



Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

Expanding Minds • Growing Faith • Inspiring Service

Calendar Links



[CLICK HERE for the 2020-21 school calendar.](#)



[CLICK HERE for the LUNCH CALENDAR](#)



Dec. 4 Spiritwear Day



Weekly Bulletin

December 3, 2020



'Tis the season of preparation, but Advent is often filled with buying gifts, baking cookies, hanging lights, decorating trees and so much more. Even though Advent might look a little bit different this year, we at the archdiocese Pastoral Center want you and those you love to have a joyful, hopeful and unforgettable Advent with your family. That's why we're excited to tell you about **The Ultimate Guide to Advent**.

The guide is free, downloadable, and filled with everything from favorite recipes to faith traditions, events for families, movie and music recommendations and more. It's interactive, with links to click, gifts to buy, coloring pages to print and prayers to pray. It's everything you need to have an incredible Advent!

We hope you'll click the link below, grab a cup of hot cocoa, sit under a blanket in your favorite squishy chair, and scroll through the guide to help you prepare for Christmas like never before.

[CLICK HERE for your guide.](#)

We wish a blessed Advent to you and those you love!

COVID-19 UPDATE

If you or anyone in your house is getting tested for COVID-19, your child must stay home until a negative result comes back. If a positive result occurs, please call the school office.

OLG **DOES NOT** require a COVID-19 test in order to return to school after quarantining. Please note that if your child has been deemed a close contact, and you choose to get him/her tested, a negative result **DOES NOT** change the length of the quarantine. The child will still need to quarantine for the designated length of time listed in the quarantine letter.

Our Lady of Grace has had **7** confirmed positive COVID-19 cases from August 20-today.

Religious Education

Preparing our Kids for Advent

How can we prepare for this holy Advent season? The first, and most important thing we can do to prepare our children for Advent is to prepare *ourselves* first. After all, if we are impatient and crabby - pressured by all the busyness of this season amid coping with restrictions and the on-going pandemic - we won't be very good at teaching our children anything about quiet, expectant waiting that is part of the Advent season. If they never hear us talk about what we long for from the Lord, how will they learn about this kind of longing? And, if they hear "the coming of Jesus" talked about at church, and perhaps at school, but never hear we, the parents, talk about the meaning of the coming of Jesus *for us*, what kind of message will we be giving them? Of course, our children will be watching us and listening to us - what we say and do, and what we fail to say and do. So, the first thing we can give our children is our own commitment to enter Advent as deeply as we can. We want to clear our own spirits so that we can be present to theirs. The graces we receive can be the graces we share with them.



To talk with our children about our own religious experience doesn't mean we have to know all kinds of "theology" to teach them, nor does it mean we have to "dumb it down" to ridiculously simple terms. We don't have to "burden" children with the burdens we have to bear in our adult relationship with God, and we don't have to make their world more unsettling and scarier than it already is. We just have to find the right time and place to talk with them about our faith. We don't have to criticize everything in our contemporary culture's preparation for and celebration of Christmas. But what we tell them about Advent, will help temper the materialism and consumerism involved in the marketing of Christmas to children. *Here are some ideas:*

We can tell our children about Isaiah, the prophet. We can tell them that God has wanted to be the one who would lead and take care of his people. But they rebelled against God, and demanded kings, just like all the peoples around them had. So, God let them have kings. As it turned out, there was one bad king after another. And God sent prophets to the people and the kings to remind them of the agreement - the "covenant" - God made with them: "I'll be your God and you be my people. Well, the prophets began to tell the people that God would send them "an anointed one" (the word they use to say "anointed one" in Hebrew is "Messiah.") In fact, they said that this Messiah would be called "Emmanuel", which in Hebrew means, "God is with us." So, the message of the prophets was about a *promise* - that God would save his people from all that they were suffering. The prophets use such wonderful images to tell the people that they could expect and hope for a day when "every tear would be wiped away" - a day of great peace - "the lion would lie down with the lamb" and the people will beat their spears into useful tools. And, the most unbelievable promise of all: *"death will be no more."*

We all know now that what God was preparing his people for was the coming of Jesus, the Christ (anointed one.) Then, of course, we can tell them about John the Baptist and about Joseph and Mary. We can tell them the story from Luke's gospel. What is so surprising about the story is that he comes, not in splendor like a king, but in great simplicity and poverty. Our God is truly with us, as a little baby. He knows what is like to be a child - to be human.

