

Fourteen Holy Helpers/  
St. John XXIII Religious  
Education Newsletter



January 2017

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Hi, Happy New Year! I'm hoping that your holidays were filled with love and laughter and were everything that you were hoping they would be. I'm asking you to make one of your New Year's Resolutions to make every effort to grow in your faith this year. Remember that you are the leader of your child's faith journey. They will totally follow your example. Please make it a good one!

**Upcoming classes:** January 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>. There is no class on January 14<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be no classes held on February 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> due to the winter break.

**Thank you** to all who participated in any or all of our parishes' Advent activities, including Quiet Waters, Lessons and Carols, Lunch with Santa, and the Sodality's or Altar/Rosary Society's Christmas cookie sales. I will update you as soon as I have some dates for Lenten activities.

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 the family instruction folder at this time. Due to a shipping error, the books they will use have not arrived and will be given to the children as soon as possible. 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!**

**Epiphany Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.** Please join us at Fourteen Holy Helpers Church for hymns and scriptures that lead us from Jesus's birth until His presentation by His parents, Mary and Joseph, at the temple. Let's keep that Christmas spirit going. Remember that the official end of the Christmas Season in the Catholic Church is on the Baptism of the Lord, although some continue to celebrate until the Presentation of the Lord, which is on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**Parents of Second grade students and all students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation** need to mark their calendars for Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, which is the date of the First Reconciliation Retreat. Our sacramental retreats are fun days where the children learn more about the sacrament that they are preparing to receive. It will begin at 10:30 AM and end at 1:00 PM **after regular classes. Reconciliation students must come to class at 9:00 AM.**

Before our retreat begins these children will have a bathroom break and a small snack. One parent or guardian is asked to attend this special event with their child.

**Remember that if you are on Facebook, you can receive up of our up to the minute news by "Liking" Fourteen Holy Helpers/St. John XXII Religious Education. Weather related closings will also be posted here.**



**A meeting for Confirmation candidates for 2017 and their parents will be held on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Fourteen Holy Helpers School cafeteria.** Letters have been sent out inviting eligible students to this event. If you know of someone who has completed tenth grade Religious Education or who is in tenth grade classes at a Catholic School who haven't received this invitation, please have them call our office at 674-2180 so that we can check our records.

**A teaching Mass will be held at Fourteen Holy Helpers Church for children in grade three and their parents on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM.** This is a special event for children who will be receiving their First Eucharist this year. Parents, please plan on attending with your First Communicant. We invite anyone else who would like to learn more about the Holy Mass to attend with us. The Mass itself will begin at 7:00 PM. Third graders and their parents are asked to be in church no later than 6:00 PM for other activities pertaining to their reception of this sacrament.



***God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.***

***As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.***

***AMEN***