

FOR THE MONTH OF DEC 2024

# Catechism Chronicles

A monthly newsletter chronicling Kid Ministry at Holy Spirit Parish (Grades 4K-5)

## UPCOMING DATES

- Dec 25 No KidMin
- Jan 1 No KidMin
- Jan 8 No KidMin/Catechist Inservice (5-8pm)
- Jan 15 KidMin 5-6:15pm
- Jan 22 KidMin 5-6:15pm
- Jan 25 First Reconciliation Retreat (8am-12pm)
- Jan 29 KidMin 5-6:15pm

## SACRAMENT PREP TO DO'S

- All sacrament prep students via Holy Spirit School, KidMin, and students working remotely:
  - Complete [Mass Reflection Sheets](#) twice a month either during Mass or afterward for reflection.
  - Send in a pic of your kiddo for our prayer board to me at [ackleyl@holyspirit.org](mailto:ackleyl@holyspirit.org).
  - Keep praying for your prayer partners (families) and prayer pals (kids).
- Practice the prayers from the [family info packet](#). While the kids aren't expected to have them memorized, becoming familiar with them will help them feel more comfortable.
- Remote families should plan to have homework turned in by January 22nd. If you are unable to keep up with the schedule let me know. The Sacraments are much more than a box to be checked. Accommodations can always be made and timelines can be adjusted.
- Virtual Office Hours January 29th 8:30-9pm. Parents/families are encouraged to check in. An email reminder with the link to join via Zoom will be sent out that day.

## hello FROM MRS. ACKLEY

This past month, we've been exploring the season of Advent, and how we prepare our hearts to celebrate the greatest gift of all: the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

It is a gift in itself to the Catechists and myself to accompany your children on their faith journey. I also deeply trust in the powerful role you have in continuing this message at home. Together, we create a beautiful cycle guiding these amazing kids toward discipleship.

The work at home, though, is hard. Putting our faith first (and often) in a world that seems to encourage us to do otherwise can leave you feeling like a sacrificial lamb. Whether it's introducing prayer, standing up to other commitments, or waking up crabby kid for Sunday Mass it's scary, intimidating, and just plain difficult. It's much easier to go along with the status quo than to challenge it. I don't say this with judgement but with empathy because I have been in all of those positions...and not always made the choice I know I ought to—maybe that's why I emphasize the “it takes a village” mentality because I know how badly I need one. I also believe that God didn't intend for it to be any other way.

So as we head into the Christmas season, I hope you find a village so big it doesn't fit under your tree—full of people who help you feel brave enough to challenge the status quo, empathize with the lows, rejoice in the highs, and remind you not to be too hard on yourself.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a New Year that's full of joy, peace, and a little more grace for the journey ahead!

*Always willing to meet for coffee,  
Leah*

# Faithful Francis



As a dog, I have the best ears in the house – I can hear the faintest sound of a treat bag from a mile away. Christmas is full of exciting noises (like the rustle of wrapping paper as I help unwrap all the presents), but the most important thing to hear is the love and joy that fills

Whoever has ears, let them hear.  
Matthew 11:15

the air. Just like I perk up when I hear that treat bag, we're all invited to "perk up" and listen to the good news of Jesus' birth. It's the best kind of Christmas present—no wrapping paper required!

Let's remember the joy of God's gift and listen with open hearts to the true meaning of the season—love, joy, and maybe a few extra treats for good boys like me!



WHAT DO REINDEER HANG ON THEIR CHRISTMAS TREES?

Horn-aments!



How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus weigh when he was born?

They had a weigh-in a manger!

WHAT DO DONKEYS SEND AT CHRISTMAS?

Mule-tide greetings.



## VOLUNTEER HOURS AUDIT

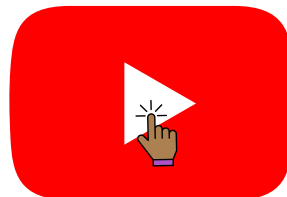
Letters will be sent out after the New Year to each family confirming their current volunteer hours for the 2024–2025 KidMin year. As indicated in the handbook, families are required to volunteer at least three times throughout the year. Currently, nearly 85% of families have not yet met or committed to this requirement.

Why do we ask this of you? First and foremost, we cannot run KidMin without your help—key tasks like Crossing Guards and Hall Monitors are vital to ensure efficiency and the safety of our kids. Equally important, the single most powerful force in a child's religious formation is the parent/family at home. Therefore, it is critically important that you are authentically engaged. Your presence at KidMin speaks volumes to your child about the significance of our faith.

