



FAITH FORMATION NEWSLETTER



Christmas 2025

DEAR ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONERS

As we transition from the Season of Advent to the Season of Christmas, please let me be among the first to wish you the very Merriest Christmas - for you, for your families, for our parish, for our community, and for our world!

During our Advent preparation time, we were hopeful and joyful in our anticipation of Christ's incarnation in history, His coming to each of us daily and at the end of our lives, and His glorious coming at the end of the world. We considered our lives and how we can continue to grow closer to God and closer to each other as we waited for the joy of Christmas. That was almost four weeks of joyful but solemn preparation, contemplation, and growth.

As I write this, we are on the threshold of the wonderful Christmas Season! I pray that you and your families will enjoy this glorious and unfathomable reality that our God, who loves us so much, should have sent His only begotten Son to come into the world, taking on our humanity, incarnate as a helpless child, to ultimately teach God's kingdom, suffer, die, rise, and ascend to save us. Amidst the joy and beauty of the Christmas Season, we are asked to remember that "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16).

And just like the Advent Season, the Christmas Season gives us many days to celebrate. So, don't put away those Christmas decorations just yet! We will see the white and gold colors during Mass. We will sing Christmas songs. We will celebrate several important and beautiful feast days and solemnities during the Christmas Season. As you celebrate and share joyful times with your families, please remember to celebrate with your parish family these days – check the bulletin and our website for Mass times:





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- December 24/25: The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas (a Holy Day of Obligation)
- December 26: The feast of St Stephen
- December 27: The feast of St John the Apostle and Evangelist
- December 28: The feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (also the feast of the Holy Innocents but the feast of the Holy Family takes precedence)
- January 1: The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (a Holy Day of Obligation) – Mary is “Theotokos” (God-bearer), a Catholic Dogma believed since the beginning of the Church and proclaimed Dogmatic following the council of Ephesus in AD 431.
- January 2: The feast of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- January 4: The Epiphany of the Lord (the coming of the Magi/Wise Men/Three Kings). The shepherds visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem signifies Christ’s epiphany to the Jews. The coming of the magi from afar signifies Christ’s epiphany to the gentiles/the rest of the world.
- January 11: The Baptism of the Lord. This Solemnity ends the Christmas Season. Placing the Baptism of the Lord at this time of year can be a bit confusing, because we’re celebrating Christ’s birth and infancy, but we know that He was baptized as an adult by John the Bincarnation and manifestation (Theophany), and beginning a period of Ordinary Time when we will hear about His public ministry and His proclamation of the Kingdom. It makes sense to celebrate His baptism and the beginning of His public ministry. But if we think about it, we’re ending the Christmas Season and the celebration of Christ’s

Please keep in mind, also, that St John’s K-12 faith formation classes will resume on January 7 and that we have many on-going and new adult faith formation opportunities in 2026.

“Joy to the World, the Lord is come!”

“God Bless us Every One!”

Merry Christmas and Prayers for a Blessed 2026!

Ed Anderson – Director of Faith Formation

