

*Now is Advent,
Advent is here.
When Advent is over,
Christmas is here!*



Dear Kindergarten Families,

We hope everyone enjoys the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends! At school, we've been so busy during the month of November listing all the things we are thankful for. Wonderful kindergarten students and families are certainly at the top of the list for Mrs. Zontos and me. 😊

Sunday, November 30th marks the beginning of Advent in our Catholic church. Here at school, we will work hard to remind the students of what Christmas is all about—the birth of Jesus! We will learn how Advent is a time of preparation, a time to get ready for Jesus! Each child will make an Advent wreath to use in class. On Mondays during Advent, students will “light” a new candle on their Advent wreaths. As a new candle is lit each week, it will remind us that Christmas is near. Do you have an advent wreath in your home? Please consider displaying one as a reminder of what these weeks are all about. Perhaps you can let each member of your family take a turn with the job of lighting the candle, and also being the “prayer leader” like we do here at school! Make time each day to light the appropriate candle(s) and say a special prayer together as a family. Attached is a paper advent wreath that you can display at home and it includes weekly Advent prayers on the back.

During Advent, we will work on getting our hearts ready for Jesus' birthday by doing “kind deeds” at home. Students will then be asked to share these kind deeds here at school, daily. To make this happen, we need the help and encouragement of our grown-ups! 😊 Help your child understand that Advent is a time to get ready for Jesus and **guide your child in finding kind deeds to do EVERY DAY during Advent.** Each day, we will gather in a circle and each child will share that kind deed with the class and then place a piece of “straw” in Baby Jesus' crib. Each night, ask your child, “what kind deed are you going to share with your class tomorrow?” With each kind deed and new piece of straw, we are getting ready for Jesus. In class, we will generate a list of things we can do at home. Some ideas students typically come up with are: watering the Christmas tree, setting the table, making a card for someone, holding the door, sharing a hug, carrying the groceries, getting the mail, etc. Help your child see how important small acts of kindness are in your home. This is a special holy time to discuss all God has done for us, especially sending His son, Jesus. During this busy season, please help your child find ways to help others, remembering that those small acts of kindness are our presents for baby Jesus on His birthday. Jesus is the reason for the season!

In addition to our kind deed project, the children will be busy getting ready for the 9:30 Mass on Friday, December 19th. This is also the kindergarten Christmas performance and all kindergarten families are encouraged to attend. **Immediately following the 9:30am Mass on Friday, December 19th, the kindergarteners will present Christmas songs and poems to you. Mark your calendars and plan on attending this Mass. Students should dress up for this special Mass. You should plan on being with us until about 11:00.** We look forward to gathering together in church with all of you and celebrating the true reason for the season through song and prayer!

God Bless,
The Kindergarten Team