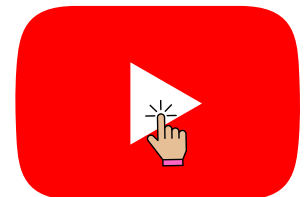
Please note, adults 18 and older must complete a background check and training before volunteering. For instructions on how to complete this step, contact [Valerie Decoster](#) for more information.

## FAITH FOCUS: ADVENT

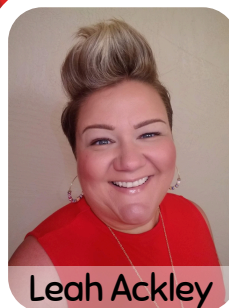
This month in KidMin, we've been diving into the season of Advent and discovering its deep significance in helping to prepare our hearts for Christmas. We've been learning about the four key themes of Advent—hope, peace, joy, and love—and how each of these values helps us prepare for the birth of Jesus. Through games, crafts, and songs, our kids are learning that Advent is a time to focus not just on the excitement of the season, but on the spiritual preparation that helps us celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth with grateful hearts.



ADVENT EXPLAINED FOR GK-3



ADVENT EXPLAINED FOR G4-5



Leah Ackley

HOW CAN I HELP? LET ME KNOW!

☎ PH 920.788.7640 x 1005

✉ [ACKLEYL@HOLYSPIRIT-PARISH.ORG](mailto:ACKLEYL@HOLYSPIRIT-PARISH.ORG)



4K-5K GRADE: PONDERING THE NATIVITY



G1: GOD MADE ME



G4: STAINED GLASS CRAFT



G1: BRINGING GIFTS (AKA SNACKS) LIKE THE WISEMEN



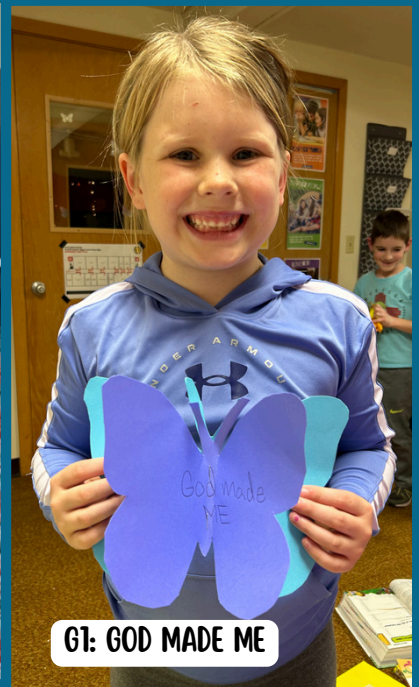
G4: SEEK AND FIND ACTIVITY

# SCENES OF THE SPIRIT

And the Spirit himself joins with our spirits to say that we are God's children. -Rom 8:16



G2: NATIVITY TWISTER GAME



G1: GOD MADE ME



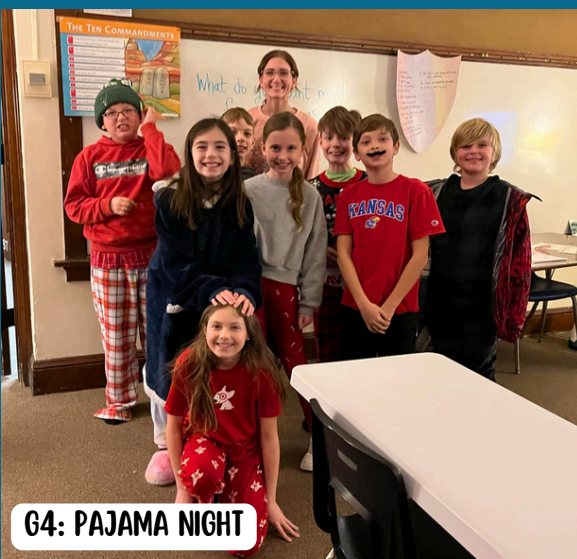
G3: ADVENT FORTUNE TELLER CRAFT



G1: PLAYDOH ADVENT WREATHS



G4K-5K: LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH



G4: PAJAMA NIGHT



G1: GOD MADE ME



G1: PLAYDOH ADVENT WREATHS



G4: PAJAMA NIGHT



G3: ADVENT FORTUNE TELLER CRAFT



G4: STAINED GLASS CRAFT

# SCENES OF THE SPIRIT

And the Spirit himself joins with our spirits to say that we are God's children. -Rom 8:16



