



Thrive

December
advent

Thrive Family Kits

Our aim is to bring families a couple activities each month that will help build up our faith in the home and encourage families to grow together. In other words, to THRIVE!

H A P P Y A D V E N T !

Thank you for signing up to the Thrive Family Kit through Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes. During Advent, we look forward to celebrating the first coming of Jesus at Christmas. With great hope, we also look forward to Jesus' second coming – His glorious return! As we wait, we seek deeper encounter with Jesus at the Mass, in the Eucharist, and through prayer.

The tradition of lighting candles and praying around an Advent Wreath offers families the perfect opportunity to pause and pray together. Through shared prayer, families encounter Jesus together while preparing their hearts for His coming.

There are suggestions for each week of Advent, feel free to do as many or few as you like! And if you aren't able to do an activity on a specific day, that's ok too! Family life is busy!

If you have any questions, or need more materials for any of the activities please feel free to call/text me at 519-466-0593. And if you have any traditions or feast days you want to share, please let me know! We'd love to get to know how other families in our community celebrate!

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Rowe
Youth Ministry Assistant
Kent Lambton Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

Daily Advent Calendar

Enclosed in your kit is a set of 24 cards that tell the story of Jesus' birth. These are stories we all know and love, but it is a great reminder to hear them together as a family.

Every day for the month of December, cut out a numbered card (start at 1) and read the story on the card. After reading it put it on display! Either hang a long string across a window and clip them on after reading them, or tape them on the wall. Each day, the story will grow and you'll be able to see the journey of Christ!



Find all of the resources (printables, links, videos) in this booklet on www.klrcfp.com/THRIVE

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29th

The traditional wreath we see most often is a wreath of greens with three purple candles and one pink candle. We light one extra candle each new week of Advent. The parish office has purple and pink taper candles available for purchase. If you don't have everything to make the traditional wreath, be creative! Use your memorial jar from last month (hand sanitizer will wipe that sharpie ink right off!) and just light one candle the whole month. Or find three more mason jars and some salt for a base to make four matching candles (votives or tea lights inside). Or use any candles you have.



Light your candles during meals! Take turns lighting the candles and say a prayer together. Discuss each candle's message (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love) and how it pertains to your lives.

Bless Your Advent Wreath

All: Sign of the Cross

Reader: Read Isaiah 9:2

Second Reader: Read Isaiah 9:6

Parent: *O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Parent: Sprinkle wreath with holy water.

All: Sign of the Cross

Advent Service Projects

This year's season is unlike any Advent we've ever experienced. While we are blessed to be with our families, we should also spread the love of Christ to those in need. Below are some suggestions for family projects.

Christmas Cards for the Elderly

Create handmade cards wishing others the joy of Christmas. Pray for the recipient of each card. Cards can be dropped in the parish offertory basket and Jacqueline will distribute them before Christmas.



Good Deeds Chain

Cut out strips of purple or pink paper. Tell each family member that when they do a good deed (without being asked!) they can add a new link to the chain. Good deeds can be for the family, neighbours, school or work!



Family Donation

As a family decide on a local charity to support this winter. If it's a children's charity have your children pick out a gift to give.



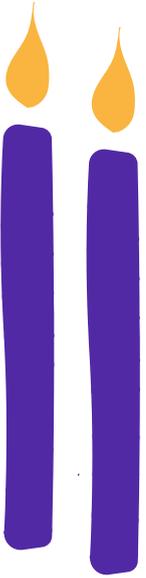
Smile

Challenge each other one day a week for everyone they come across to smile, make eye contact, and say hello or something you appreciate in the other person!



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6th



"Peace I leave you, my peace I give you"

We hear this at every Mass and it is a gift we receive every time we go to Mass. We live in a world where sin, sadness and suffering abound. Disagreements seem to happen about everything! So where is the peace??

Peace is God's gift to us - it is not just a feeling, it is one of our deepest desires. By coming closer to God (through prayer, Mass, and the sacrament of Confession) we allow God to bring peace to us. When we realize that God's plan for us include eternal happiness with Him we can let go of the fear and worry that we get from this world. Let go, and let God!

Check out this video:

<https://youtu.be/WIHou7zh5LY>

Why Jesus was sent to us.

Dinner Discussions

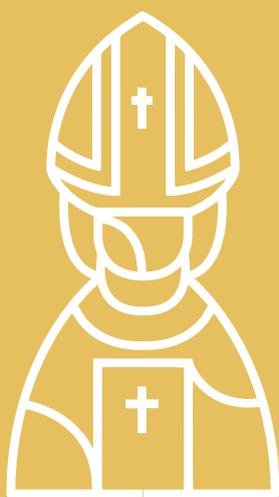
- What does peace look like in our world?
- What conflicts in our world need prayer?
- What do we mean when we call Jesus the Prince of Peace?
- What can we do in our home to make it peaceful?
- What brings you peace?



peace

**DEC
6TH**

Patron Of:
sailors
children
unmarried

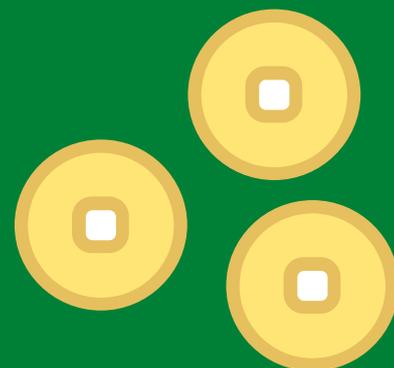


ST. NICHOLAS

Myra - Modern Turkey

270-343

A man had three daughters and no money for a dowry (for them to be married). Nicholas, hearing this tossed a bag of coins into their window one night. The first daughter was married. He did it again and the second was married. One final time, and the third daughter was able to marry!



