



Immaculate Conception Faith Formation
Grades 1—5 newsletter
December 12, 2017



We at Immaculate Conception hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We, too, have much for which we are thankful, certainly not the least of which is our wonderful parish family and gift of your children and our gifted and devoted catechists!

In preparation for the season of Advent, your children received Advent calendars appropriate for their age level. We hope you will ask them about these and spend time working with them. Your time and attention are the greatest gifts you can give your child for Christmas and always!

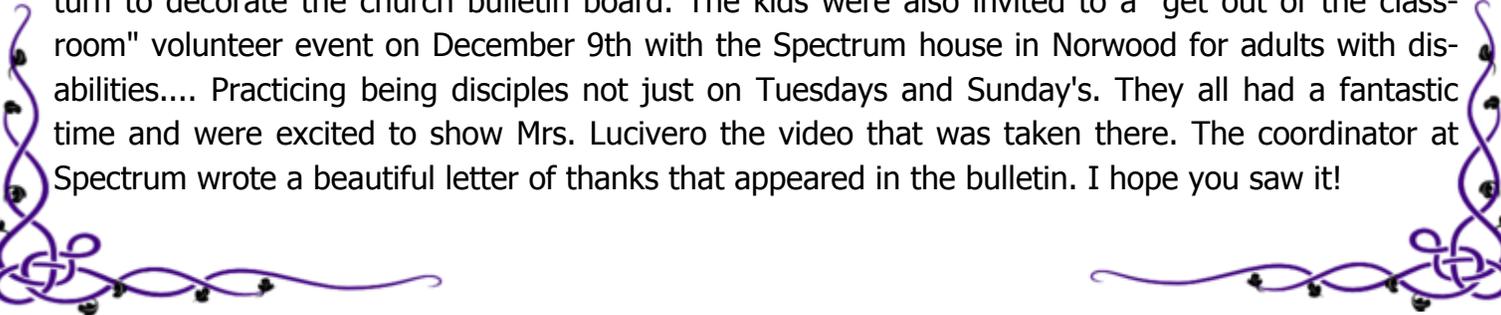
We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening in our program!

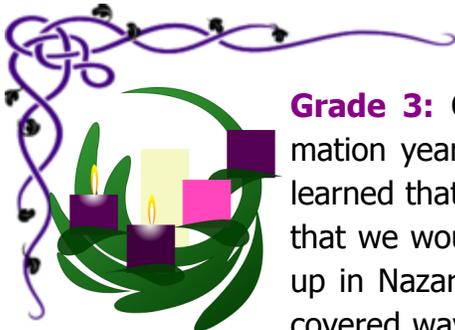
Grade 1: Our first graders have been busy learning how to grow as disciples of Jesus. We are working on understanding One God in Three Persons and practicing the Sign of the Cross. We are also learning the Hail Mary and Lord's Prayer. Please practice these prayers with your children on a regular basis – especially when you say your evening prayers which is always a good way for children to quiet down before bed and for you to ask about their day and spend some quality time with your children. Ask God to bless family members and friends, bring help to those who are sick or needy, and remembering those who have passed. These prayers for those we know but also for those with whom we do not have a personal relationship also helps to reinforce our lessons about God's love for all people, and understanding what Jesus taught us about loving God, ourselves, and others and living that Great Commandment.

We have also been talking about Jesus' Apostles and the difference between the twelve apostles and disciples. And that we are all members of the Church, all the people all over the world who follow Jesus, and also members of the parish of Immaculate Conception

We are now learning about the Season in which we are preparing to celebrate Jesus Christ's birth at Christmas, and ways in which we can prepare for His coming.

Grade 2: We are concentrating on preparing for reconciliation and we are excited that it was our turn to decorate the church bulletin board. The kids were also invited to a "get out of the classroom" volunteer event on December 9th with the Spectrum house in Norwood for adults with disabilities.... Practicing being disciples not just on Tuesdays and Sunday's. They all had a fantastic time and were excited to show Mrs. Lucivero the video that was taken there. The coordinator at Spectrum wrote a beautiful letter of thanks that appeared in the bulletin. I hope you saw it!





