

December 2017

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**The season of Advent is starting on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, this year.**

Since Christmas is on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, this will be a very short Advent. It will only be three weeks and one day. That means that we need to begin on Day One to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. I am a wife, mom, and grandmother and I totally understand how hectic the month of December can be. In order to be prepared for the celebration of the big day there are

many things that we as human beings in 2017 have to do. All I ask is that as you are trying to work, take care of your children, buy gifts, decorate, and bake.....whew, that you set aside a little time each day to pray with your children and privately to prepare yourselves spiritually for the special day. If nothing else, you will get a chance to breathe and regroup while praising our creator. Please make use of the Advent pamphlets that Fr. David is kind enough to purchase for both parents and children.

**Thank you to all parents and children who shared in “All Saints/All Souls Mass” with us on November 1<sup>st</sup>.** Our little “saints” were wonderful as they processed in and out with Fr. David. They really made this Mass special for those who were present to honor their loved ones who died this past year.

**Upcoming classes:** Saturdays: December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. In order to complete all of our classes this year, we **will not be taking the 13<sup>th</sup> off to celebrate the MLK, Jr. holiday.**

Monday: There are only two more classes. They will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to sign your child up for their special events and service hours by emailing me at [religiously14hh.org](mailto:religiously14hh.org) or by calling the above phone number.



**God’s Little Angels: Thank you to those who were able to help in November.** The Thanksgiving items were taken to the Mercy Nursing Facility at OLV. Our next session will be on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ebner Hall. I hope that you will be able to help us make craft items for Christmas.



**Speaking about service hours, we are still looking for Christmas carolers to sing for the residents of Seneca Healthcare Facility on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.** You do not have to be a talented singer to help us out on this one. I will

provide words for the songs we will be singing. Parents and other family members are welcome and encouraged to join us. You will get more than you receive if you come out with us this evening. We will meet in the foyer of the nursing facility which is located on 2987 Seneca at 6:45 PM. We carol for about 30 – 45 minutes and then the home provides some cookies for us. If you’re looking for worthwhile service hours, this one will give you 1 and ¼ hours.



**We invite all the family to come and listen to the words from the Bible foretelling the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem.** There will be readings, hymns, and characters who will help us visualize the events which eventually led to our salvation. Lessons and Carols will begin at 9:15 AM in the church on December 16<sup>th</sup>. If your child is participating, please follow the instructions of the director for when to arrive, etc. Light refreshments will follow the service. We hope you can stay and attend Lunch with Santa which follows at 11:30 AM.



**This year, Santa is making a stop at Fourteen Holy Helpers for his annual Lunch with West Seneca families.** Dr. Amy Rappold, a Cheektowaga dentist is once again sponsoring this fun time with us. The festivities begin at 11:30 AM. They will include a lunch of a slice of pizza, chips, a cupcake, and a drink, visits and gifts from Santa, raffles, games, face painting, a coloring contest, and more.

Tickets are \$3.00 per person and \$10.00 for a family of four or more. An extra slice of pizza is available for \$1.00. Please call the above phone number to place your reservation or send in the form that your child brought home. Bring your camera!

**The commitment Mass for second and third graders will take place on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00 AM Mass.** We ask that all students who are receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist or Reconciliation for the first time in 2018 attend this special event with their families.

**Our next family workshop will take place on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM.** We ask that each child attend with at least one parent. More details will follow.

### **An Advent Prayer -**

Father in heaven, our hearts desire, the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for **Christ** our Savior and give us the **strength** to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of **Jesus** the Lord. Amen.

***God Bless you and your family during this blessed season of Advent!***

