



Preparing for Christmas

Dear Parents,

We are now in the final week of the Season of Advent. At Annunciation Parish & School we have been keeping Advent as we prepare for Christmas. On December 15th our preschoolers began to create their classroom Nativity Scene. They now have a stable with a manger as they wait, with Mary and Joseph, for the birth of Jesus. For each good deed our preschoolers do the remainder of Advent, straw is being added to the manger so there will be a place for the infant Christ-child when he is born on December 25th. Our preschoolers will be adding to their Nativity Scene when they return to class on January 3rd in the Christmas Season.

May we, too, prepare a place in our hearts for the Christ-child this Christmas.

I wish you and your families many blessings during these days of late Advent and during all the days of the upcoming Christmas Season!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres
Director of Faith Formation



Hanukkah

As we light the candles on our Advent wreaths, it is good to remember our Jewish brothers and sisters who are celebrating their Feast of Lights - Hanukkah! The Hebrew word *Hanukkah* means *dedication*, and Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem by Judas Maccabeus in 165 BCE. While we light candles on our Advent wreaths marking the four Sundays of Advent, our Jewish brethren light candles on their menorah, marking the eight days of the Hanukkah Festival. This year the First Day of Hanukkah is December 21st, and the celebration begins at sundown on December 20th.



FIAT: Faith In Action Today

**Annunciation Parish & School
Religious Education/Faith Formation News**

**Dr. Sandra Chakeres
Director of Faith Formation**

**513-861-1295
faithformation@annunciationbvmparish.org
www.annunciationbvmparish.org**

Special points of interest:

- For numerous suggestions on how to keep these days of late Advent and all the days of the upcoming Christmas Season, visit our web site, www.annunciationbvmparish.org, and click on the "Celebrate Advent" and "Celebrate Christmas" tabs.
- And check out the Photo Gallery pages of our web site. Over 400 new photos have recently been added of events these past few weeks!

**Icon at top left of page: Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation), 16th Century, Russian Heritage, Location: Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Used with permission of St. Isaac of Syria Skete (Orthodox Byzantine Icons, Inc.); 25266 Pilgrims Way, Boscobel, WI 53805 www.skete.com

Celebrating Saint Lucy's Feast Day

Saint Lucy's Feast Day on December 13th was a real celebration here at Annunciation Parish & School! Saint Lucy is one of the Patron Saints of our second grade class. In preparation for their Feast Day, second graders made Lucia Crowns and Star Boy Hats. On the morning of December 13th, second grade girls donned their Lucia Crowns and a red waist sash, while the boys put on their Star Boy Hats. Then, with the girls carrying lighted candles and the boys carrying Star Wands, our second graders processed into church at our 8:00 a.m. Mass. After Mass, they hosted a Saint Lucy Feast Day Social for parishioners and parents.

Fourth graders wrote and illustrated a book about Saint Lucy, which they shared with our kindergarten class later that same morning. A fourth grade "Lucia" served a snack while fourth graders helped kindergartners with a Saint Lucy craft.

Saint Lucy, whose name means "light," is a wonderful Advent Saint and we had a wonderful time celebrating her Feast! There are more than 160 photos from this celebration on our Parish web site!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ Friday, December 23rd, 5:30 p.m.: Help decorate Church for Christmas
- ◆ Saturday, December 24th, 5:00 p.m.: Christmas Vigil Mass
- ◆ Sunday, December 25th, 12:00 a.m. (Midnight), 9:00 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.: Christmas Masses
- ◆ Tuesday, January 3rd, 7:30 p.m.: St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
- ◆ January 3rd-9th: Annunciation School Christmas Parties
- ◆ Thursday, January 5th, 6:30 p.m.: Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras Planning Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, January 5th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Liturgical Catechesis
- ◆ Thursday, January 5th, 7:00 p.m.: RCIA Gathering for anyone interested in becoming Catholic

*It's Happening at
Annunciation!*

Christmas Eve/Day Mass

Christmas Mass Schedule at Annunciation Parish for the Nativity of the Lord is as follows*:

Vigil Mass: Saturday, December 24th, 5:00 p.m.;

Mass at Midnight: Sunday, December 25th, 12:00 a.m.;

Mass During the Day: Sunday, December 25th, 9:00 a.m.;

Mass During the Day: Sunday, December 25th, 11:00 a.m.

**The parish music ministry will lead the assembly in song, beginning 15-20 minutes prior to each liturgy.*

Please join us for worship! All are welcome here!