We can tell this story to our children in so many ways. We can let them tell us what it means to them. Through all this conversation, the message will come through. During these weeks of Advent, we want to look forward to celebrating his coming to live our life and to set us free - free from our sins and free from death itself. We want to open up Advent for them, so that they can get ready for - look forward to - Christmas in a different way. We want to introduce them to faith-filled meanings for light/darkness, hunger/thirsts, and all the other images of Isaiah. We want them to really know the meaning of "the Christmas story."

It would be great to create a Nativity "place" in our home. Before we just put a nativity scene there, we can let it be an empty space for a while. We can prepare for setting it up, by putting things in that place which represent the longing, the desire, the emptiness. Perhaps that place can begin with a basket. Children can place notes in the basket that express what they hope for, for each member in the family, for their friends, for people in the world. They can write special prayers and make cards for loved ones who are sick or relatives they haven't seen since COVID-19 began. We can keep telling the children that it is into this special place of our longing and faith that Jesus comes. Then, when we set up the Nativity scene in that place, it can become a special place for the children. We can also involve children in preparing food for people who are home bound - a care package at one's door is a great surprise. And, as we make these special family traditions during Advent, we will come up with others, that fit our family well. Happy Advent! *Blessings!*

Mark Friedman, CRE

OLG PTO

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Thursday December 3, 2020

OUT OF UNIFORM PASS SALE

Thanks to all who purchased out of uniform passes! We have raised \$1600! We are still offering the passes, so please use the link below to order! There is a new option - \$20 for 5 months (January-May). These make great Christmas gifts!

GET YOURS TODAY!

<https://out-of-uniform-pass.cheddarup.com>



For those that already ordered, the passes have been delivered to the students via their homeroom teacher.

ST. NICK TO VISIT OLG!

St. Nick will be making his annual stop at OLG this weekend, but since the students aren't in school that day, St. Nick will leave treats for the students with the teachers.

PTO MEETING REMINDER

There is no PTO meeting in December. Merry Christmas!

We will see you all in January.



Like us on Facebook – "Our Lady of Grace Family Page"



Our Lady of Grace Athletic Association



Girls Basketball: Girls basketball registration has been extended until this Saturday, December 4th! Don't miss out on signing up - click the link below now!

my.cheddarup.com/c/gbb-2020-2021

K-2 Instructional Basketball: We are in need of a parent volunteer to serve as coordinator for our K-2 Instructional Basketball league. The season runs from mid-January to March. The coordinator for this sport would be responsible for overseeing the sports as it relates to working with the athletic board in scheduling sign ups and gym time, coach selection and assisting coaches or AD with any issues. If you're interested in serving as the K-2 Instructional Basketball coordinator, please contact Melinda Miller at olgaasecretary@gmail.com.



December
Warm Up
The Winter

Family Challenge

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Write down why love is a great character strength
2 Smile as often as possible	3 Drink at least two liters of water today	4 Exercise Together	5 Watch your favorite family movie together	6 Take some slow deep breaths	7 Introduce the family to a new recipe	8 Create a family hobby
9 Write a nice note to your best friend	10 Try yoga for the first time	11 Watch a comedy movie with the family	12 Do something creative	13 Do a mindful family meditation	14 Start a daily family gratitude journal	15 Go for a family walk (no phones)
16 Listen to happy music together	17 Dance together	18 Have a family game night	19 Tell family members what you love about them	20 Eat a healthy meal together	21 Repeat positive affirmations throughout the day	22 Make a batch of holiday treats together
23 Go to the family's favorite restaurant	24 Read a book out loud to the family	25 Say "I love you" to your family	26 Write some favorite things about yourselves	27 Write down realistic expectations for the family	28 Role play skills of stopping, thinking, and not reacting	29 Create a story that each person adds to
30 Do an act of kindness as a family	31 Resolve to be mindful					