

# ST. JOSEPH

Catholic Church

Office of Religious Education  
303 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Pekin, IL 61554  
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## CCD Newsletter

December 4, 2018

Dear Families,

Happy first week of Advent! The word "advent" comes from the Latin word that means "coming". Advent is the time where we prepare for Christmas, Jesus' coming! We are looking forward to Christmas, which is the celebration of His first coming and we are also looking forward to His second coming. Did you know that the most important thing to have ready for Christmas is a clean soul? During Advent we can encourage children to try extra hard to be good. It can also be a good idea to go to confession before Christmas so that your soul will be good and clean when Jesus comes!



During the Advent season we also see many different traditions in our families. Does your family use an Advent wreath? Do you light it on Sundays or during every dinner? Or perhaps your little ones enjoy the many pieces of an Advent calendar! Some families even move the wise men through the house to represent our own journey closer to Christ!

I would like to encourage families to write down any traditions that your family use to help you prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth then send me an email or bring them to

CCD class. I would love to put together all of our different (and similar) traditions and share it with the rest of the families.

I also wanted to remind families that we will be celebrating a Holy Day of Obligation on December 8th: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception! This website does a great job explaining the meaning of this Feast and even breaks it down to explain to the little ones. It also offers different ideas and ways that you and your family can celebrate this special day. Check it out! <https://www.pbgrace.com/solemnity-of-the-immaculate-conception/>



Our Knights of Columbus council is sponsoring Coats for Kids again this year. The coats are available free of charge to anyone that needs one. Please send me an email if you are interested.



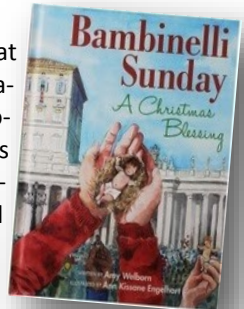
If your family will be attending the Christmas Eve Childrens Mass at 4:00pm on December 24th, please consider having your children help us with the children's choir, various Mass parts and the Nativity. We are hoping to have enough kids to have a nice full choir. Every 4th-8th grade voice is welcome. Please see attached flyer or the St. Joseph website for more information and to sign up! Please register by December 16th.

Speaking of December 16th, that is also Baminelli Sunday! Bring your Baby Jesus to be Blessed. This year St. Joseph Church will once again join in this celebration. On the third Sunday of Advent, everyone (both children and adults) is asked to bring their Christ Child from their family Nativity to the 11:00 am Mass. Fr. Andrejek will bless everyone and the figurines they have brought at the end of Mass. After Mass, join us in the parish center for a snack, activity and story time with Fr. Andrejek.

And finally, get some of that last minute shopping done on December 15th by dropping your kids off for Club 3:16 at the parish center. We will be watching the movie "The Star", and if you have not heard of this movie you need to check out the trailer. This is a win/win situation for parents and kids! You can register your kids at our website or by calling the parish center.

I hope that everyone travels safe and has a wonderful week, a great Advent and a Merry Christmas!

God Bless,  
Anna McMahan, D.R.E



### UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2-6	Parish Mission @ 7pm
December 5	NO CCD
December 8	Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation
December 12	CCD
December 15	Club 3:16 The Star: ADVENTure
December 16	Baminelli Sunday @ 11am Mass
December 19	NO CCD
December 20	Children's Choir and Christmas Eve Mass parts rehearsal @ 3:45pm
December 25	Christmas Day!
December 26	NO CCD
January 1	Holy Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

"What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family!" -Saint Teresa of Calcutta



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### Immaculate Conception!

Holy Day of Obligation



**Vigil Mass**  
Friday, December 7th  
6:00 PM

**Holy Day Mass**  
Saturday December 8th  
9:00 AM



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## THE STAR

THE STORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

December 15th 5:30-8:30pm

K-6th Grade **FREE!**

St. Joseph Parish Center

[Click Here](#)  
TO REGISTER!

Oh come  
let us  
adore Him...

### CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

4:00 pm Children's

9:00 pm

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

9:00 am

### Bambinelli Sunday

Dec. 16th 11 a.m. Mass

Bring your Nativity Baby Jesus to Mass for a special blessing. After Mass, join us in the Parish Center for activities, snacks and story time with Fr. Andrejek!





# ST. JOSEPH PARISH CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS

Children in Kindergarten and above are invited to participate in the Christmas Eve Children's Choir, Nativity and Mass! As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the children will dress up like the Holy Family and Angels from the very first Christmas. They will help us remember the events of that miraculous night and celebrate the Christmas Eve Mass!

## MASS PARTS AND NATIVITY

Gift Bearers—Ushers—Readers  
Mary—Joseph—Angels

*If more than one child wants to be a character, we will choose names in a drawing.*

*Readers can be any age but must have strong, clear voices for the Mass readings. Ushers must be accompanied by a parent when they walk up for the collection.*

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Does your 4th-8th grader love to sing? Sign your child up for an amazing opportunity to be part of the Christmas Eve Children's Choir! We guarantee they will have a blast serving because we were made to praise!

## Info Session/Brief Rehearsal

Since we will be doing things a bit differently for our presentation of the Living Nativity, it is necessary for each child who will be participating to be present at a information session/rehearsal. One adult needs to stay with your child(ren) during this rehearsal. The children's choir will meet in the choir loft during the same time.

## Rehearsal:

December 20th, 3:45-4:45pm  
In the Church

## Christmas Eve Mass:

December 24th 4:00pm Vigil Mass  
Children's Arrival (call time) 3:30pm

If your child or grandchild is interested please complete the form on the bottom of this flyer and return to the parish center or Sunday collection by December 16th!



Please complete this form and return to the parish center or Sunday collection basket by **December 16th!**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place an X in front of all areas where you are interested :

☐ Choir ☐ Gift Bearers ☐ Usher ☐ Reader ☐ Mary ☐ Joseph ☐ Angel

Parents Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_