



O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Here we are again with four weeks to prepare for Christmas. Year after year, I have listed here in the *Spotlight* the many, many things that have to get done before we make it to December 25. Yet, all those expectations are either Madison Avenue-made or family-made and we feel compelled to meet those expectations so we can uphold a family tradition or a belief that Christmas lies in how many presents there are under the tree. And year after year, we succumb to those enticements. My family does not exchange gifts at Christmas anymore. We stopped buying presents for each other several years ago. Instead, we all go home for Thanksgiving. Yes, Thanksgiving. As our numbers have grown (we welcomed my third great-nephew last April), we've added another folding table and more chairs. The laughter and gratitude have grown exponentially as well. I think it's time to stop focusing so much on Santa's list and start focusing more on what REALLY matters; the love of a God who came to be with us and who continues to be with us in EACH OTHER. Be kind. You're being kind to God. Be patient. You're being patient to God. See with new eyes. Hear with new ears. You get the point. And Christmas will be richer for you.

Parent-Teacher report card conferences will be held after school on November 29, in the evening on November 30, and in the morning on December 1. Appointments have already been scheduled. Please be prompt for your conference time. If additional time is needed, another appointment with the teacher may be made for a later date. **Because conferences will be held on the morning of December 1, no classes will be in session that day.**

We will celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. This is a holy day of obligation for us. We will attend mass at 8:45 a.m.

The feast of St. Nicholas is December 6. A Swedish tradition claims that Santa will leave a sweet treat in the shoe of every child who brings in an extra shoe to leave outside their classroom. You may also want to leave Santa a canned food item for our parish pantry. He's also been known to reply to any notes that are left for him.

Do you hear what I hear? The school Christmas concert will be held on December 12 at 7:00 PM in our church, and the parish concert will be on December 17 at 5:00 PM. These are great ways to get into the Christmas spirit.

Once again, we will hold our Barnes & Noble book fair at the Barnes & Noble on Route 17 South in Paramus on December 13. Our Show Choir will perform for you at 7:00 PM. Don't forget to bring your voucher with you and present it to the cashier with your purchase. Thanks for your support.

Our first grade will prepare our Christmas mass for us on December 20 at 8:45 AM. Come and be reminded of the reason for the season.

School will close for the Christmas break on December 22 at 12:15 PM. There will be no after school Extended Care that day. Classes resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

Let us remember each other in prayer as we journey together through this holy season of Advent only to find ourselves kneeling before our Infant King in his humble manger bed on Christmas.



A happy, holy Christmas and a New Year bright with God's blessings to all!