



Family Times at OLG



Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, West Seattle
"A Parish with open arms and caring hearts!"

December 2022

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Calling All Children!



Join us in the Christmas Pageant at the Christmas Eve 4:00 Family Mass. Be a part of the Gospel as we enact the reading of the birth of Jesus!

Rehearsal Wednesday, December 21, 6:30-7:45

Contact Molly Berger for details.

mollyb@olgseattle.org

Remember: December 8, the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**. Mary was conceived without original sin. Masses at 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.



Chantel Ole on Unsplash.com

A Season of Hope

Jesus brings light to our darkness.

Christmas defies the darkness, refusing to allow the outer world to dictate the terms of existence.

John Shea

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

Desmond Tutu

Faith is seeing light with your heart when all your eyes see is darkness.

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Remember, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.

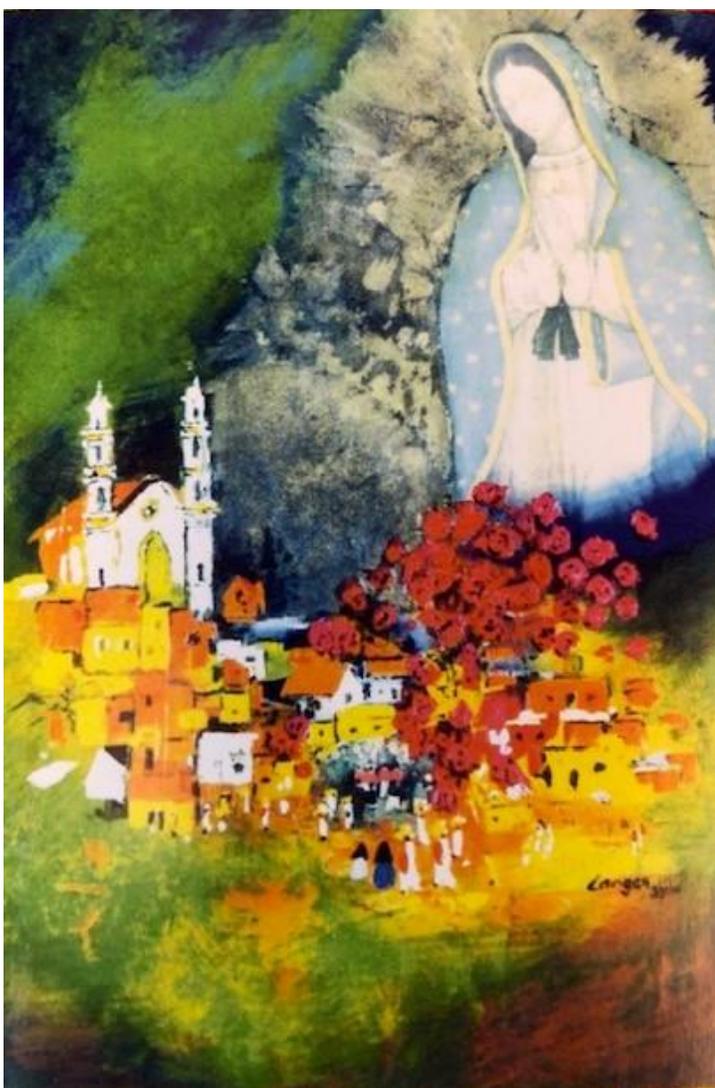
Stephen King

Jesus is the stillpoint of the turning world.

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It's best to not confuse optimism with hope. Optimism is a psychological attitude toward life. Hope goes further. It is an anchor that one hurls toward the future, it's what lets you pull on the line and reach what you're aiming for and head in the right direction. Hope is also theological: God is there, too.

Pope Francis



Our Lady of Guadalupe

According to tradition, Mary appeared to Juan Diego, who was an Aztec, convert to Christianity. On December 9th and again on December 12th, 1531. During her first apparition, she requested that a shrine to her be built on the spot where she appeared, on Tepeyac Hill.

The bishop demanded a sign before he would approve construction of a church, however, Mary then appeared a second time to Juan Diego and told him to collect roses.

In a second audience with the bishop, Juan Diego opened his tilma, letting dozens of roses fall to the floor to reveal, the image of Mary imprinted on the inside of his tilma. This image of Mary is now venerated in the Basilica of Guadalupe.

What signs are around us of our Lord's presence that we overlook?

Join us at the parish feast day celebration, December 11, 12:00PM in the Walmesley Center. Families with young children be sure to find the table of activities for you!

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.

- **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.

Advent Crib

Make or purchase and advent crib. Have your children fill it with straw to make baby Jesus warm on Christmas Eve. Each day children may add a piece of straw for a kind thing they did that day. This works well with your Advent wreath prayer each day! Lay the baby Jesus in the crib on Christmas Eve. make your own crib or find them on Amazon or Etsy or similar.



