



NEWSLETTER



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Happy New Year!

The word “Advent” means “arrival,” and it marks the beginning of the Church year. As a child, it was always my favorite time of year. I loved preparing for Christmas and embracing the joy, magic, and anticipation of the season. But as an adult with added responsibilities, this time of year can feel more stressful than magical—filled with buying presents instead of praying and managing to-do lists instead of finding moments of stillness.

This Advent, let’s refocus on the joy of preparing our hearts for Christ. Inside this newsletter, you’ll find Advent and Christmas traditions to help bring peace and meaning to this special season.

Blessings,
Janae Spencer
Newsletter Editor

Reflecting on November

November was a busy month for our group. We celebrated All Saints Day with Mass, where the kids dressed up as saints and enjoyed games afterward. At the Ellen Trout Zoo, we explored God's creation and had the unforgettable experience of feeding a hippo up close. We also honored our veterans with a heartfelt parade and lunch and continued our stewardship discussions in Voyager group. The Mom's Advent Retreat provided a beautiful opportunity to refocus and prepare our hearts for the season ahead.



Upcoming CFAC Events

Check out the exciting events planned for December—there's something for everyone to enjoy and participate in!

St. Nicholas Day: Come join us for a fun morning celebrating good ol' Saint Nicholas! There will be activities for the kids and plenty of hot chocolate to enjoy. We'd love for each family to bring their favorite holiday dessert to share. Let's make it a sweet celebration!

Christmas Caroling and Cocoa: Join us for a family service project as we spread holiday cheer by caroling Christmas songs for the elderly. After about an hour of singing, we'll warm up with hot chocolate and enjoy some fellowship together, courtesy of CFAC!

Our Lady of Guadalupe: Come celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with the parishioners of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Tyler. Don't forget to wear your group shirts so we can easily spot each other in the crowd. Please note the Rosary and Mass will be in Spanish.

Icon Painting Teen and Tween: Youth ages 10 to 18 are invited to an afternoon of discovery, learning about the history and meaning of icons while creating their own to take home or share this Christmas season. Guiding the workshop is Robert Puschautz, Executive Director of the Stabat Mater Foundation, whose mission is to renew beauty in the Church. Robert's work can be seen throughout the Diocese and in his art studio near the Cathedral.



Members can view more details, RSVP for events, and see the full calendar in the member portal.

Advent & Christmas Traditions from CFAC Families

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Check out the way some of our families celebrate this special season. Remember, we don't have to do it all. Choose what brings you joy!



Spencer Family—

We have everyone in our family set out their shoes by the fireplace the night before December 6. We fill the shoes with oranges to represent gold (and they are a symbol of charity). We also bring out our Christmas books and have special pancakes on this day!



Pacheco Family—

For about 10 years now, we have read the story of Benjamin Bear. He is so impatient for Christmas to come so Momma Bear tells a story each night about another little bear and his long, arduous journey to Bethlehem. He meets others on his travels and his adventures are filled with acts of heroism, kindness and many small miracles as they follow the shining star that leads to Christ Child.

Bowden Family—

We begin December by placing our shoes out for St. Nicholas, followed by decorating our Jesse Tree, helping at our local nursing home with their Christmas events, and attending Midnight Mass as a Family.

Turner Family—

We wait to light our tree until the Feast of St. Lucy on December 13, after enjoying saffron buns and dressing up as Sankta Lucia and Star Boy for the children. The light of Lucy's crown of candles symbolizes the Light of the World coming at the end of Advent.



Reaves Family—

We celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas beginning with a birthday cake for Jesus on Christmas Day. The celebration continues with fun adventures as a family and gingerbread house decorating along with other crafts. The festivities conclude on Epiphany with a celebratory King Cake and House Blessing.



Lockman Family—

Our favorite Advent tradition is each day the children answer a trivia question having to do with Advent. (ex: What does the word Advent mean?...) Then each child receives either a little gift or sweet treat or quarter. We also have a handmade felt tree with numbered ornaments and each day the children swap out a numbered ornament for a cute decorative ornament (ex: nutcracker, Santa, baby Jesus, etc.)