Grade 3: Our Third Grade class has started our new Faith Formation year with a mission: to grow as disciples of Jesus. We learned that God sent His Own Son to become human like us so that we would have salvation. By learning about Jesus' growing up in Nazareth and exploring how He began His work, we discovered ways of how to live as His followers. We learned about

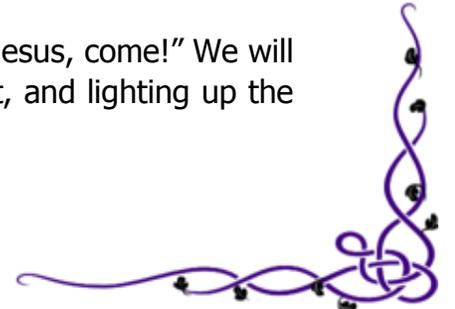
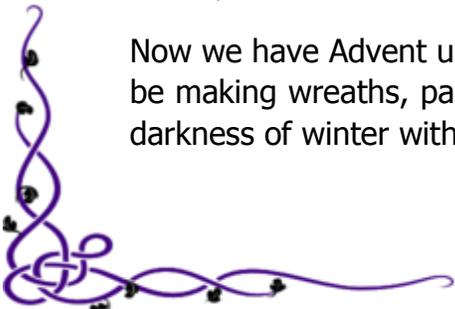
the Incarnation; that Jesus is both divine and human, the Blessed Trinity, and the Apostles. Reflection and sharing were discussed upon what Jesus did in His public ministry, and how we can follow in His footsteps.

Our class broke into groups to create news stories about Jesus' ministry. We completed a script with our news reports and shared them with each other! It was an insightful perspective for us all!

Jesus teaches us about God's love. We read scripture from the Bible and learned about the different parts of the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible is God's spoken Word, guiding us to change our lives through loving and respecting others. Our faith is truly a gift! Mary is a great example of this! She believed and trusted in God. It is by the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus that we are set free!

"Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again." Images of the second coming, Heaven, and the Last Judgment come to mind. After reading the story of the raising of Lazarus, we talked about Jesus as the Resurrection and life. We can "stay awake" for the second coming of Jesus by being vigilant for opportunities to serve God and others, through our actions, participating in the Mass and sacraments, listening to God's Word in the Bible, and in prayer.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, together is the Blessed Trinity. We completed a Candy Corn Trinity Kit that had three colors to symbolize this. "All three are God, yet together they are One." Our class also participated in Immaculate Conception's All Saints' Day Celebration! Many of us came to Mass dressed as a favorite saint and related the story behind the saint. Gratitude and thoughts were also shared at our Thanksgiving service in the Church. This was followed by Fr. Leo explaining about all the different items in Church, along with the Books, Church missals and hymnals, Stations, the Paschal candle and font, lighting of candles, Church vestments, and so forth.



Now we have Advent upon us and all that it entails. "Come, Lord Jesus, come!" We will be making wreaths, participating in our annual Children's Pageant, and lighting up the darkness of winter with the Light of Our Savior!



Grade 4: We are off to a great start this year in the 4th Grade. We have completed Unit 1 and will be moving into Unit 2 this month. These chapters focused on developing our conscience, celebrating Penance and Reconciliation, The Liturgical Year, Ordinary Time, and the approaching Season of Advent.



We discussed how Halloween is the eve of all All Saints Day. Which lead us into the children discussing the Saint they chose to write about. We ended this month preparing for Advent and the Coming of Our Lord. We discussed what the Advent wreath represents and what each candle stands for. Please remember to light your candles with your families and reflect on all that we have to be thankful for and to pray for those who need it during the up coming holiday season.

Grade 5: We talked about Jesus' mission and how each one of us as disciples is charged with carrying out this mission. Our class has been working on understanding that service and respect make a life worth living, and that by acting as true disciples we can see the Kingdom of God here on earth. We came up with ways to do that by exhibiting corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and that by doing so we are bringing Christ to others.

In our last class we focused on a story about a selfish and isolated mean giant. The kids are now working to come up with a story based on this one to reinforce the morals and values of our faith. We look forward to preparing our hearts and learning more about the wonderful Advent Season which is now upon us!

Your children need your **presence** more than you **presents**. – Jesse

Wishing you all a blessed Advent Season!

