

Fourteen Holy Helpers/
St. John XXIII Religious
Education Newsletter



December 2016

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The season of Advent began on Sunday, November 27th. We have had two events to help us observe this season of waiting. The first was the Quiet Waters Rosary Musical, "Joy", and the second one was the Advent Adventure, "Seeking Our Savior". Both were wonderful ways for families to begin this blessed season in which we wait and prepare for Jesus' coming in history, in mystery, every day of our lives, and in the future, at the end of time. What are you doing to help prepare for His coming?

Upcoming classes: Saturday: December 10th and 17th. January 7th, 21st, 28th. There is no class on January 14th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Monday: December 12th, and 19th.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on Thursday, December 8th. This Holyday is a celebration of the fact that our Mother Mary was conceived without sin so that she could be the Mother of Jesus Christ. Please consult the bulletin of your parish to find out the times of Masses on that day. Remember that it is a Holyday of Obligation.



Lunch with Santa: Yes, the old guy with the white beard will be visiting St. John the XXIII Parish on Saturday, December 10th. Join us at 11:30 AM for the festivities which will include lunch, a gift from Santa, raffles, games, prizes, crafts, and face painting. Ticket prices are \$3 per person or \$10 for a family of four or more. Thank you to Dr. Amy Rappold for her generous donation which makes this event possible! BRING YOUR CAMERA!!!!

Lessons and Carols, which is about the journey from Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary through to the visit of the Three Wise Men, will take place at Fourteen Holy Helpers Church on Saturday morning, December 17th at 9:15 AM. Our students will be singing, reading, and playing the holy characters. What a great way to get in the Christmas spirit. We invite you to attend with your family and then join us for cookies provided by the West Seneca Wegmans in the school cafeteria afterwards.



Christmas Eve is on Saturday, December 24th and Christmas Day is on Sunday, December 25th. Please make sure to bring your children to Mass so that you can celebrate the birth of Jesus as a family. Remember, it's not about Santa and gifts. It is about the birth of our Savior in a humble manger in Bethlehem. Please check your parish's bulletin for Mass times.

January 8th, which is also the Feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings is also the day for the children in grades two and three, who will be making either their First Reconciliation or their First Communion to attend Mass with their parents so that the child, the parents, and the parish community can make the commitment to help these children prepare for their sacrament. Families from **Fourteen Holy Helpers should attend the 9:00 AM Mass at Fourteen Holy Helpers** and families from **St. John XXIII will attend Mass at St. John at 10:30 AM. The children will also be receiving their home study books at this time. Remember, it is the parent's role to prepare their child for the reception of the sacraments. We are here to help guide you on your way!**

Monday Evening Classes will be ending on Monday, December 19th. This will be the last regular class of this year. Remember that all missed classes will have to be made up, including this last one. Anyone who missed the class on November 28th will be receiving a make-up assignment which will have to be completed before registration for next year. You will be receiving a letter in January concerning service opportunities and one more special event for your Monday evening student to attend as a part of their regular Faith formation program.

On a bitter sweet note, I would like to let you know that our “Senior” catechist, Dolly Ruggiero, will be retiring after the last Monday evening class in December. Mrs. Dolly has been a catechist at St. Williams, St. Bonaventure, Blessed John XXIII, St. John XXIII, and now at Fourteen Holy Helpers for 31 years. We wish Mrs. Dolly and her very supportive husband, Sam, the best that life can bring. God bless you both!



Pope John XXIII's Christmas Prayer

O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them. Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father.

Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness, and purity. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them all together in your love. And give us your heavenly peace.

AMEN

On behalf of Fr. David, Fr. John, our devoted catechists, Mrs. Dayna, and myself, I would like to wish you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and only the best that the New Year can bring. God bless you and your families with His loving mercy! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2017!