Liturgical Living Corner: December

Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, Advent and Christmas

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8

“Christ, who is the author of divine life, that is, of grace, in every man, by means of the Redemption effected by him, must be particularly generous with his Mother. He must redeem her in an especially superabundant way from sin (“copiosa apud eum redemptio”—with him is plenteous redemption: Psalm 130:7). This generosity of the Son towards his Mother goes back to the first moment of her existence. It is called the Immaculate Conception.”- St. John Paul the Great

Liturgical Living Craft Idea:
Bl. Juan Diego's Paper Tilma



Month of the Immaculate Conception December

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- 3 St Francis Xavier
- 6 St Nicholas
- 7 St Ambrose
- 9 Immaculate Conception Of Mary, Solemnity
- 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 25 Nativity Of The Lord
- 27 St John, Apostle



[Download phone wallpaper](#)



DECEMBER

Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

December 1: First Sunday of Advent

The beginning of Advent, preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Make an Advent wreath with your family, lighting one candle every Sunday during Advent.

December 9th: The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A holy day of obligation where we recognize the original sin-less conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

Attend Mass, pray the rosary, say a special prayer for all expectant mothers.

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

The feast commemorates the Virgin Mary appearing to Juan Diego in 1531

Pray the Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning December 2.

Attend mass and celebrations at churches where processions are done with Our Lady surrounded by flowers, indigenous dances are performed, and where Our Lady is serenaded with the Mañanitas, a traditional Mexican birthday song.

December 25: The Nativity of The Lord

Attend the Vigil Mass, Midnight Mass, Dawn Mass, Christmas Day Mass.

December 29: The Holy Family of Jesus

Create your own family tree.

Consecrate your family to the Holy Family.



A HOMESCHOOL COMMUNITY

Enrollment is open!

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

ENROLL BETWEEN **DECEMBER 2 - 13** TO JOIN FAITHFUL & FUN CATHOLIC PROGRAMMING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

New Member Meeting
January 8th at 7pm

Learn more, view a sample calendar, and register at:
www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com

VOLUNTEER

Spotlight

Since August 1st, over 1,000 volunteer hours have been contributed to ensure the success of our programs including the Homeschool Community Mass, All Saints Day Mass and Party, multiple field trips, Youth Ministry Programs, Mom Events, etc.

The Leadership Team wants to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this past semester. In particular the following members who are serving as Community Collaborators.

Lady Batista
Valerie Baughman
Alma Elizondo
Rubi Garcia

Monse Gomez
Liz Hendrix
Sarah Hoveskeland
Michelle Jones
Vanessa Jones

Cheyenne Mojica
Jessica Sczepanik
Marissa Takacs
Angela Toohey

Around the Diocese



EXALT

COME, LORD JESUS!

An advent themed evening of Praise and Worship & Adoration with Dave and Lauren Moore



DECEMBER 5, 2024 6:30 - 8PM
Chapel of Saints Peter and Paul
1435 E Southeast Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75702

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS :
THE DIOCESE OF TYLER

 Dave and Lauren Moore are the founders of Catholic Music Initiative



SANCTITY OF LIFE DECEMBER MEETING

Join us for our monthly meetings where we discuss pro-life matters in East Texas!

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 7TH**
Monthly Meeting | 1:00 - 2:00 PM

LOCATION:
St. Paul Room of the Diocesan Chancery Offices
(1015 E. Southeast Loop 323, Tyler)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR




Deck the Halls Fundraiser

Benefitting the St. John Paul II Catholic Campus Ministry

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024 | 5pm - 9pm
Tickets \$100 Per Person
The Cathedral Center | 423 S. Broadway, Tyler, TX 75702
TICKETS INCLUDE
Live Music | Wine, Hors D'oeuvres & Dinner | Silent Auction



To purchase tickets online, scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1016897015347?aff=oddtcreator>
Must Purchase Tickets By December 2
Questions about tickets or seating: Call Merle Mabry at 903.530.5044 or merle47@me.com




STABAT MATER FOUNDATION

Advancing the Culture of Life Through Prayer and Art

NINTH ANNUAL LIGHTING OF THE CROSS

GUADUPE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 5 PM
STAFFORD'S MEADOW FARM



More details to come! Questions? Email Ann@StabatMater.org

Around the Diocese—Homeschool Related



GAUDETE!
Pilgrims of Hope rejoice in the coming of the LORD

**December 14
6:30pm**

Music & Meditations for
Advent & Christmas

Music presented by
CSPP Music Ministry and
Pueri Cantores

*Gaudete, Christmas
est natus ex Maria*

**Chapel of
Sts. Peter & Paul**



Veritatis Splendor Choir and Youth Orchestra Present:

