



Family Times at OLG



Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, West Seattle

"A Parish with open arms and caring hearts!"

November 2022

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Words of Inspiration

"Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love."

Pope Francis Homily at Conclusion of World Meeting of Families 2015



Family Faith Center

Stop by our Family Center in the vestibule of the Church. You will find Mass bags for young children with activities for Mass. Children's books, articles for parents, Reflecting on the Word as a Family handouts, a place for children to share their "Pew Art" and more! We have just added some books on family prayer for you to take.

Holy Days, Holidays, Festivities, Fun, Focus, and Sanity

As wonderful as the November-December holidays and activities are, they also can be exhausting and chaos-creating. We want our children to enjoy the “magic” of the season, but we can overdo and often lose the focus of what we were trying to create. Taking some time now to plan as a family can help everyone experience the spirituality of the holidays as well as enjoy the celebrations.

Family Discussion

Think about the holidays coming up in November and December: Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. There are also Holy Days in our church, The Immaculate Conception, December 8 and The Solemnity of Mary, January 1.

- What do they all have in common?
- What do you like most about each one?
- What is most important about each one?
- How can we as a family be sure we remember what is most important about each one?
- How can we as a family help each other so that we all remember what is important and enjoy the holidays.

Make a November-December Calendar

After your discussion, as parents or as a family, make special calendar for November and December to help you choose events and activities that will help you manage the many events and activities and keep your focus. Remember, you don’t have to do everything. The magic and meaning of the season will come in the quality of the moments you share not in the flurry of activity.

Share your ideas! <https://padlet.com/mollyb15/6as8k8kaxisj5eac>

Here’s What’s Happening at OLG

Just like your family, the OLG family is busy in November and December. Here is a list to help you choose those that will be best for you! The [events page](#) on the parish website is also a good resource for these.

- **Sunday morning Children’s’ Faith Formation** classes: November 20, December 4, 11, 18,
- **Holiday Fair Trade Gift Sale and Advent Wreath Making!** Sunday, November 20, 2022, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
- **Thanksgiving Day Mass:** 10:00 A.M.
- **Light Up the Night:** Friday, December 2, 7 P.M.
- **Family Faith Sunday:** December 4, 9:30-10:45 A.M.
- **Feast of the Immaculate Conception,** Thursday December 8, Masses at 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
- **Parish Feast Day Fiesta:** December 11, 12:00 P.M. Note: in addition to the festivities there will be a special activities table for families with young children!

- **Advent Reconciliation Services:** Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 A.M and Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 P.M.
- **Simbang Gabi Mass and Dinner,** December 16, 7 P.M. Traditional Filipino Novena leading up to Christmas Eve now celebrated across the globe.
- **Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Pageant:** December 21, 6:30-7:15 P.M.
- **Christmas Eve Masses:** 4:00 P.M. Family Mass, 9:00 P.M. , Traditional Christmas Eve Mass
Christmas Morning Mass: 10:A.M.

Light Up the Night! December 2, 6:30 PM



Join us to light up the Advent Season as we illuminate West Seattle with our great tree! Fun for all ages.

7th and 8th graders follow up with **youth night** in the basement of the Pastoral Center! 7:30-9:00 p.m..



Family Faith Sunday December 4

Standing with Others: Sharing Our Gifts: We are all blessed with gifts of talent and treasure. How do we share those with others? How does this help both the receiver and the giver? How do we express gratitude for what we have and what we receive?

If you are new to Family Faith Sundays, they are geared to families with elementary school children. We meet on the first Sunday of the month from 9:30-10:45. We gather as a whole group and families work independently through activities on the theme. This is a wonderful way to share your faith as a family but also to share time with other families. For more information contact Molly Berger, mollyb@olgseattle.org or [click here](#) for our themes

Family Activities

Advent Wreath Making

Advent begins November 27

Our young adults are leading an **Advent wreath making workshop** at the Fair-Trade Sale on Sunday, November 20. If you aren't able to make that, here are some additional ideas to make one at home.



