

Late November Updates

Calendar Raffle

Thank you for helping us raise more than \$21,000 towards an outdoor learning environment/classroom!

Kris Kringle Shop

St. Joseph School will be hosting our Kris Kringle Santa Shop for students to purchase gifts for family and friends. We are in need of donations of items students can buy such as: jewelry, decorations, Christmas items, books, games, toys, pets, baby items, gifts for men/dad/grandpas, etc. Also, donations of Christmas gift bags and tissue paper are needed, as well.

*The 2024 proceeds from Kris Kringle will be used as follows:

- \$2000 for 10 Angel Tree Tags (1 to represent each grade level, PK-8)
- \$500 - Back to the Wild
- \$500 - Good Knights of Lorain County
- \$500 - Multi Breed Rescue
- \$340 - Peyton Heart Project

Loose Change Challenge

The winner of the Loose Change Challenge has been decided.....it's the whole school! We raised more than \$2,220 for the Amherst Kids Closet!

Reminder

There is no school the week of Thanksgiving, 11/24-11/28.

Parent Club

The next parent club meeting will be 12/9/25 and we will need lots of help after to set up for this year's Kris Kringle sale!

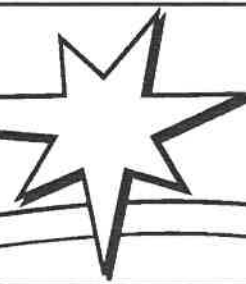
Christmas Parade

The Miracle on Main Street Christmas Parade is on 12/5/25 at 6 PM. Our theme this year is "We Are The Light" and the more lights, the better! Think glow sticks, battery operated candles, etc. If you would like to join us, please meet at the high school on Washington by 5:30. All students who wish to participate must be accompanied by an adult.

Save the Date

This year's Christmas program is on 12/12/25. More to come!

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2025

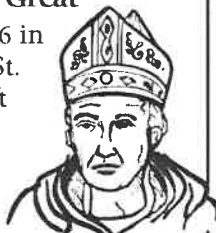
St. Joseph School, Amherst
Mrs. Amy Makruski, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

St. Albert the Great

Born around 1206 in Swabia, Germany, St. Albert the Great left behind wealth and status to join the Dominican Order. A brilliant scholar, he made lasting contributions in science, philosophy, and theology. He skillfully integrated Aristotle's ideas with Catholic teaching, a method his student St. Thomas Aquinas would later expand. In recognition of his extraordinary legacy in both faith and reason, Pope Pius XI canonized him in 1931 and declared him a Doctor of the Church.



A renewed call to trust

Even when we don't feel it, we can be certain of God's steadfast love. He answers prayer, provides for our every need, and withholds nothing good from us (Romans 8:32). In November, a month of remembrance and reflection, make it a point to renew your trust in God's abundant care.

"Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude." St. Thérèse of Lisieux



Teach children the sacred gift of hospitality

Hospitality is more than politeness—it's an act of love, humility, and service that reflects God's welcome and Christ's example. Jesus embraced the outsider, shared meals, and served with compassion. As Catholics, we're called to do the same. The holidays offer opportunities to teach children this virtue in simple, meaningful ways—helping them practice generosity, empathy, and grace as a practice of faith and community.

Establish clear hosting principles. Simple rules—like offering first choice to guests, avoiding disagreements, and showing generosity—help children understand the heart of hospitality. For younger ones, outline boundaries and introduce consequences if needed.

Prepare for common challenges.

Talk through real-life scenarios. For example, if a guest wants to continue a game in which the host has lost interest, suggest a five-minute compromise before switching activities.

Put away off-limits toys. Avoid unnecessary conflict by removing favorite toys or games that can't easily be shared.

Creating a play environment that's fair and accessible sets everyone up for success.

Create a "Hospitality Mission." Frame it as a fun challenge: "Let's see

how many smiles we can give out today!" or "How can we make our guests feel extra welcome?"

True hospitality requires sacrifice: time, attention, comfort. But, when practiced well, it also transforms us, teaching us to put others first and to see Christ in every person

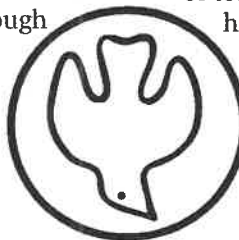


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in Purgatory?

The belief in Purgatory is rooted in Scripture and developed through Church Tradition. According to Catholic teaching, those who die in God's grace but still carry the effects of sin undergo purification in Purgatory. It is not a place

of torment like Hell, but a state of healing and preparation for full union with God. Purgatory is seen as an expression of God's love and mercy, not punishment. Ultimately, Purgatory allows souls to be made truly ready for Heaven.



Make faith an everyday part of life

Teaching children that faith is part of everyday life starts not with instruction, but with example. For Catholic families, it means weaving faith into our daily routines so it becomes part of who we are—not just what we do. Then, faith will become part of a child's foundation.

Children absorb what they see. Let them witness prayer, forgiveness, kindness, and faith-driven choices. Normalize short prayers throughout the day—before meals, during drives, or when someone is hurting. Speak of God naturally and often, like someone close and ever-present.



Celebrate the Church's liturgical seasons at home. Traditions like candles, saint stories, or daily sacrifices help mark the seasons. Engage children in acts of service to help them connect loving others with loving God.

Use struggles as spiritual lessons. Point to God's love, mercy, and the example of the saints.

Surround your home with reminders of faith: crucifixes, sacred images, uplifting music, and children's Bibles.