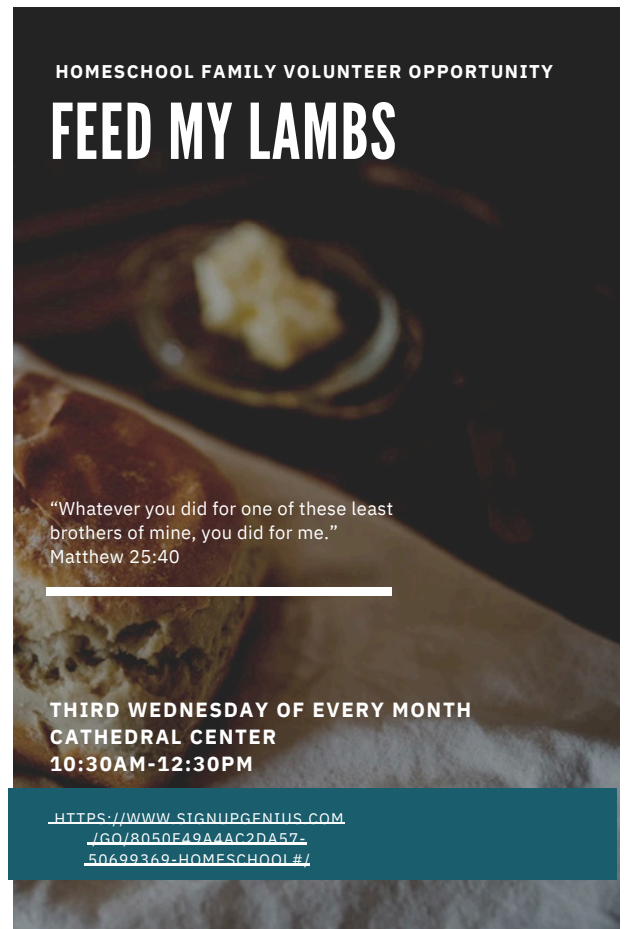
O, Come Emmanuel Concert and Craft Fair

December 21, 2024 from 10am-2pm

Mark Your Calendars!!! The VS Youth Orchestra and Veritas Choir will be performing a Pre-Christmas concert on Saturday, December 21st from 1-2 pm at the JP2 Lodge at Veritatis Splendor in Winona, TX. The majority of the music will be advent hymns with a few traditional wintertime favorites.

Prior to the event from 10-12:45, there will be a Pre-Christmas craft fair where you'll be able to wrap up all your last minute Christmas shopping while supporting VS! For anyone interested in vending, a donation of \$10 per table will go towards benefiting VS and the Holy Family Academy homeschool Co-op. You may contact Angela Toohey at 248-860-8933 or agtoohey@protonmail.com for more details on the craft fair if you wish to be a vendor.

SAVE the DATE: Please join the VS Youth Orchestra and Veritas Choir for some hot cocoa and Christmas caroling on **December 24th from 6-8 pm!**



HOMESCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

FEED MY LAMBS

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40

**THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
CATHEDRAL CENTER
10:30AM-12:30PM**

[https://www.signupgenius.com/_/60/8050FA94AAC2DA57-50699369-HOMESCHOOL#/?](https://www.signupgenius.com/_/60/8050FA94AAC2DA57-50699369-HOMESCHOOL#/)

Rest ON US

A WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. (Luke 1:35)



LAUREN MOORE
Worship Leader

SISTER JOSEPHINE GARRETT
Speaker

MARI PABLO
Speaker

KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY
Speaker

HOW TO REGISTER

Early Bird Tickets (October 13-January 14): **\$50**

General Admission (beginning January 15): **\$60**

Visit www.dioceseoftyler.org/womensretreat or scan the QR code!

Scholarships are available for those in need.



In joyous celebration of our Infant King and His most holy Mother,

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH
INVITES YOU TO OUR SECOND ANNUAL

Candlemas Ball

An elegant evening of **dinner and dancing**,
enjoyed with **good company, good wine**, and a chance
to support the church building campaign at a **silent auction**

Formal Evening Attire * Ages 18+

Saturday, 1 February 2025

5:00 - 10:00 pm

Bella Vista Lake Palestine

Scan to
purchase
tickets



Early Bird Special: \$55 until Thanksgiving
Admission: \$65
Purchase Deadline: 20 January 2025