

# St. Peter's CCD HeavenWord

Volume 22, Number 2

Lincoln, Nebraska

November 2011

## Mark Your Calendars

### November:

- 23 No CCD—Happy Thanksgiving**
- 30 Confessions—Group A & Toy Drive for Catholic Social Services**

### December:

- 7 Immaculate Conception  
CCD classes will attend Mass at 4:30 and 7p.m.**
- 14 Confessions— Group B**
- 21 Progress Reports sent home**
- 28 and Jan 4 - No Class**

### January:

- 11 Classes resume**
- 19 Grade 2 Parent Meeting**



## Advent Calendar

The tradition of the Advent calendar dates back to the early 19th century in Germany when Gerhard Lang began to mass produce a calendar similar to the ones his mother would create for him by hand throughout his childhood. History states that his mother used to tie candy to each date on the calendar from December 1-24 in order to heighten the sweet anticipation of Christmas.

Gerhard Lang chose to reproduce the idea of this fond childhood memory by using small windows that would unveil a picture, poem or verse from the Bible. The Advent calendar is to begin on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and counts down the days to the arrival of Christmas.

The tradition was brought to America during World War II when the war caused the German manufacturers to shut down production due to the rationing of cardboard. By the 1940's the tradition became popular in the U.S and people began filling the calendars with chocolate and small toys.

All students in grades 1-6 received an Advent calendar as a surprise gift prior to Thanksgiving break. We hope that you are able to use them as a family to discuss and "heighten the sweet anticipation" of the birth of Our Lord at Christmas.




### Parking Lot Reminder

**Please continue to be considerate of the parking lot rules at dismissal time.**

**The winter is quickly approaching and we would like everyone to be aware of the parking lot safety.**

**Drive up: There is a one way traffic flow in front of the building. NO students/ parents should be walking through that area at any time during dismissal.**

**Pick up by the bell tower: If you walk up to get your child/children, PLEASE park in the west side parking lot and use the designated walkways.**





# Holiday SCRIP Contest



November 1–December 12

**BRING a SCRIP ORDER to CCD and HAVE YOUR name ENTERED in a  
DRAWING to WIN a  
\$25 Restaurant SCRIP CARD.**

**ENTER EACH WEEK WITH YOUR PURCHASES.**

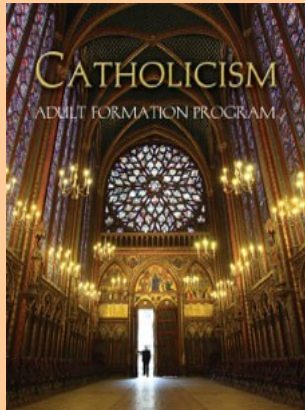
**PERIODIC DRAWINGS at CCD FOR INDIVIDUAL PRIZES.**



## *Oplatki—Polish Christmas Wafers*

Fr. Christensen will send home the Oplatki with the CCD students on December 14th. If your child misses class on that day, the Polish wafers will be available after Masses on Dec. 17 & 18.

*Thank you to Father for sharing this*



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## **FOOD PANTRY**

**Catholic Social Services  
shelves are empty!**

**Won't you help us fill the shelves?**

**We challenge each family to bring at  
least 1 food item per week.**

**Just send an item with one (or all)  
of your children every week and we  
will do the rest!**

- **Canned food**
- **Pancake mix and syrup**
- **Cereals ( hot and cold)**
- **Pasta and pasta sauces**
- **Boxed dinners**





According to Helen McLoughlin in Advent and Christmas in a Catholic Home, "either we live the liturgical year with its joys and sorrow, work and rest, or we follow the pattern of the world." It is a challenge for most Catholic families to be "in the world but not of the world" throughout the year. Many families have two parents working and therefore it is often difficult to find time to devote to the spiritual life of the family. As Catholic parents, we must make it a priority to teach and live our faith - both inside and outside our homes.



Below are some activities that you may choose to do as a family to enrich your Advent and Christmas:

## Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is the most common symbol of Advent. Each piece of the Advent wreath symbolizes some part of our preparations of Jesus' birth on Christmas day. The circular shape symbolizes eternal life; the purple advent candles symbolize our waiting or repentance; the pink advent candle symbolizes our joy of Christmas; the light from the lit advent candles symbolize Jesus as the "The Light of the World."

## The Empty Manger

The idea is that when acts of kindness, service or sacrifice are done in honor of the Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child earns a piece of straw to put in the manger. Each child may have their own manger or there may be one for the whole family. On Christmas morning, Jesus is placed in the manger full of straw. Encourage your children throughout Advent to work to make Jesus a comfortable bed through their good deeds.



## St. Nicholas Day December 6



The Feast of St. Nicholas is a highlight of the Advent season. On the evening of December 5th, each child puts a shoe out in hope that St. Nicholas makes a visit. Typically, children wake up to a candy cane or small gift left in the shoe. The current "Santa Claus" is modeled after St. Nicholas.

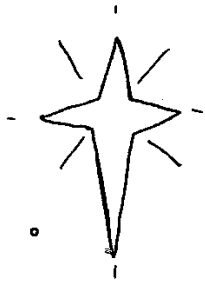
## The Christ Candle

Use any large white candle for the Christ candle. Decorate it with old Christmas cards, tissue paper, sequins, etc. Then prepare to light it on Christmas Eve as you celebrate the arrival of the Light of the World. Continue to use this candle throughout the year at your Sunday dinner table as a reminder to each member of the family that Christ will come again.



# Who Is Jesus?

When a baby is born, the parents choose a name for him or her. When Jesus was born, His name was already chosen (Luke 1:31). Jesus means "Savior." He came to earth so He could save us from our sins by dying on the cross. Jesus also had many other names throughout the Bible. Some of them are listed below. Circle them in the puzzle. They may appear up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. When you are finished, print the leftover letters on the lines below to tell us who Jesus really is.



R	E	H	C	A	E	T	S	T
O	O	O	D	M	O	S	M	R
I	T	L	N	E	N	I	A	U
V	H	Y	E	S	K	R	S	T
A	G	F	I	S	I	H	T	H
S	I	P	R	I	N	C	E	O
L	L	F	F	A	G	U	R	G
Y	A	W	E	H	T	O	O	D
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	C



HOLY  
KING  
LIFE  
LIGHT  
TRUTH  
CHRIST  
FRIEND  
MASTER



PRINCE  
SAVIOR  
THE WAY  
MESSIAH  
TEACHER  
SHEPHERD  
COUNSELOR

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_! (John 1:34)

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