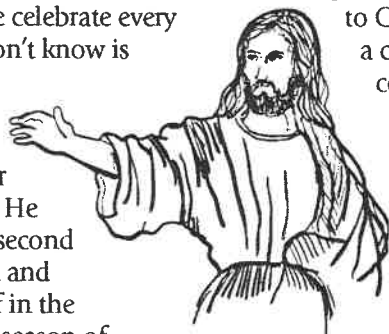
A consistent, joy-filled witness teaches children that faith isn't reserved for Sundays—it's part of everything.

Scripture LESSON

Matthew 24:37-44, When Christ comes again

We know Jesus came more than 2,000 years ago—an event we celebrate every Christmas. What we don't know is exactly when He will return. In this reading, Jesus urged all His followers to prepare for when He comes again. He warned them that His second coming will be sudden and unexpected, like a thief in the night. That is what the season of Advent is all about: anticipating our Lord, wondering at the mystery of His coming, and marveling at the light of His glory when He arrives.

What can a parent do? Help your family prepare for Jesus. Start by



resolving as a family to avoid sin. Go to Confession together. Make a concerted effort to be considerate of each other, do assigned chores, show extra patience. Then, light the candles in the Advent wreath and pray together each night during the season.

Finally, savor the Bible story of Jesus' coming. Marvel over the Annunciation. Exclaim over the Visitation. Celebrate His Birth. When Christmas finally arrives, the whole family will share in its wonder, joy, and excitement together.

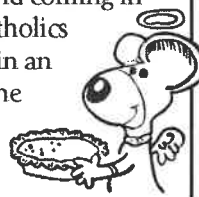
Feasts & Celebrations

November 1 – All Saints Day. In the early Church, there was a great desire to celebrate each of the martyrs. Because there were more martyrs than days of the year, Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as All Saints Day. This year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

November 17 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1231). The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elizabeth chose a life of penance and service. Married at the age of 14, her beloved husband died after only six years of marriage. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order and spent the last years of her life caring for the poor.

November 21 – Presentation of Mary (1st century). The date of this feast day is connected to the dedication of a basilica in Mary's honor in Jerusalem in the sixth century. According to tradition, Saints Joachim and Anne brought the child Mary to the Temple and dedicated her to God's service. We pray for the same humility, dedication, and surrender to God's work in our life.

November 30 - First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth in Bethlehem, and His second coming in glory on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of Christ, who said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12).



Parent TALK

Two weeks before Thanksgiving, my daughter handed me a Christmas list so long it could have doubled as a catalog.



It wasn't just the strain on our budget that concerned me—it was the creeping sense that my girls were

becoming unappreciative.

So we started a simple practice: every few nights at dinner, we each name something we're grateful for. The answers have ranged from beloved toys and favorite snacks to toothpaste and indoor plumbing (a surprisingly thoughtful entry from my eldest). The goal wasn't to be profound—it was to appreciate what's already present.

Gratitude has a quiet power. It breaks the cycle of entitlement and constant wanting. Since we began, the girls have stopped fixating on what they don't have. The Christmas "asks" have shrunk. More importantly, they seem more joyful, more content. They're learning that real happiness doesn't come from getting more—it comes from appreciating what's already yours.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

© Copyright 2025 Success Publishing & Media, LLC

2025 Family Advent Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 November Buy or make an Advent wreath and bless it. Light the violet candle every night this week. 	1 December Put out your empty Nativity scene. Gradually add characters during Advent but leave the manger empty. 	2 Randomly assign "Advent Angels" to one another. Encourage daily acts of kindness in secret throughout the season. Reveal identities before Christmas. 	3 Have everyone perform a chore they've been putting off. 	4 Select a person or situation in the news and offer a prayer on their behalf. 	5 Attend First Friday Mass together, or set aside time later in the day to visit the Blessed Sacrament in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 	6 Share favorite Christmas memories over cookies and hot chocolate.
7 Light the second violet candle in the Advent Wreath. Read Isaiah 11:1-10, which foretells Jesus' coming. 	8 The Immaculate Conception Today, we honor Mary's preservation from sin from the moment of her conception. On this Holy Day of Obligation, attend Mass as a family. 	9 Today, fast from impatience and sarcasm. When in doubt, choose kindness. 	10 Call or email your parish office and ask how your family can help with upcoming preparations for Christmas. 	11 Guess That Carol: Children draw a Christmas carol title from a jar and act it out while adults try to guess the song. 	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Place a vase of roses before a statue of Mary and sing, "Hail, Holy Queen" to celebrate. 	13 Family Game Night Set aside all screens and enjoy time together with board games. The winner chooses dessert.
14 Gaudete Sunday Light the two violet candles and the rose candle to mark the theme of joy. 	15 During family dinner tonight, invite each person to share something for which they're grateful during the Advent season. 	16 Place an empty jar in a visible spot to collect spare change. Once full, donate the contents to the church's poor box. 	17 With nine days until Christmas, place a candle or light in the window as a welcome for the Christ Child. Light it each evening until Christmas. 	18 During family dinner tonight, offer special prayers for those who will be away from home this Christmas. 	19 Invite everyone to make a small personal sacrifice today—such as skipping cream in coffee or sharing a favorite toy—as a simple offering of love for Jesus. 	20 Prepare your hearts for Christmas by attending Confession as a family. Receive the gift of God's mercy and make room for His grace.
21 Light all the candles in the wreath. Thank God for all His graces this Advent. 	22 The King is coming—prepare with purpose. Tidy and declutter your home to create a warm, welcoming space for Christmas. 	23 Reveal the Advent Angels and celebrate their acts of kindness. 	24 Tonight, place Jesus in the manger and sing, "Joy to the World!" 	<i>"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2:15-18).</i>		