G5: CHRISTMAS MOVIE AND PJ NIGHT



G4: NATIVITY I HAVE YOU HAS GAME



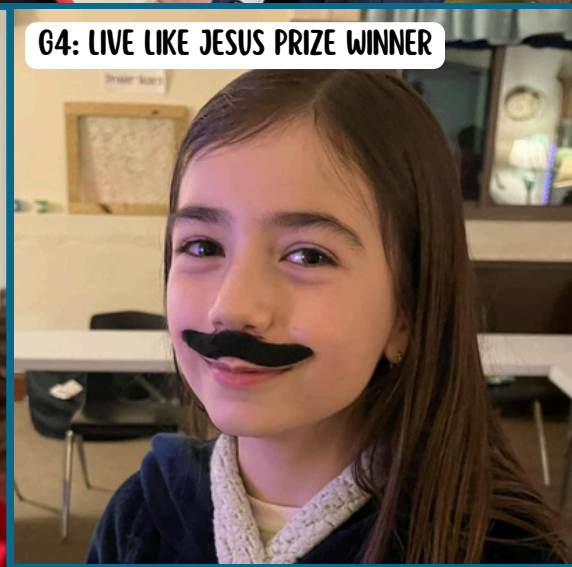
G3: ADVENT WORD SEARCH



G4: ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING



G3: ORNAMENT MAKING



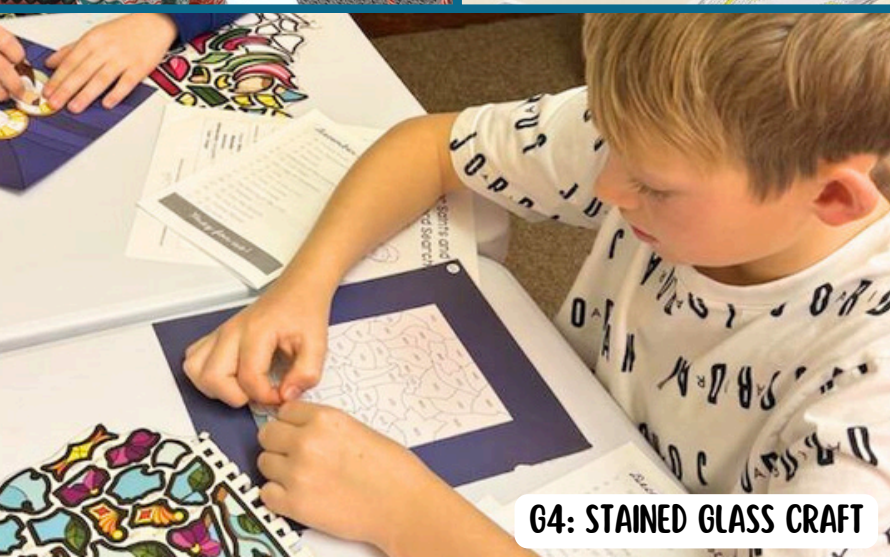
G4: LIVE LIKE JESUS PRIZE WINNER



G2: CANDY CANE MINUTE TO WIN IT



G3: ADVENT FORTUNE TELLER CRAFT



G4: STAINED GLASS CRAFT

# SCENES OF THE SPIRIT

And the Spirit himself joins with our spirits to say that we are God's children. -Rom 8:16



G1: NATIVITY TWISTER

# MICHELLE BANKS

## FAVORITE HOLIDAY

Christmas

## FAVORITE GAME ON PHONE

Wordscapes

## FAVORITE MOVIE

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

## FAVORITE BOOK TO READ TO KIDS

The Day the Crayons Quit



## FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

Art

## FAVORITE CANDY

Dark Chocolate

## FAVORITE YARD GAME

Corn Hole



## GRADE 3

St. Francis of Assisi

Patron Saint of Ecology & Animals

Feast Day: October 4

## FAVORITE SONG

All Christmas Music & Songs



## THIS OR THAT



White Milk or Chocolate Milk

Sports or Academics

Scary Movies or Comedies

Tacos or Nachos

Crayons or Colored Pencils

Roses or Sunflowers

Outer Space or Deep Sea

Planting Flowers or Planting Veggies

Baking Pies or Decorating Cakes

Studying Earthquakes or Studying Tornadoes

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...

### YOU WERE IN YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW

Gilmore Girls living in Stars Hollow would be a dream especially during Christmas/winter.

### YOU COULD ASK JESUS ONE QUESTION?

Am I living my purpose in life...will I have any regrets?

### YOU COULD TRAVEL IN A TIME MACHINE?

I'd travel back in time to meet my Grandma who passed away when I was a baby.

## 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE: CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE?

I have a superpower!

I have seen a UFO.

