



December Newsletter

Dear Religious Education families,

We begin this month celebrating the 2nd Sunday of Advent on **December 6th** with a Children's Mass assisted by the **Pre-K and First Grade classes**. Special thanks go to our volunteer catechists, Rachel Jewell, Kirsten Tinyo, Andrea Scates and Susanna Tang, as well as Sister De Chantal, who coordinated the children's role in this mass. The pre-K and first graders have been practicing "This Little Light of Mine" and "Come Lord Jesus." Special thanks to the children for reminding us of the meaning of Advent!

Sign up for the Epiphany Pageant after mass! (See below)

Also on **December 6th**, there will be an informational meeting about the online safe environment training that all parish children are required to take. This meeting is for parents of children in **grades 4-6** who are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with the course and would like more information before their child completes it. It is not necessary to attend if you have already attended such a meeting or if you have no questions or concerns. We will meet in the Parish Center, Room 3 at 10:30 am. To access the course go to www.shieldthevulnerable.com Don't forget to print out the certificate of completion and return it to your religious education teacher.

December 13th is the 3rd Sunday of Advent and the last day of class for the year.

Sign ups for the Epiphany Pageant will be available after mass. (see below)

There will be a meeting for all parents of **First Year Confirmation** students at 10:30 am in Room 3 of the Parish Center and I will have information about the January 10th retreat at Vallebrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park. You will have the opportunity to check your child's attendance and to turn in any signed, completed service hours sheets.

Get ready for the **Epiphany Pageant** on January 3rd! We are seeking student volunteers to play the roles of Herod, the 3 Wise Men, Mary, Joseph, a "head" Angel, a "head" shepherd and the Star of Wonder. The students will act the gospel scene as it is read by Father Jose. If your child would like to have one of these roles, please contact Sister De Chantal at srd@stdenisparish.org or sign up after mass on Dec. 6 and Dec. 13. We have costumes for each part that you may bring home. We also need 3 or 4 adult volunteers to help the children. Adult roles will be to cue the children when it is their turn to appear.

Adult volunteers and students in the principal roles should be able to attend 1 or 2 practices. There will be 2 practices - one on Sunday, December 20th after the 11:30 mass. Church decorating will take place at the same time so it will be a very festive atmosphere! The other practice is on Saturday January 2nd at 9:30 am.

On the feast of the Epiphany, January 3rd, all parish children are invited to participate during the 9:30 am mass by dressing as shepherds, angels, or stable animals. We will have costumes on hand in the back of the church if you arrive early, or bring your own

There are no religious education classes on January 3rd. Please come with your family to the 9:30 Children's Mass for all students.

Merry Christmas!

Father Jose will be sending a Christmas letter to all families which includes the Christmas Eve and Christmas Mass schedule.

