

Journeying through Advent 2025



THE JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ — the foretold “shoot from the stump of Jesse” who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

In a way, creating a Jesse tree is the telling of one big story — the redemption of man — through the telling of many smaller stories — the fall of Adam, God’s promise to Abraham, the wandering of the Israelites, the greatness of David and the humble submission of Mary. A Jesse tree is adorned with symbols of these various people and stories, with the earliest ones hung from

the topmost branches, progressing downward.

There are different versions of the Jesse Tree featuring different Old Testament figures and stories, but all begin with Adam and end with the birth of Jesus. It is an easy tradition to practice at home.

Want to learn more and make a Jesse tree with your children, grandchildren or CCD class? Scan the QR code for free downloads from Catholic Inspired!



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Penance is an experience of the gift of God's boundless mercy.

Not only does the Sacrament of Penance free us from our sins but it also challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us. We are liberated to be forgivers. We obtain new insight into the words of the Prayer of St. Francis: *"It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."*

In addition to our regularly scheduled weekly confession opportunity each Saturday at 11:30 am and 25 minutes before Monday and Friday evening Masses, the Sacrament of Penance will be available at the following Penance Services:

Monday, December 1st	6:30 pm	The Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory
Tuesday, December 9th	6:30 pm	Our Lady of Sorrows
Thursday, December 11th	6:30 pm	Holy Family
Sunday, December 14th	6:00 pm	St. Joseph, Inez
Monday, December 15th	6:30 pm	St. Mary's
Tuesday, December 16th	6:30 pm	Our Lady of Lourdes
Wednesday, December 17th	6:30 pm	St. Patrick's, Bloomington

THE ADVENT WREATH

Traditionally, An Advent Wreath consists of a circle of evergreen and four candles, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are purple; one is rose, representing Gaudete Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.



CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS AT 5:30PM ON DEC. 24TH

If you would like for your child to participate, please contact Heather Kallus at hkallus@hfccvic.org. There will be one mandatory practice and dress rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 20th from 8:00am-11:00am. Snacks provided. Parents will need to remain with their child for this practice.

Roles still needing to be filled at this time are: Angels and Shepherds. Costumes provided.



GIVING TREE

The Holidays Are A Time of Warmth, Love, and Giving

The Giving Trees are up with tags for our children, families and homebound neighbors. Please take a tag, purchase a gift, attach the tags back on the gifts and return by the date on the tag.

The Lord Blesses us so we may bless others.

Thank you for your generosity!



OPERATION SENSORY DRIVE

Holy Family is having a sensory toy and **weighted** blanket drive until the end of December for Citizen's Medical Center Emergency Room. These items will help those with special needs in case they forget to bring their own special comfort item from home. These items will serve as comfort and distraction so their medical needs are taken care of.

There are two donation receptacles in the church foyer.

WEIGHTED BLANKETS



-  Promotes deeper sleep
-  Decreases anxiety
-  Better mood
-  Better energy
-  Helps children with autism
-  Helps with ADHD
-  Helps with PTSD



Sensory Toys to Calm a Child.



Stuffed animals to hold and feel comforted.



CELEBRATING ADVENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Three great ways to celebrate Advent in the Community!



CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 1:

If you need to wait in a line, don't immediately pull out your phone. Experience the feeling of waiting and offer up a prayer for someone you know in need!

CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 2:

Set up a nativity scene in your home but don't set it up all at once. Put a different piece out every day or every week until the whole thing is finished by Christmas!

CELEBRATE ADVENT IDEA 3:

Bake cookies to secretly drop off to your neighbors. Include a Christmas card with an Advent prayer or an invitation to Christmas Mass at your parish!



DATES TO REMEMBER

ROCK Youth Ministry Christmas Lock In	Friday - Dec. 5th	7:00 pm
Quilters silent Auction	Weekends Dec 6 –14	Before and after Masses
4th Degree Knights of Columbus Christmas Party	Sunday - Dec. 7th	5:30 pm
Christmas party - Altar Society, KC's and CDA	Tuesday - Dec. 16th	6:00 pm
Christmas Pageant Practice	Saturday - Dec. 20th	8: 00 am
ROCK Youth Meeting	Sunday - Dec 21st	12:00 noon
Church Decoration	Sunday - Dec 21st	12:15 pm

CLOSURES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Adoration Closure

December 18th	Thursday	5:30 pm
Reopen January 6th	Tuesday	8:00 am

Religious Education- CCD

December 24th and December 31st	Wednesday	No Classes
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OCIA

December 28th	Sunday	No Class
January 4th	Sunday	Resumes

Office Closure

December 22nd	Monday	5:00 pm
January 5th - reopen	Monday	8:00 am



Christmas Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve	December 24th	5:30 pm	Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord including Children's Reenactment of the First Christmas
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Overflow at the 5:30 pm Children's Mass will be in St. Peter's Hall

Mass during the Night	December 24th	10:00 pm	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day	December 25th	7:30 am	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day	December 25th	9:00 am	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Day	December 25th	11:00 am	Mass of the Nativity of the Lord





*May the Love
of Christ fill
your home and
family.*

*Merry
Christmas*