



# PSR PARENT NEWSLETTER

## Session Four: Faith First

**This month** we continue our focus on the Sacraments. The seven sacraments are the hub around which the whole faith and liturgical life of the Church revolves. When we celebrate the sacraments we unite our own lives with the life of Jesus.

### Points for reflection:

- With all the glitter and advertising associated with Christmas it becomes an increasing challenge to focus our attention on what Christmas is really about. Just as we plan for our holiday shopping and festivities, so, too we need to plan ways to keep Christ in our Christmas.
- With your children talk about one or two things you can do to make Christ more a part of your holiday this year!

**THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** We celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception today. Pope Pius IX defined this dogma of our faith on December 8, 1854. What this dogma expresses is our belief, as Catholics, that Mary was preserved from original sin. Thus, Mary's entire life was graced-filled. We entered into a grace-filled relationship with God through the gift of Baptism. This feast reminds us that Mary, our Mother, serves as our model for living with God at the center of our lives. Let us remember to turn to Mary to show us the way to Jesus.

**The sacraments have** been called "doors to the sacred." They are the actions of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church, the Body of Christ. The sacred actions of the seven sacraments sanctify the lives of believers. Sacraments are actions of faith. We celebrate sacraments as believers and our faith is strengthened and deepened because we celebrate them. **In the** sacraments the Church remembers and celebrates the story of Jesus' life in words, prayers and actions. We remember that Jesus' life was a life of calling and being called, or being gifted by the Spirit, or sacrifice

and forgiveness, of nourishment and healing. What was made flesh in the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus is passed over to the Church for us to share in through the celebration of the sacraments.

**The sacraments** were instituted by Christ and give grace from the saving power of Christ, the fountain of grace. Their celebration makes Christ really present and tangibly communicates his outpouring of grace to us. Christ acts within us to conform us more closely as adopted sons and daughters of the living God. In the sacra-

ments divine love heals us, transforms us, and propels us further along the path of conversion. **The sacraments bear** fruit in our lives as individuals as well as the life of the Church. Through the incorporation into the life of God in Jesus in the celebration of the sacraments, the Church is blessed by an increase in works of love and strengthened in its mission to proclaim the Good News. **The seasons of the liturgical** years helps us keep balanced as nature's seasons pass. Though the seasons of autumn, winter, spring, and summer, significant changes occur As time passes from season to season, the church provides a steady rhythm.

## Celebrating Christmas

**The celebrations of the Christmas season** cover the entire spectrum, from the intimacy of the Bethlehem story on Christmas night to the proclamation to the whole world at the baptism of Jesus that Jesus is the beloved Son on whom God's favor rests. The season of Christmas is

very dear to the heart of Christians. In the birth of this child, who is named Savior and Emmanuel, Christ and Lord, we are made new. The whole earth rejoices. Delightful traditions are evident along our streets and in our homes. Gifts abound. Evergreens are strung with lights

and ornaments. Delicious baked goods are given and received. Special meals are shared. This season of light and abundance reminds us of our vocation to be light, to bear gifts, to share abundance both during this season and throughout the year.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS MONTH:**

**GRADE ONE:**

The Season of Christmas p. 247

**GRADE TWO:**

Chapters 15, Season of Christmas p. 247

**GRADE THREE:**

Chapters 16, Season of Christmas p.247

**GRADE FOUR:**

The Season of Christmas p. 247

**GRADE FIVE:**

The Season of Christmas p. 247

**GRADE SIX:**

Chapter 11, Season of Christmas p. 247

Homework help: [www.faithfirst.com](http://www.faithfirst.com)

**WE'RE ON THE WEB:  
STFELICITAS.COM**

**REMEMBER THE PARENT FORUM!!!**

Each month at 12:05 pm. Come and meet with other parents to learn how to deepen your child's PSR experience.

**FIRST COMMUNION PARENT-CHLD MEETING: January 28th from 7:00– 8:30 pm in the School. This is an essential part of your preparation for First Communion.**

**FIRST COMMUNION SPECIAL CLASS for students in second grade. January 26th from 9:30—11:00 am. All children enrolled in Communion need to attend!**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

Please refer to the sheet your children brought home today if he/she wishes to participate in the 3:30 pm Liturgy. Please return the sheet to the Rectory or Collection basket THIS WEEK-END!!!

A REMINDER: If we need to cancel PSR due to weather, you will be called.

**Parish Happenings!!!**

**THANKS** go out to all the parents and families who helped make Advent Craft Night a success.



**PARISH  
CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 pm in the Church. Our Parish Choirs: The Bell Choir, Traditional Choir and Contemporary Music Group will join together

to present Advent and Christmas Music. Join us for this very special afternoon.

**Area-wide Advent Communal Reconciliation Service** will be held on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 pm at St. Robert Church, East 238th and Lakeshore Blvd.

**St. Felicitas Christmas Schedule**

**CONFESSIONS:**  
Saturday, December 22nd: 10:00 am

**CHRISTMAS  
MASSES:**

**Christmas Eve:**  
3:30 pm Children's  
Liturgy

5:00 pm  
10:30 pm

**Christmas Day:**  
8:00 am, 9:45 am  
11:45 am

Please note: No 7:00 pm on Christmas Day.

**GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE:** St. Felicitas will host the Red Cross Blood Mobile on Sunday, December 30th from 8:30 am—1:30 pm in the School Hall. If you participate, you will be automatically entered to win one of 15 prize packs courtesy of Giant Eagle. Packs include a \$100 Southwest Airline Gift Card and a DVD.