



# PSR PARENT NEWSLETTER

## Session Three: Faith First

**This month** our focus is on our prayer together as a community. It is through the Liturgy that we worship God and grow together as a parish family.

### Points for reflection:

- Think about a Mass or other liturgical celebration that powerfully opened you to a greater understanding of God's presence in your life.
- What happened in this celebration that made it so powerful for you?
- What can you do to help yourself experience God's presence in Mass more frequently and more profoundly?

### PRAYER SYMBOL:

During this month's prayer service we focused on Thanksgiving. God's blessings have been abundantly poured forth upon us! We are called to express our gratitude by remembering His Goodness and sharing that goodness with others. Each child has received a Litany of Thanksgiving Prayer card. There are prayers for your family's Thanksgiving meal. In addition, each child has received a small key tag with the words: Within in my heart a place prepare O Lord, to meet and greet you there. Advent begins December 2nd. May we use this time to prepare a place for the Lord in our hearts and homes.

**Liturgy** is an action of Christ and his Church. In other words, Christ is actively celebrating with us when we baptize an infant, declare our love in marriage and witness to him in confirmation. Jesus is present when the sick are anointed, when priests are ordained, when sinners seek reconciliation, and when bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

**To make Christ's** presence tangible, the Church uses words, signs and symbols in the celebration of the sacraments. Since the beginning of time, humanity has expressed spiritual realities using physical symbols. Likewise, God speaks to us through the ordinary things of the visible world: water, oil, bread and

wine. When we couple these tangible, earthly things with the communal action of worship, we have the heart of liturgical celebration. Thus, the breaking of bread, the sharing of the cup, the washing with water, and the anointing with oil express God's active presence with us. In addition to signs and symbolic actions, Catholic liturgy especially weaves the proclamation of Sacred Scripture into all its celebrations the sacraments.

**We nourish our faith** by hearing God's word effectively proclaimed. We respond to God's word using acclamations, periods of silent reflection, psalms and litanies. The Liturgy of the Word helps us recall God's loving plan of creation and salvation. It gives us the opportunity to

give our assent to God's own word to us.

**The Catholic Church** also has a rich tradition of music and art that forms an integral part of its liturgical life. The harmony of song, music, word, and action can so move us that the distance between heaven and earth is momentarily shortened. Art also enhances our liturgical celebrations. Icons, sacred paintings, statuary, and inspiring architecture united with the Word of God and liturgical hymns can help us enter into the mystery of God. God truly meets us in the liturgy, and the Holy Spirit empowers the People of God to embrace God's life within them.

## Do we have time for God in our weekend?

**To understand and experience** the richness of God's Presence that the liturgy brings into our lives depends on our willingness to come and participate in the liturgical celebrations at our parish. Unfortunately we live in a society that has placed increased demands on our time

and our energy. Sunday has become another day in the week where we can get things done. Perhaps we need to re-evaluate our priorities to determine if this is an area of our life where we need to stop and reflect. Are we allowing the weekend worship experience to touch our lives and

offer us a breath of refreshment? Are we helping our children to appreciate the ways they can touch and be touched by God's presence and love? Perhaps we need to make a greater commitment to finding the time and space to come to the parish liturgies.

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS MONTH:**

**GRADE ONE:**

Chapters 11, 14, Season of Advent p. 278

**GRADE TWO:**

Chapters 13, 14, Season of Advent p. 278

**GRADE THREE:**

Chapters 8, 9, 10,

**GRADE FOUR:**

Chapters 6, Season of Advent p. 278

**GRADE FIVE/SIX:**

Chapters 11, 12, Season of Advent p. 278

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

**FIRST COMMUNION ENROLLMENT CEREMONY:** For children in second grade who will be preparing for First Reconciliation and Communion this year a special Rite of Enrollment will be held on Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30 pm in the Church. All children who are receiving these Sacraments this year are expected to attend. Please read the letter and calendar materials which your child is bring home today. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or call Mary Muehle at the Rectory.

*Happy Thanksgiving*

*May this upcoming holiday remind us all to thank God for his care and many blessings in our lives.*

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

**Parish Happenings!!!**

**Breakfast with Santa!**

At the School on Sunday, December 9th. The Santa Shop will also be open during this event. More information will be in the Parish Bulletin.

**The Polar Express:** St. Felicitas PTU is raffling six tickets for Saturday, December 8th Polar Express. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Drawing will be held on November 30th

**ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER:** Tuesday, December 4th you can come and enjoy a wonderful meal. The dinner begins at 6:00 pm.

For more information or tickets, please call the Rectory or watch the bulletin for details. Tickets are only \$12.50 per person and sell out fast—so call today!

**THANKSGIVING FAMILY MASS CELEBRATION:**

On Thanksgiving morning we will have a special St. Felicitas Family Mass at 9:30 am. This gives us all a chance to thank the Lord for His many blessings in our lives as individuals and as a parish community. Following the Mass there will be a social in the Gathering Area of the Church. Please bring pastry to share!

**FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT!**

This year the Spiritual Development Commission will once again offer a special night of potluck sharing of food, crafts to prepare families for the celebration of Christmas and a prayer experience. All this is the help us grow together as a community as well as to prepare well to celebrate Christ's coming. Please see the flyer which your child brings home today for more details and a registration form. This is a very popular event. Please plan to attend.

**PSR Mass and Giving Tree**

On Saturday, December 8th we will have our annual PSR Mass and Giving Tree. We will meet at the regular time: 9:15 am. The children will have class until 11:00 am. At 11:00 am all families are invited to come to Mass. Following the Mass we will have a brief social in the school Hall. **Dismissal will be at 12:00 on Dec. 8th!** We will not have a Parent Forum in December.