

## SACRAMENT PREPARATION AND ACTIVITIES

- **Food Drive**  
December 8-12
- **Communal  
Reconciliation**  
December 9 7:00 pm
- **La Posada**  
December 14
- **No Classes 12/21,  
12/24, 12/28 or 12/31**
- **Classes Resume**  
1/4 and 1/7
- **PSR Parent and Child  
Reconciliation Class**  
January 7
- **Confirmation  
Retreat** January 9-10
- **Reconciliation  
Celebration** January 14
- **Parish Mission**  
February 22-24
- **March for Life**  
January 20-23rd
- **Vacation Bible School**  
June 15-19

# St. Luke the Evangelist

## Parish School of Religion and Early Childhood

DECEMBER 9, 2014

### Advent Family Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us  
these four weeks to prepare  
to celebrate the birth of your Son.

We are so thankful for the people  
that help us along this path we're  
traveling to welcome Jesus.

God, bless our family and  
prepare our home and hearts  
to welcome your son, Jesus Christ,  
into the world.

Amen



[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

### March for Life

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 23rd

around 11:30 p.m. This is excellent for families – it is a great bonding opportunity and also educational. The cost is \$209/quad, 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).



## Food Drive



"I fed you when you were hungry" ~

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!

## Las Posadas

*"Join our Preschoolers as we make room for Jesus during the Las Posadas December 14 after 10:00 Mass"*

Prepare room in our hearts for the Christ Child



### You Are Invited!!!

Please Join the Early Childhood students as they re-enact the Las Posadas on **Sunday December 14 following 10:00 am Mass**. We will begin in the School Gym and end in the Parish Center.

### What is Las Posadas?

"Las Posadas" is a Mexican tradition that originated during the era of the Conquistadors. The Aztecs commemorated the birth of the war god Huitzilopochtli with festivals that began nine days before his birth, which was celebrated on December 25 or similar dates found on the Aztec calendar. The Spanish missionaries during this period of colonization took advantage of these Aztec

festivals in order to evangelize the native peoples. The missionaries used the nine festivals prior to the birth of the war god in order to prepare the people for the birth of the Prince of Peace, Jesus, with nine special days of preparation paralleling Mary's nine months of pregnancy with Jesus. Thus the tradition of nine "Posadas" was conceived. In the year 1586 Fray Diego de Soria of the Covent of Agostino de Acolman, Mexico, requested Pope Sixtus V to approve the idea of celebrating "Las Posadas". The nine months of Mary's pregnancy were to be commemorated by assisting at Mass for the nine days prior to December 25th. After each Mass the people would make a pilgrimage going from house to house

imitating Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem seeking a place for the child to be born. In 1587 the Vatican authorized the "Posada". On the nine evenings before Christmas after Mass or praying the rosary, the community walks around the neighborhood, with the images of Joseph and Mary, knocking on nine doors hoping to be received by an innkeeper. Even though the doors may be closed today we still desire and welcome Joseph and Mary into our hearts. In Mexico, the last of the nine "Posadas" occurs on the night of December 24th. This may explain why the Christmas Eve (Nochebuena) dinner in Mexican households is of greater importance than Christmas Day dinner.



This week is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2014. This is the week we light the rose colored candle. This happy color is a reflection of our joy that the celebration of Jesus' birth is almost here.

The Sunday Readings are: Isaiah 61.1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; John 1.6-8, 19-28

Questions to reflect upon individually and as a family:

- Whose voices today help renew and revive you?
- Who in your school or parish challenges you to be yourself and make a better world?
- How is our parish getting ready for Christmas during Advent?
- What in John the Baptist's message helps you recognize Jesus in our midst?
- How do you think people will be able to recognize who Jesus really is?
- How does John the Baptist help us get ready for Jesus?

**"Parish**

**Mission:**

*Called to*

*Reality*

*Living*

**~ February**

**22-24, 2015"**

## Parish Mission: Called to Reality Living

Preparations continue to for the Parish Mission: Called to Reality Living. This enriching faith event will be held February 22-24 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm with dinner provided beforehand. A children's ministry program will be provided for children. These activities will be lead by 3 community ministers. However, to make this event a success we are looking for volun-

teers to assist with the children. We would like to have 3 separate groups of volunteers so that each group would be able to attend the other 2 nights of the mission.

All volunteers must be Virtus trained and have a completed background check. Please go to [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) to register.

If you have any questions, please

contact Caroline Barhorst at 426-1733 ext. 306 or [cbarhorst@saintlukeparish.org](mailto:cbarhorst@saintlukeparish.org)

Please prayerfully consider giving your time to this ministry. The children of our parish have a beautiful faith life and are capable of ongoing conversion. Lets help enrich their experiences as we enrich our own.

## Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for our annual Vacation Bible School to be held June 15-19. We look forward to providing a fun faith-filled week of activities to the children of our parish community. Many hands will be needed to make this a success. Please consider volunteering your time to assist with crafts,

games, snacks, decorations, music or being a group leader. If you are interested in volunteering, please mark your calendar for the event and then notify Caroline Barhorst of your interest at 426-1733 ext. 306 or [cbarhorst@saintlukeparish.org](mailto:cbarhorst@saintlukeparish.org). All volunteers will need to have completed Virtus Training and a

background check. Please note the next Virtus offering will be held January 20, 2015 at 6:00 pm For additional offerings please log onto [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org)



# Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

T	K	D	X	M	W	C	B	O	E	Z	P	L	S	V	R	I	Y	J	H	A	N	Q	F	U	G
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 5-21-22 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 22-21-5-10 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 19-9-20-22 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1-10-14-1-17-24-18 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 13-17-26-20-1 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 6-17-1-22-10-14-14 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 8-10-13-17-10-15-10 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 1-16-25-10 \_\_\_\_\_

BELIEVE TRUE	WITNESS NAME	MAN LIGHT	TESTIFY JOHN
-----------------	-----------------	--------------	-----------------



Copyright © Sermons4Kids, Inc.  
May be reproduced for Ministry Use