Family Activities

With the holidays and so much excitement, we can all use activities that will be fun for kids and the family and yet simple to plan. Here are some ideas, but please find and share additional ones on the

OLG Family Sharing Page. <https://bit.ly/OLGFamilies>



Paper chains of acts of kindness. Create paper chains that children can add to with each act of kindness they do. Cut strips of construction paper or wrapping ribbon and create a loop connected to the previous chain.

Create your own game. [Click this link](#) for a template of a board game to print or create your own. (Open the link and click file and then download.) Have the kids write their own cards for advancing or detours. Choose what kind of focus you would like on the cards. They may be trivia questions, math problems, challenges such as do five jumping jacks. Have fun choosing a focus that fits your family.

A little more work, but worth it....

Christmas book of favorites: Create a scrapbook or digital flip book of your Christmas activities, favorites, and memories. Include a list and photos of activities you did, favorite recipes, favorite movies, funny experiences or quotes, and memories.

Print: This can be done with a notebook or scrapbook.

Digital: You can use PowerPoint or a similar slide presentation program such as [Prezi](#) or Keynote. Also check out Canva or other online programs for making flipbooks.



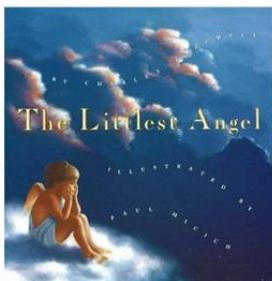
Family Faith Sunday' January 8 9:30-10:45

Standing Together through the Mass: This Mass is a focal point of our Catholic faith, but children often struggle with understanding it. The activities in this session will guide children in a better understanding and help them participate in the Mass more fully.

- Why is the Mass important to me? To my family? To my community?
- What are the parts of the Mass?
- Why do we do what we do in the Mass?
- How is music part of the praying at Mass?
- What can I do to better participate in the Mass?

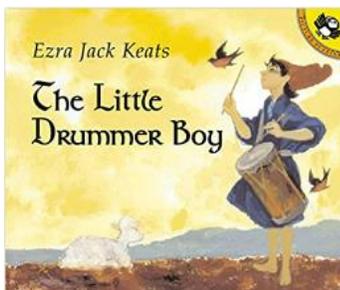
If you are new to Family Faith Sundays, they are geared to families with elementary school children. We meet on the first Sunday of the month from 9:30-10:45. We gather as a whole group and families work independently through activities on the theme. This is a wonderful way to share your faith as a family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

Book Recommendation



The Littlest Angel by Charles Tazwell

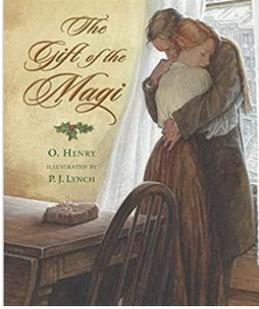
This is the tale of a little angel who just cannot stay out of trouble in the celestial city. When the Christ child is born, the mischievous angel learns a timeless lesson in the true spirit



The Little Drummer Boy

by [Ezra Jack Keats](#)

Illustrates the classic song. A procession travels to Bethlehem, bringing gifts for the newborn baby Jesus. The little drummer boy comes along, although he is too poor to bring a present fit for a king. Instead, he plays a song on his drum for the Christ Child. Within the little drummer boy's seemingly simple gift lies the true spirit of Christmas.



The Gift of the Magi

by O. Henry.

Although this is not a Christian story per se, it is a wonderful story of love and giving that older children, teens, and parents will enjoy.



Preschool Faith Formation Group

Starting in late January!

We are excited to bring back our pre-school faith formation group, the Lord's Lions, during the 11:00 Mass. We are planning to begin on January 22, but watch the bulletin for final details.

Let us know of your interest at <https://bit.ly/olgsundaypreschool> or contact Molly Berger mollyb@olgseattle.org.

Saints of December

These are a few of the saints celebrated in December. You may find their stories at a number of sources online such as [Saint Feast Days in December - Saint Feast Days - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)

December 3: St. Francis Xavier

December 7: Saint Ambrose

December 9: St. Juan Diego

December 13: Saint Lucy

December 21: St. Thomas

December 26: Saint Stephen

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. In December we meet December 11 and 18. We resume in January with Family Faith Sunday on January 8 and then small groups again on January 22 and 29. 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>

Reflecting on the Word as a Family

[Reflecting on the Word as a Family](#) is available each week on the Family Faith Formation page of our website. A few hard copies are also available in the Family Center in the vestibule of the church. It includes a list of the readings, the Gospel reading and questions to discuss.

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](#)*



