

OLSS RELIGIOUS ED NEWSLETTER



OLSS K-8 PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

- ◆ Middle School Youth Christmas Party, Saturday December 17th @ 5pm in Providence Room
- ◆ Religious Ed Christmas Party, Sunday Jan. 8th
+ Donations for games needed
- ◆ Parent/Teacher Conference, Sunday Jan. 22nd
- ◆ Youth Rally and Mass Tickets Available
- ◆ First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion Information Sheets

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear OLSS R.E. Families,

Advent Season is such a busy time of year for families. Between Sports, Christmas programs, decorating...the hustle and bustle. I pray that we all can slow down, take this time to prepare ourselves and make wonderful memories with our families.

Communication is important whether at work, on a team, in our homes and in our children's school. Please talk with your child's catechist in scheduling a **Parent Conference**. Our larger classes may have to schedule before the 22nd (either before or after class) to ensure everyone has reviewed progress reports, answer any questions or concerns you and your catechist may have.

We will be celebrating **Christmas** on the Epiphany (Sunday, January 8th) as a Program Family. We hope this teaches our children that Advent is a time of preparation and Christmas in longer than December 25th. We will be celebrating with a Birthday Cake for Jesus and games. If you would like to bring in a snack or drink, please let your Catechist know. We also have some fun games planned for all ages, if parents would like to contribute balloons, crape paper, tinsel, ect. Anything to decorate a Human Christmas Tree, we would greatly appreciate it.

OLSS **Middle School Youth** are invited to an "Early" **Christmas Party** on Saturday, December 17th in the Providence Room. We will have a White Elephant Gift exchange, dinner and games. Please visit [www://olssyouthgroup.com](http://www.olssyouthgroup.com) for details.

- † **YOUTH RALLY AND MASS FOR LIFE:** OLSS will be taking their 5th annual trip up to the Verizon Center to celebrate life - from conception until natural death. Join over 50,000 others as we celebrate with music, reconciliation and Mass. Transportation is available for those getting tickets through OLSS Youth Group.
- † **RETREATS:** MOUNT 2000, parents should have been contacted regarding the Mount Retreat. Unfortunately it filled up within 2 minutes. 15,000 are on a wait list! We still have room to sign up for the Summer retreat in Steubenville OH, Franciscan University.

Commentary for the Readings in the Extraordinary Form: Third Sunday of Advent - GAUDETE SUNDAY
"I (John) am the voice of one crying in the desert, . . .but (pointing to Christ) in the midst of you there has stood One Whom you do not know" (Gospel).

This is known as "Rejoice" Sunday, from the opening word. Despite our self-praised progress, real joy is missing from modern life. In such a "desert" we must look to Christ. Only He can "bring light to the darkness of our minds" (Prayer). Only He can bless, deliver and forgive (Offertory). Only He can "say to the faint-hearted, 'Take courage'" (Communion Verse).

During these days before Christmas "have no anxiety" about selecting or receiving mere tinsel gifts, but prepare "in. . .prayer. . .with thanksgiving" and "guard. . .your minds in Christ," the true source of our joy (Epistle).

