

## OLQP/STM Faith Formation News

The month of December is upon us and the Advent season has begun! Let us remind our children this month that the importance of the season comes from the joy of the Lord's birth and not solely from receiving material gifts. It is so easy to get caught up in the commercialization of Christmas and we all need to be reminded that the true "reason for the season" is Jesus' birth. Each faith formation student will be given a family Advent activity calendar to use at home and we hope

that you encourage this activity. It includes creative ways to incorporate prayer and service into your family's daily lives during Advent to reinforce this awareness.

If your child (grades K-5) is interested in participating in either worship site's Christmas Eve pageant, please make sure to contact me ASAP as rehearsals begin the first Sunday of December.

Please join us for our annual Faith Formation Christmas celebration on Tues. December 19. We will enjoy

prayer, food, fun and fellowship. To contribute a food item, please see the sign up sheets available at both worship sites.

I hope that you and your families have a blessed Advent season, and experience all the joy and happiness the Christmas season has to offer.

*Peace and love,  
Jodi Miller  
Director of  
Faith Formation*



## **MANY THANKS!**

As Mother Teresa once said, ***"Faith in action is love, and love in action is service."***

Thank you to all the students and their families who donated Thanksgiving food to St. Andrew's Food Cupboard, and helped to deliver and sort the collection last month. Because of your generosity and support, we have been able to help many of our neighbors in need!



### Christmas Mass Schedule

#### St. Thomas More

12/24	3:30 PM (Pageant)
	5:30 PM
	10:00 PM (Choir)
12/25	10:00 AM

#### Our Lady Queen of Peace

12/24	4:30 PM (Pageant)
12/25	9:30 AM
	11:30 AM

### **THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - December 8th**

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8th each year and it is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that all Catholics are to attend Mass that day.

#### ***But what is the Immaculate Conception?***

It was God's special plan for Mary that she was to be conceived without Original Sin. We say that Mary was in a perfect state of grace - that is, her relationship with God was not marred by sin from the first moment she came into being. Because she was without sin, she had perfect freedom to cooperate with God's plan for our salvation. Mary is beautiful example of what can happen when we say YES to God with our entire heart!

***Masses will take place at STM at 8 am and OLQP at 7 pm.***

## K-12 December Activities

<u>Event/Activity:</u>	<u>Date &amp; Time:</u>
JHFF/SHYG Volunteer Event at FoodLink	12/2 9:00 am to 12:00pm
Year 1 Confirmation Retreat	12/3 9:30 am to 2:00 pm at OLQP
OLQP Pageant Rehearsal	12/3 at 10:30 AM
STM Pageant Rehearsal	12/3 at 11:30 AM
K-5 Faith Formation	12/5 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Immaculate Conception Mass ( <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i> )	12/8 (Mass times on page one.)
Senior High Youth Group	12/10 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
OLQP Pageant Rehearsal	12/10 at 10:30 AM
STM Pageant Rehearsal	12/10 at 9:15 AM
Countdown to Christmas - Hot Cocoa Hour For Kids	12/10 after 10:30 AM Mass at STM
K-5 Faith Formation	12/12 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
JHFF/SHYG Volunteer Event	12/14 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Bethany House
JHFF/SHYG Volunteer Event	12/16 10:30 am to 3:30 pm at Bethany House
OLQP Pageant Rehearsal	12/17 at 10:30 AM
STM Pageant Rehearsal	12/17 at 11:30 AM
Junior High Faith Formation	12/17 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
K-12 Faith Formation Christmas Celebration	12/19 6 pm at OLQP



### ***Countdown to Christmas...***

### **Hot Cocoa Hour with For Kids!**

**December 10th after the 10:30 am Mass at STM.**



We'll meet in the front of the church immediately after Mass for a special story, and will then assemble in the gathering space for hot cocoa and treats as we celebrate the countdown to Christmas together!

***We will also have a very special guest!  
Ho ho ho..!***

***Please bring a baked good to share!***

*You Are Invited..*

## K-12 Faith Formation Family Christmas Celebration!



**Tuesday, December 19th**

**6 pm at OLQP Slattery Hall**

Please join us for a prayer service,  
fun, fellowship and holiday snacks!

*Please RSVP to Jodi Miller by December 15th*

If you'd like to contribute food, please see the sign up sheet available at Faith Formation classes.

### Why Do We Use Advent Wreaths?

The greens we use on our Advent wreaths are a sign of life. The circular form symbolizes God's everlasting love for us.

There are four candles - three purple and one pink. The purple candles are for the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent. The pink one is for the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, which is Latin for rejoice. A student once referred to this day as "Only one more week" Sunday!

*Please consider counting down the days to Christmas with your family's very own Advent wreath!*



### Dynamic Catholic

*invites you to have your*

BEST  
**Advent**  
EVER™

Rediscover the JOY in the season with **Best Advent Ever**, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a way that will allow you to have a Christmas as memorable and joyful as when you were a child!

*You'll receive short inspirational videos, practical tips and real-life stories of hope.*

**Get ready for the best Christmas of your life!**

**SIGN UP AT:  
DYNAMICCATHOLIC.COM/ADVENT**



# **Year 1 Confirmation Preparation Retreat** **Sunday, December 3, 2017**

**9:30 am to 2:00 pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace**

*We will begin our retreat with Mass at 9:30 am.  
Candidates may sit with their families.*



# **CHOSEN**

**YOUR JOURNEY TOWARD CONFIRMATION**

### **Parent help is needed with:**

- ♦ **Dessert/Drink donations would be greatly appreciated. (Lunch provided.)**
- ♦ **(3) Parent helpers are needed for the retreat. You will not be asked to teach, just to facilitate and assist.**

**Please contact Jodi Miller if you are available to assist in any way.**

**[jodi.miller@dor.org](mailto:jodi.miller@dor.org)/244-3010 or 381-4200**

*Per the Diocese of Rochester,  
a full-day retreat (for both year one and year two)  
is required for all involved in the Confirmation Preparation program.  
If you cannot attend this retreat as a year 1 candidate,  
please contact Jodi Miller at [jodi.miller@dor.org](mailto:jodi.miller@dor.org) or 244-3010/381-4200.*