I am afraid of heights.

I hate pumpkin seeds.

# MOLLY O'NEILL



**FAVORITE HOLIDAY**  
Christmas

**FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL**  
Sciences


**FAVORITE ANIMAL FOR A PET**  
No pets

**FAVORITE CANDY**  
Cotton Candy

**FAVORITE MOVIE**  
The Color Purple

**FAVORITE YARD GAME**  
Horse Shoe

**FAVORITE BOOK TO READ TO KIDS**  
Moon Fairy



**GRADE 2**  
St. Philomena  
Patron Saint of Infants, Babies, & Youth  
Feast Day: August 11

**FAVORITE SONG**  
Anything Prince



## THIS OR THAT

- White Milk or **Chocolate Milk**
- Sports or **Academics**
- Scary Movies or **Comedies**
- Tacos or **Nachos**
- Crayons** or Colored Pencils
- Roses** or Sunflowers
- Outer Space** or Deep Sea
- Planting Flowers** or Planting Veggies
- Baking Pies or **Decorating Cakes**
- Studying or **Studying**
- Earthquakes or **Tornadoes**

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...

**YOU WERE IN YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW?**  
I Love Lucy!!

**YOU COULD ASK JESUS ONE QUESTION?**  
What do you want me to do to serve you?

**YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ADVICE?**  
Have fun! Enjoy life!  
Don't sweat the small stuff.

## 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE: CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE?

- I have flown in a helicopter.
- I have never been to Wisconsin Dells.
- I have never seen a UFO.
- Crayons are WAY better than markers.

# LEAH DOBRINSKA

## FAVORITE HOLIDAY

Christmas

## FAVORITE ICE CREAM

Cookie Dough

## FAVORITE MOVIE

You've Got Mail

## FAVORITE BOOK TO READ TO KIDS

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom

## FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

English/Language Arts

## FAVORITE CANDY

Skittles

## FAVORITE YARD GAME

Bag Toss

## FAVORITE SONG

O God Beyond All Praising



## GRADE K

St. Aloysius Gonzaga

Patron Saint of Youth & Students

Feast Day: June 21



## THIS OR THAT



White Milk or **Chocolate Milk**

**Sports** or Academics

Scary Movies or **Comedies**

Tacos or **Nachos**

**Crayons** or Colored Pencils

Roses or **Sunflowers**

Outer Space or Deep Sea **Neither!**

Planting Flowers or **Planting Veggies**

**Baking Pies** or Decorating Cakes

Studying Earthquakes or **Studying Tornadoes**

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...

### YOU COULD CHANGE ONE EVENT IN HISTORY?

I'd love to get more time with our son Michael!

### YOU COULD TALK WITH JESUS AND ASK HIM ONE QUESTION THAT HE WOULD ANSWER IN A WAY YOU COULD FULLY UNDERSTAND?

Why do people have to struggle with the pain of infertility and child loss?

### YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF SOME ADVICE?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your understanding:)

## 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE: CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE?

I am not afraid of heights

I've seen the sun & moon at the same time

I've flown in a helicopter

Crayons are WAY better than markers!

# PHIL VAN THIEL

## FAVORITE HOLIDAY

Thanksgiving

## FAVORITE ANIMAL FOR A PET

Horse

## FAVORITE MOVIE

Ratatouille

## FAVORITE BOOK TO READ TO KIDS

Dr Suess



## FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

Art History

## FAVORITE CANDY

Bit O Honey

## FAVORITE YARD GAME

One tag/All tag



## GRADE 5

St. John Bosco

Patron Saint of Youth & Catholic Publishers

Feast Day: January 31

## FAVORITE SONG

Blackbird (Beatles)



## THIS OR THAT



White Milk or Chocolate Milk

Sports or Academics

Scary Movies or Comedies

Tacos or Nachos

Crayons or Colored Pencils

Roses or Sunflowers

Outer Space or Deep Sea

Planting Flowers or Planting Veggies

Baking Pies or Decorating Cakes

Studying Earthquakes or Studying Tornadoes

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...

### YOU COULD CHANGE ONE EVENT IN HISTORY?

I would love to have my dad around yet...

### YOU COULD TRAVEL BACK IN TIME?

I'd like to hear Jesus teach the Beatitudes.

### YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF SOME ADVICE?

Enjoy your youth and travel more.

## 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE: CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE?

UFO sightings interest me.

I have never flown in a helicopter.

I have gone skydiving.

I'd never want to live on the moon.

