

FAITH FORMATION 2025-26

December 14
2025

Issue #7

Latest news and bulletin updates

Sacramental Preparation:

First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion

Happy Advent! We hope you are enjoying this time of penance and joy. You are welcome to join the entire congregation in our Advent Penance Service but remember, *your* First Reconciliation isn't until March 7th! The **First Reconciliation Retreat is scheduled for Jan 10, 2026** from 9:30-2:00, lunch provided. Also, please sign up for the **Nativity Pageant on Dec 24 at 6:30 p.m.** Pageant Rehearsal is Dec 21st at 9:30 in the Social Hall.

Please see [website](#) for important dates and info!

Confirmation

Have you turned in your Baptismal Certificate?
Have you turned in your sponsor information?
Have you researched your patron saint?
Have you written your letter to the Bishop?
Are you attending Mass regularly and discerning God's plan for you?
Did you 'save the date' for the Penance Service?

The next opportunity for Volunteer Hours is: The **Advent Penance Service, Mon, Dec 15 @ 7 pm.** Greeters, readers, ushers needed - see email to volunteer. The **Winter Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for Jan 17, 2026** beginning with the 9 am Mass until 4 pm, lunch provided.

Please see [website](#) for important dates and info!

Christian Initiation for Children

Please see **both** the First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion and Confirmation sections above.

Please see [website](#) for important dates!

Faith Formation for Parents

Please join us for coffee and donuts while the children are in class. This week *Advent*.

Don't Forget to Volunteer for the Nativity Pageant!

Tips on "How can we explain the Advent to our children?"

Advent is a time of penance and joyful hope - a season of waiting for Jesus's birth, preparing hearts through prayer, kindness, and special traditions. You might:

1. Make and light Advent wreaths (with purple/rose candles for hope, peace, joy, love).
2. Use an Advent calendars that offer daily Bible verses or acts of service to grow closer to God and remember Jesus's birth and final coming.
3. Have an Advent Tree - try waiting to fully decorate your tree until Christmas Eve. Let your bare tree be an "Advent Tree," a symbol of our waiting for the coming of Christ. You can put on a single string of lights/ornament during the first week, then add another every Sunday until Christmas. Or maybe use Jesse Tree ornaments on it.

Family Advent Wreath and Toy Collection Party 2025



Welcome to the season of Advent, a time of preparation and waiting. For four weeks, we will light the candles on our Advent wreath, each one a reminder of the coming of Jesus! We made over 150 Advent wreaths, collected toys for the needy and watched our Confirmandi perform an Advent skit! God is good!

This Month in Faith Formation

Current News:

This month we will continue our *Grace Tour* for grades 3rd through 8th with Father Robert. We will visit the church and talk about God's grace in each of the sacraments. We will visit all the areas of the church where we receive grace in the sacraments. Do you know all the visible signs of invisible grace?

Favorite Picture of the Month
from the *Family Advent Wreath Party*
The Mills families



Favorite Prayer This Month
by David B. Batchelder

God of joy and cheer,
we thank you for your servant,
the good bishop Nicholas.

In loving the poor, he showed us your kindness;
in caring for your children, he revealed your love.

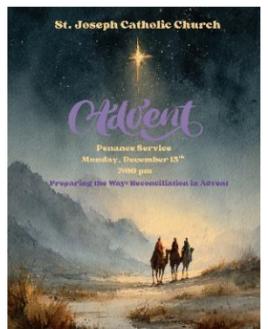
Make us thoughtful without need of reward
so that we, too, may be good followers of Jesus.

A Look Ahead At Tours:

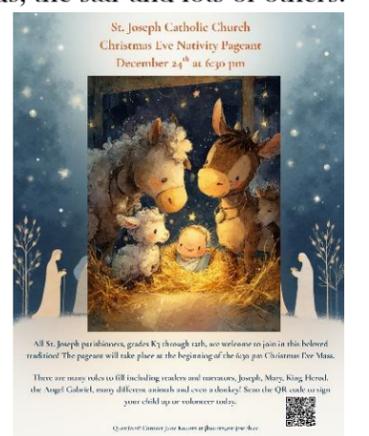
12/14/25 Grace Tour - 3rd-8th
1/18/26 Oils Tour - 2nd-5th
1/25/26 Oils Tour - 6th-8th
Next up: Stations of the Cross Tour

Upcoming:

Advent is almost here! We are looking for teenage volunteers for the **Advent Penance Service**. We need greeters, readers, ushers - see email to volunteer. Confirmandi should plan to attend.



It's time to sign up for the **2025 Nativity Pageant** - we need a narrator, Mary, Joseph, sheep, shepherds, the star and lots of others. Please see email or scan QR code.



Faith Formation Book Club

Don't forget to borrow a book, read it and then let us know if we should buy more to share with your friends in Faith Formation! If you really like it, you can keep it but you have to tell us why you like it first!

A 2-Month Look Ahead At Family Events (save the dates):

12/15/2025 Advent Penance Service
12/24/2025 Nativity Pageant
2/1/26 Candlemas Pancake Breakfast

Grades Pre-K – 5

Meet at SJCS from 9:45-10:45 am

Grades 6-8

Grace Tour

Sign in at SJCS

Communion prep (FHC)

Meet at SJCS from 9:45-10:45 am

Confirmation prep

Class in Knights Hall at 9:45

Parents

Meet in SJCS cafeteria

Tour Schedule This Month in Church

12/14/25 Grace Tour – 3rd-8th Grades

Sign in at SJCS