The Advent Wreaths is a beautifully simple tradition. You may create yours to express your family style as well as the spirituality behind the wreath itself.

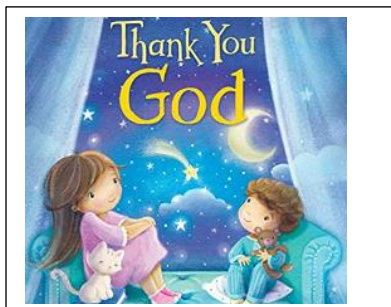
Evergreen wreath: The circular shape and evergreens represent the eternity of God who has no beginning nor end.

Candles: "Each of the four candles on an Advent wreath has a specific meaning.

- The first Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope, with the Prophet's Candle reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The second Sunday symbolizes Faith, with the Bethlehem Candle reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- The third Sunday symbolizes Joy, with the Shepherd's Candle reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.
- The fourth and final Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the Angel's Candle reminding us of their message to all mankind, repeated in the Gloria at Holy Mass: "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

adapted from The Catholic Company.Com

Book Recommendation



Thank You God-Easy Flow Rhymes and Beautiful Illustrations Teach Children Gratitude



Gratitude: More than a Catch Phrase

The word *gratitude* is a popular theme right now. We can find websites, books, videos and even memes on the theme. It is a refreshing message, but one to be taken to heart more than just a trend or marketing ploy. How do we teach our children to truly be thankful for their many blessings? How do we find time to make note of all the ways God has blessed us?

As Thanksgiving approaches, it is a good time to plan ways to develop practices that help us give appreciate our many blessings and give thanks for them.

- Gratitude jar: Each day or week each family member write something they are grateful for. Share these as a family.
- Thank you notes: Write thank you notes not just for gifts but for kind things others have done. These could be done as a family for others or could be done within the family.
- Create a word cloud or collage of the blessings you have as a family. You may computer generate this with a site such as wordart.com or create your own but writing on slips of paper and creating a collage.
- Read books on gratitude. (See book recommendation below and share ideas on our [OLG Family Recommendation Board](#))
- Find Scripture verses on gratitude.
- Listen to music expressing themes on gratitude.
- Emphasize giving: Giving is a wonderful outcome of gratitude. Finding ways to help your children give heartfully with simple things can develop into a larger sense of community and gratitude. Some ideas:
 - **Shoeboxes or Giftbags of Joy:** If you have not already started, you may still have time to get one of these together and to church this Sunday, November 20. [Click here](#) for details.
 - **Care Kits for the Homeless:** Pick up care kits in the vestibule of the church to give to homeless people you meet. You may also donate supplies by bringing them to the parish office.
 - **St. Vincent DePaul:** Place canned or nonperishable food donations in the large basket as you enter church.

Families Sharing Ideas

We have created a bulletin board where you may share your ideas for families with others! We have sections for books, music, and activities with more to come.

Please take a minute to check it out and add ideas.



Or <https://padlet.com/mollyb15/6as8k8kaxisj5eac>



Sunday Morning Faith Formation Small Groups

Our Family Faith Formation Programs continue on Sunday mornings. Check our schedule at the [Children & Family Faith Formation Page](#). New children are always welcome! Our program is designed to evolve and grow with the needs of our families. Please share ideas and give us feedback on this survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/FUzeJPH92Z>

Sunday Morning Pre-School during 11:00 Mass

We are ready to start the Sunday morning Pre-School group in January during the 11:00 Mass. All we need are children! This is geared to 3 through 5-year-olds (kindergarteners attend at 9:30). Please let us know of your interest by [clicking here](#) or going to <https://bit.ly/fffpreschool>



You can read and hear Sunday readings at any time!

Get them on your smart device!



*Read them at Pflaum.org [Here](#)
or listen to them at [daily readings](#)*

