

Have a blessed Thanksgiving with your family. I hope it is a prayerful time to reflect on all of God's gifts and graces from the past year. Hopefully you are able to find a turkey in light of the shortage, or perhaps start a new Thanksgiving Chicken tradition ☺ As always, we are thankful for your awesome children who you place in our care.

***I won't have another Wed. Note before Advent starts...so if you need to talk to your kids about Advent, but haven't dug out the boxes, yet-- Maybe this will help.**

What is advent: Here's a nice explanation from Catholic.com:

Advent (Lat. *ad-venio*, to come to), according to present usage, is a period beginning with the Sunday nearest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) and embracing four Sundays. The first Sunday may be as early as November 27, and then Advent has twenty-eight days, or as late as December 3, giving the season only twenty-one days. With Advent the ecclesiastical year begins in the Western churches. During this time the faithful are admonished to prepare themselves worthily to celebrate the anniversary of the Lord's coming into the world as the incarnate God of love, thus to make their souls fitting abodes for the Redeemer coming in Holy Communion and through grace, and thereby to make themselves ready for His final coming as judge, at death and at the end of the world.

This year Advent is Nov. 29-Dec. 24. Advent can be such an exciting time for kids and so important in building the virtues of **self-control** and **patience**. The idea behind Advent is similar to Lent in that both are a time of waiting and preparation for a significant event. In this case, we are preparing for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Children and families often want to jump headlong into Christmas the day after Thanksgiving, but there is so much strength to be gained from learning to wait until closer to the big day. Here are some ideas that will help your children learn patience and self-control until Christmas Day.

- **Advent Calendars:** I'll be sending one home with them, but you might find another you like. You can find candy-filled, prayer-filled, or scripture-filled varieties.
- **Advent candles:** You can pick up or make an advent wreath to hold 4 purple and pink candles. Traditionally, we light them purple, purple, pink, purple (on Christmas Day). You can light your weekly candle with dinner each night as you read your Advent calendar reading, Jesse tree reading, or talk about how you practiced patience or self-control today.
- Locally, **Snyder Drug** has a great selection of Advent materials.
- **Loyola Press** has a lot of great advent ideas for kids: <http://www.loyolapress.com/liturgical-year-advent-activities.htm>
- Consider making a **Jesse Tree**. It helps to connect events in the bible from creation of the earth to the birth of Jesus. I've enclosed the one from Loyola Press.

Less is More: Choose one or two ideas and do them well—prayerfully and carefully. Maybe you will create a family tradition this year! A quick search on the internet for advent ideas will yield more results than you need for a **prayerful** 3 weeks. Do what you can to keep the attention focused on our **patient** waiting for the glorious birth.

There are some vauble lessons to be gained from waiting. They can learn that they will frequently have to stand up to the pressures of the world and this is just **another great opportunity to grow in virtue**.

Prayers: Special prayers this month for the holy souls in purgatory to quickly make their way to God's presence; and those loved ones we've lost. Please know that you and your family are in our school prayers always.

Our Lady of Lourdes [pray for us]!

Blessings to you, Mrs. Zook

New Items This Week...

- ☐ **Bus Drivers:** We interviewed one great candidate!! We'll keep you posted!! Say some prayers. [St. Christopher—patron Saint of bus drivers!]

- ❑ **Mass, Thursday, Nov. 19, 8:30-9:30 AM:**
 - **All-School Mass** Hosted by the **3rd Grade**—please join us!.
 - **Bring canned food items for the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry!**
- ❑ **OLL Parish Mass (12/13) 6th and 1st Grades:** To help build a stronger relationship with the Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners who help to fund our school, **OLL will help with some of the duties and refreshments once a month.**
- ❑ **Christmas Performances**
 - **Pre-K-8: Dec. 18 from 10:30-noon:** (Students are released at noon.) Program schedule will be coming soon so you can plan your lunch hour if needed.
 - **Middle School Band and Choir: Dec 10 at 7 PM**
 - **Interested in playing Hand Bells?:** Staff, parents, students are invited to learn a song to be performed at the Christmas program. Meet at 7:15 AM, Tue mornings (now until Dec. 15) in the music room.
- ❑ **Development Information...** 📄 [Page attached](#)
- ❑ **Chinook:** Lourdes' biggest fundraising event of the year (Jan. 30) 📄 [Pages attached](#)

Service Opportunities (for Nov. and Dec.):

- ❑ Can still bring in **personal care items or blankets for the Great Falls Rescue Mission.** Student Council will be preparing bags soon.
- ❑ **Thanksgiving Food Drive collection, Nov. 19** at Mass to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank. Send items with students to add to baskets before Mass.
- ❑ **Santa's Closet is open:** Please grab a tag from the display by the office and bring items for needy children through the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program by Dec. 10. 📄 [Flyer attached](#)
- ❑ **Christmas Food Drive collection:** Bags with Christmas dinner lists will be available soon. Food will support the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.
- ❑ **Students will also be...** caroling, making cards, and helping the needy in additional ways within the classrooms and Student Council.

Sports Schedule This Week...

Boys Basketball

Sat., Nov. 21: 7th at Paris at 8 AM
6th at OLL at 9 AM
8th at East at 1 PM

Wed., Nov. 24: 7th at Paris at 3:30 PM
8th at North at 6 PM
5th/6th at OLL at 6/7 PM

Tue., Dec. 1: 7th at Paris at 3:30 PM
8th at Paris at 7:15 PM