

SACRAMENT PREPARATION AND ACTIVITIES

- **St. Nicholas Celebration Wednesday** December 3 and **Sunday** December 7
- **Food Drive** December 8-12
- **Immaculate Conception of Mary** December 8 Mass at 7:00 am and 8:30 am
- **Communal Reconciliation** December 9 at 7:00 pm
- **La Posada Sunday** December 14
- **NO Classes** December 21, 24, 28 or 31
- **Classes Resume** January 4 and 7
- **March for Life** January 20-23
- **Parish Mission** February 22-24

# St. Luke the Evangelist

## Parish School of Religion and Early Childhood

DECEMBER 3, 2014

### Celebrating Advent

A new Christian year begins with the season of Advent, which began this past Sunday. This season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas takes its name from the Latin word which means “coming” and refers to the coming of Christ. Christian tradition has assigned two themes to this coming: the first coming, when Jesus Christ was born, and the second coming at the end of the world when He will return in judgment. Thus the season mixes joy in the redemption that has already come with the sober awe of the judgment which confronts us. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation, adding that Christ is still coming – coming onto our hearts by grace

to redeem and judge us now. He comes in Word and Sacrament, especially the Holy Eucharist.

Advent is a season of solemn joy and of anticipation. The traditional liturgical color is purple, the purple of majesty which heralds the coming of the King of Kings.

Please take this time to enjoy the booklets the parish has provided for you as parents as well as for your children. The daily activities are meant to help you as individuals as well as your family.

2 Easy Ways to incorporate the activities into your daily routine:

- Complete the daily activity instead of reading a bedtime story
- Leave on the table to complete after dinner

\* GOD CREATED A WORLD FOR HUMANS TO LIVE IN  
 \* GOD CALLED A PEOPLE TOGETHER TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE  
 \* GOD SENT THE PROPHETS TO SHOW THE WAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO LIVE  
 \* GOD PREPARED A FAMILY TO WELCOME THE BABY JESUS



### St. Nicholas

This Wednesday and Sunday St. Nicholas will visit the children during their class. The children will leave their shoes outside of the classroom and receive a small treat.

Why celebrate St. Nicholas? Well St. Nicholas was a real per-

son! He was a fourth century bishop from Asia Minor, who is the inspiration for Santa Claus and the patron of children. Known for his acts of charity, he often left gifts of food or money for the poor in the dark of night so no one but God could see his good works.

St. Nicholas Feast Day is this Saturday December 6th. This is our way of celebrating and sharing part of our faith with your children. We cherish seeing their joyful faces and look forward to sharing the memory of St. Nicholas's great kindness.



## Food Drive

Our monthly food drive will be December 8-12 to continue our support of the Beaver Creek Fish Pantry. The pantry continues to need non perishable items however especially needs:

Baby Food  
 Cookie and Cake Mixes  
 Drinks  
 Peanut Butter  
 Jelly

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

*“Confession is an encounter with Jesus whose mercy motivates us to do better.”*  
 ~ Pope Francis

## Communal Reconciliation

St. Luke will offer a communal reconciliation service on **Tuesday December 9 at 7:00 pm.** This is a wonderful opportunity to repair your relationship with God. He wants only the best for us and welcomes us to seek him when we sin. Confessing your sins to

the priest does require an auditory and verbal expression of your wrong-dongs. However it is an opportunity to see how with forgiveness your behaviors can change. Sin not only affects our individual lives, it also has an impact on

the greater social community. If we want to impact change, we must start with ourselves. Utilize this beautiful gift God has given you to achieve healing and growth as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord Jesus.

## March for Life



January  
 20-23,  
 2015

Join members of St. Luke's Parish in Washington DC at the largest presence for life in the nation! The Respect Life Committee is again sponsoring a bus this year. This extended trip leaves on Tuesday January

20 at 9:00 p.m. and returns Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> around 11:30 p.m. This is excellent for families – it is a great bonding opportunity and also educational. The cost is \$209/quadruple, includes bus transportation, 2 nights at Hotel Harrington, a pizza party, pro-life convention,

Monticello tour, pro-life youth rally, vigil mass, and March for Life. **Deadline for hotel reservations is December 10 or when full.** A \$75 deposit will hold your space. For more information contact Jeannette Niezgodski at 320-1819 or [jniezgodski@yahoo.com](mailto:jniezgodski@yahoo.com).

# Gospel for All Ages

Have you had a chance to look at your child's Gospel Weekly? Try to take some time before Sunday and re-view the readings. This week is the 2nd Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2014. Our readings will be Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3.8-14; Mark 1.1-8

Questions to reflect upon:

- Who are the prophets among us?
- What family traditions keep the meaning of Christmas alive for you?
- What paths have opened for you in your life where you could see none?
- How am I growing and changing?
- Who is John the Baptist and how does he prepare the way for Jesus?
- How can we share with others the way St. Nicholas does?
- How can I share with other's the coming of the Lord?

*"Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world"*

*~ Pope Francis*

## Volunteers Needed

Our Parish Mission, *Called to Reality Living* will be held

**February 22-24, 2015.**

We are looking for at least 4 parents each night to assist with the children's activities.

We don't want anyone to miss every night therefore we are seeking 4 different

adults to help each of the 3 nights. Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry. All volunteers will need to be Virtus trained and have a current background check completed.

The next Virtus training held at St. Luke will be January 20

at 6:00 pm . Please log on to [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org), register for a class and complete the background check. Tokens to cover the cost of the \$25 background check are available by contacting Bruce Guindon at [bguindon@saintlukeparish.org](mailto:bguindon@saintlukeparish.org)

## Blessing of a Christmas Tree

This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree in paradise that God

made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

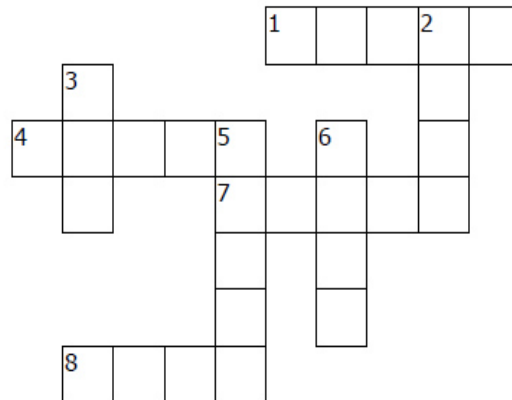
God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life to our home. May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree, all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights. We

wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace. You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever.

Amen.



# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

1. The time of day when it is dark
4. To keep an eye on; to guard
7. The person who has something such as property
8. A particular moment in the day, such as eight o'clock

## DOWN

2. A period of sixty minutes
3. A period of 24 hours
5. The place where a person or family lives
6. To have information about something; to be aware of something

TIME	OWNER	WATCH	HOUR
KNOW	HOUSE	DAY	NIGHT

