



## Advent: The anticipation and celebration of Jesus' birth.

### Prepare the way of the Lord!

Dear Parents,

Advent is the liturgical season that precedes and prepares for Christmas. It is a season of hope and of longing, of joyful expectation and of peaceful preparation. Many symbols and traditions are associated with Advent, especially the Advent Wreath with its four colored candles (three purple and one pink), but also Advent calendars, special Advent music, food, processions, and other traditions that may vary from one culture or region to the next. Please make sure to participate fully during the next weeks in as many opportunities given by the Church to celebrate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Many of our beloved children at St. Francis have been waiting-preparing anxiously to celebrate their First Reconciliation. They, along with their parents, have been studying and learning about forgiveness, penance, sacrifice, prayers. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament that does not come easy for anyone, but Catechists are doing a great job in teaching and reassuring our little ones to not feel anxious or afraid; that when they confess their sins, father will be patient and understanding, but above all father will tell them how God is all merciful, loving, and forgiving, and that God will always forgive them because He is all love.

Every week we gather together in the Leven Center to pray and prepare for class. The question posed to the children is “¿What is the purpose of our life?”, and the answer to that question is—to know God, to love God, and to serve God. Our children know and understand these concepts. As we prepare in the following weeks for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us serve our brothers and sisters who, for one reason or another, do not have the means to purchase winter wear to survive the cold season upon us. Every week your children are taught the need to help and serve others, not just during the season of Christmas, but always. Luke 21:1-4 says “Looking up, he saw rich people putting their offerings into the treasury; and he noticed a poverty-stricken widow putting in two small coins, and he said, I tell you truly, this poor widow has put in more than any of them; for these have all put in money they could spare, but she in her poverty has put in all she had to live on.” If we look around our homes we can see how much we have, how much we can spare, and how much we can share. Please, teach your child to serve God by serving others. To the right of this letter there is a list of items to donate to the poor and needy. Thank you for your kindness.

Parents, every time you have an opportunity, please thank and appreciate your children's catechists. Many of them come at the end of their work day during the week and early on Sundays to help your children learn about our Lord Jesus Christ. Our catechists are the ones who continue the work of the Lord here on earth, and without them we would not be able to spread the word of God.

Thank you for bringing your child on time for class and give him/her the opportunity to pray and be prepared for class. They are in the classroom for a short period of time and the fewer distractions they have the easier it is for them to learn.

Please make sure to read the parish bulletin and check the parish website—

www.stfrancisenid.com so you do not miss gathering opportunities of joyful celebrations during this season of Advent. Blessings to you and your families in this season and always!

In the Spirit of St. Francis Xavier,

**Mrs. Miriam Rios Day, DRE**

### Calendar of Activities

**December 3**—Feast of our Patron Saint—St. Francis Xavier/Potluck dinner after 5pm Mass. Please bring a dish with your favorite food to share with others.

**December 8**—Feast of The Immaculate Conception of Mary.

8:30am School Mass, Noon Mass, & 6:00pm

**December 9**—6:00pm/Hanging of the Greens. Come and decorate the Church for Christmas.

**December 11**—2:30pm/Play of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe presented by the Catholic Family Movement of St. Francis Xavier. This play will be in Spanish. Everyone is invited to attend—Lunch immediately after the play

**December 12**—4:30am/Mañanitas(Serenade) to our Lady of Guadalupe followed by Mass at 5:00am. Hot chocolate and Mexican pastries will be served in the Leven Center after Mass. We will be taking donations of milk and chocolate La Abuelita(sold at Walmart or Jumbo foods). Please bring these food items to the parish office or the school building by December 10th. Thanks.

**December 17**—10:00am/Sacrament of Reconciliation for all students preparing for First Communion. (Parents, please bring your child to church by 9:50am.) Baptismal certificate: Your child cannot receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation if certificate is not on file.

**December 18**—10:15am/Christmas Program in the gymnasium presented by the RE Sunday students in grades 3-8. Please come support the children while they sing and act a Christmas play. Hot chocolate and donuts will be served after the play.

**FLOCKNOTE:** For the past couple of months you have been receiving short messages through flocknote. Only 130 characters can be typed through flocknote, so the messages are concise and to the point. I will continue using this form of communication for short messages regarding canceling of classes due to inclement weather or another type of emergency, special requests, invitations to participate in RE or Church activities, etc. If your telephone service is through Pioneer, you will not be able to receive these messages. Please contact the parish office, check the website, and/or local radio and television stations for cancellation of classes due to inclement weather.

**PROJECT MERCY:** Please bring your donations of: gloves, scarves, socks, slippers and toiletries. These items will be donated to Forgotten Ministries here in Enid. These items are for children and adults. Thank you for your generosity.

**Please check the Church bulletin for Christmas Mass celebrations.**



