be aware that Ascension-sponsored sports are open to both School and RE students. A Sports Handbook and signup schedule were sent home in the October Family Envelope. If you encounter any conflicts with RE classes and sports scheduling, please inform the RE Office.

...also

Classes will not meet on December 24-25 and December 31-January 1. Classes resume on January 7, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Pick up your Epiphany door blessing kit in church!

Prayer for the New Year

O God of time, bless this time that You have given us.
O God of eternity, help us to use the time that we have with our sights set on eternal life with you.
We begin this New Year filled with hope in you.
We start by placing our trust in you.
We believe in You; increase our faith during this year.
And may each day of this year be spent loving You.
May the time that You place in our trust this year be a time of justice.
Help us work towards justice.
O God, we place our lives in Your care this year.
Bless us, our families and our friends, and all those who begin this year in faith, with hope, and in love.
Amen.

Special Offer!

We have copies of *Family Prayer for Family Times: Traditions, Celebrations, and Rituals* available in the RE Office for a \$10 donation. This book, by Kathleen Chesto, shows Catholic families how to begin prayer habits that can enrich their lives. The book includes prayers for celebrating the great feasts of the church year, familiar prayers (rosary, Stations, novenas), as well as prayers for celebrating family events, such as birthdays, meals, births, deaths, getting a driver's license, learning to ride a bike, first day of school.

This would make a great Christmas gift to your family!

May the blessings of peace be upon your family as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior.

Please call or stop by the RE Office if we can be of assistance. You are the most important influence in your child's faith formation; we are here to assist you!

MARYELLEN FARGEY
 Coordinator of Religious Education

254-0622
ascensionre@juno.com