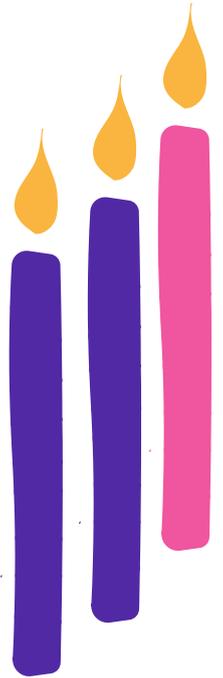
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13th

"I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart!"

Have you ever noticed something about people that have a **AMAZING** faith? Like, they have a whole atmosphere of joy surrounding them? Their lives may have struggles and turmoil, but at the end of the day they are so joyful and thankful.

We can be like that too! When we take time to build up our relationship with God (prayer, Mass, Confession), and take on an attitude of gratitude we then become like a mirror, reflecting God's love back to the world!



Check out this video together:
children's retelling of the Nativity story.

https://youtu.be/-s56Xa_C54I

Dinner Discussions

- What is joy?
- What are things that make you joyful?
- What are we thankful for as a family?
- Why do we call Jesus the light of the world?
- How can we also be a light to the world?





St. Lucy lived with her mother, who was unwell. Because she feared for her daughter's future she betrothed Lucy to a rich pagan man. Lucy had promised herself to the service of God (like a nun) and did not want to marry him.

Her mother was ill, so they went on a pilgrimage - a journey of prayer. While on pilgrimage Lucy's mother was miraculously healed! Lucy asked that to thank God for the miracle, that they might give away most of their money to the poor.

So they did!

Her fiance discovered that Lucy had given away her dowry and would not marry him. He was furious and turned her in as a Christian. Lucy's eyes were removed and was killed for her faith.

ST. LUCY

283 - 304

Sicily

The name Lucy means Light!

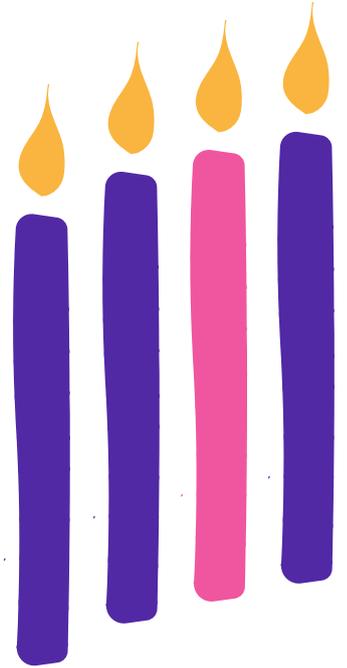
We celebrate her feast day in the dark of winter, so we seek out light to remind us of Christ's love! Take a family car ride or walk and do the St. Lucy Scavenger Hunt together!

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20th

"For God so loved the world..."

Has your family heard the story "The Gift of the Magi"? There are lots of versions available on the internet (and a Mickey Mouse one on Disney+!). The story goes a husband and wife want to get each other gifts they cannot afford - it is such a good story you should go read/watch it. But their act of love is tied to their sacrifice of something they have.



As parents, we know sacrifice - we've carried these children, went sleepless for them, given them everything we can... that sacrifice is love in action. And God - through His love, sent Jesus, to sacrifice His entire life for us. That is love.

Watch this video together: Salt
https://youtu.be/x1QC2_2l9ug

Dinner Discussions

- How did I show someone love today?
- Is love easy?
- What is a sacrifice? What sacrifices can I make this week to show love?
- What Christmas movies are all about love?



love

Family Togetherness

Take some time to sit down together and watch a movie or read a book. Gather up blankets, popcorn and some hot chocolate and just enjoy each others company!

Family Movie Night

The Star - Netflix, Hoopla

The Muppet Christmas Carol - Disney+

Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree - Formed.org

Mary of Nazareth - Formed.org

It's A Wonderful Life - DVD at Library

A Charlie Brown Christmas - DVD at Library

Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas - Disney+

The Gift of the Magi - DVD at Library

Books About Advent (Available at the Library)

The Advent Craft and Activity Book, Christel Dhom

Celebrating Advent, Ann Hibbard

The Christmas Countdown, Margie J. Harding

Sew Advent Calendars, Debbie Shore

The Gift of the Magi, O. Henry

Picture Books (Available at the Library)

Advent Storybook - 24 Stories to Share, Antonie Schneider

The Baker's Dozen - A Saint Nicholas Tale, Aaron Shepard

Saint Nicholas, Ann Tompert

The Gift from Saint Nicholas, Dorothea Lachner

The Christmas Rose, Sepp Bauer



Prepare for Christmas

Christmas Eve Masses

5pm - Sacred Heart

5pm - Holy Family

5pm - Our Lady Help of Christians

7:30 - St. Michael

7:30 - Our Lady Help of Christians

9:30 - Holy Family

10:00 - Our Lady Help of Christians

Christmas Eve Mass will be livestreamed on YouTube

Christmas Day Masses

8:30am - Holy Family

8:45am - Sacred Heart

10:30am - Our Lady Help of Christians

11:15am - St. Michael

12:30pm - Our Lady Help of Christians

Advent Music

Take a break from some of the upbeat Christmas music and reflect to some quieter Advent music.

Great for a quiet family night inside!

Search for the "Thrive Advent!" playlist
on [Spotify](#) or on [YouTube](#)!