# EVA ACKLEY

## FAVORITE HOLIDAY

Halloween

## FAVORITE BOOK TO READ TO KIDS

Escargot the Snail

## FAVORITE MOVIE

Nightmare Before Christmas

## FAVORITE EMOJI



## FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

Art

## FAVORITE CANDY

Watermelon Sour Patch Kids

## FAVORITE COLOR

Purple

## FAVORITE FLOWER

Hyacinth



## GRADE 1

St. Jude

Patron Saint of Hope & Impossible Causes

Feast Day: October 28



## THIS OR THAT



Neither! or ~~Neither!~~ Milk

Sports or Academics

Scary Movies or Comedies

Tacos or Nachos

Crayons or Colored Pencils

Roses or Sunflowers

Outer Space or Deep Sea

Planting Flowers or Planting Veggies

Baking Pies or Decorating Cakes

Studying Earthquakes or Studying Tornadoes

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...

### YOU WOKE UP AS A CHARACTER ON A TV SHOW?

I'd be Wanda from Wandavision!!

### YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ADVICE?

Don't be so hard on yourself.

### YOU COULD GO BACK IN A TIME MACHINE?

Travel to 1889 to meet Vincent Van Gogh

## 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE: CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE?

I have seen a UFO.

I am afraid of heights.

I have flown in a helicopter.

I have a superpower.

# LIZ PIWOSCHUK

## FAVORITE HOLIDAY

Christmas

## FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

Math

## FAVORITE ANIMAL FOR A PET

Answer

## FAVORITE CANDY

Reese's PB Cups

## FAVORITE MOVIE

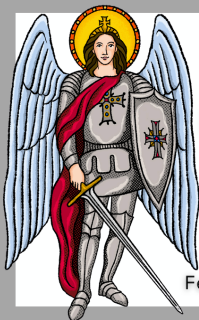
Leap

## FAVORITE YARD GAME

Bocce Ball

## FAVORITE BOOK TO READ TO KIDS

Brown Bear,  
Brown Bear



## GRADE 2

St. Michael

Patron Saint of  
the Sick &  
Suffering

Feast Day: September 29

## FAVORITE FLOWER

Lily



## THIS OR THAT



White Milk or **Chocolate Milk**

**Sports** or Academics

Scary Movies or **Comedies**

Tacos or **Nachos**

**Crayons** or Colored Pencils

Roses or **Sunflowers**

Outer Space or **Deep Sea**

Planting Flowers or **Planting Veggies**

Baking Pies or **Decorating Cakes**

Studying or **Studying Earthquakes**

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...

### YOU COULD ASK JESUS A QUESTION?

I might ask for some answers about Jonah and the whale; just how does a person survive that?!?!

### YOU COULD CHANGE ONE EVENT IN HISTORY?

I'm not sure I'd would;  
God's got a plan.

### YOU COULD TRAVEL IN A TIME MACHINE?

I'd try to meet Jesus!

## 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE: CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE?

I've put roofs on buildings.

I am not a Packer fan.

I've seen a UFO in Kaukauna.

I worry about what other people think of me.

# BAILLEY PRIBBENOW

## FAVORITE SEASON

Fall

## FAVORITE ANIMAL FOR A PET

Fish

## FAVORITE FOOD

Sushi

## FAVORITE BOOK TO READ TO KIDS

Harry Potter  
(older kids!)



## FAVORITE SUBJECT IN SCHOOL

Science

## FAVORITE CANDY

Kit Kat

## FAVORITE ICE CREAM

Chocolate

## FAVORITE SONG

"These are the Days"  
by Lauren Daigle



## GRADE K

St. Gianna  
Molla

Patron Saint of  
Mothers, Physicians,  
& Unborn Children

Feast Day: April 28



## THIS OR THAT



White Milk or **Chocolate Milk**

**Sports** or Academics

Scary Movies or **Comedies**

**Tacos** or Nachos

Crayons or **Colored Pencils**

**Roses** or Sunflowers

Outer Space or **Deep Sea**

**Planting Flowers** or Planting Veggies

**Baking Pies** or Decorating Cakes

**Studying Earthquakes** or Studying Tornadoes

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...

### YOU COULD TRAVEL IN A TIME MACHINE, BUT ONLY ONCE?

I'd probably go back to the 90s as a true millennial:)

### YOU WOKE UP AS A CHARACTER IN YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW

I'd want to be any character in The Chosen

### YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME AND GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF SOME ADVICE?

You are loved. Believe in yourself!

## 3 TRUTHS AND A LIE: CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE?

I love rollercoasters.

I'm afraid of heights.

I love to bake pies.

I firmly believe that markers are WAY better than crayons!