



NEWSLETTER



Welcome, CFAC Families!

Do you ever feel like you're just holding it all together with coffee and grace? Whether you're in the middle of diaper duty or juggling homeschooling and activities, this season can feel full (and sometimes overwhelming). That's why I love that the Church gives us All Saints Day right here at the start of November. It's a reminder that we're not doing this alone. The saints have been where we are, and they kept their eyes on Jesus through it all. Now they cheer us on, praying for us as we walk our own path toward Heaven. I hope this edition of the newsletter inspires you to live this season with renewed faith and joy!

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Welcome CFAC Families

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Around the Diocese

Janae Spencer
Newsletter Editor

Looking Back at Fall

What a joy-filled start to our year together! We began with our annual Homeschool Blessing Mass, celebrated by the bishop. Other adventures included a trip to the Heritage Park Museum, a fun Escape Room outing for the teens, and a Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Nacogdoches. We wrapped up the season celebrating our beloved patron at a joyful St. John Paul II Feast Day Dinner, giving thanks for the faith, friendship, and memories this fall has brought.



Catholic Family ADVENTURE CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

All Saints Day Mass +
Celebration
The Little Mermaid
Veteran's Day Parade
Zoo Field Trip
Tyler State Park Field Trip

JANUARY

Epiphany Celebration
Planetarium

QUEST

Ghosts, Purgatory, and End
Things
Discipleship 101
Vocations Panel

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

November 1- All Saints Day Mass

DECEMBER

KLTV Tour
Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart
of Mary + Celebration
Wreaths Across America

FEBRUARY

Forensic Lab Tour-Tyler PD
Lindale Candy Company
St. Valentines Day Family Dance

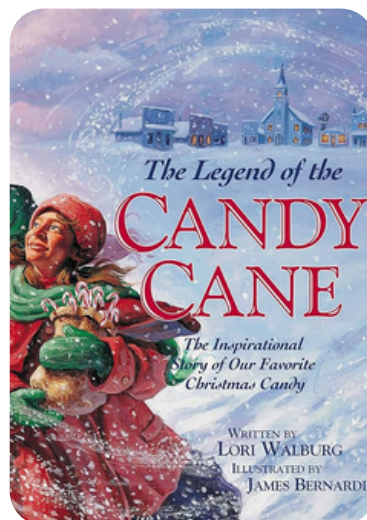
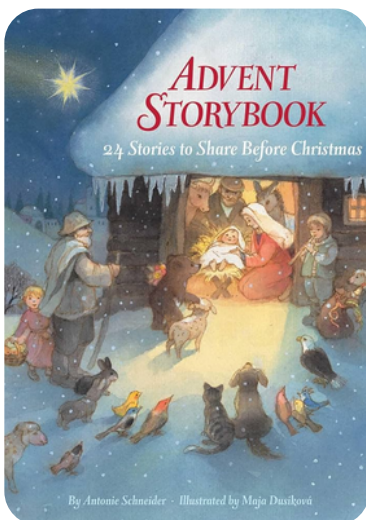
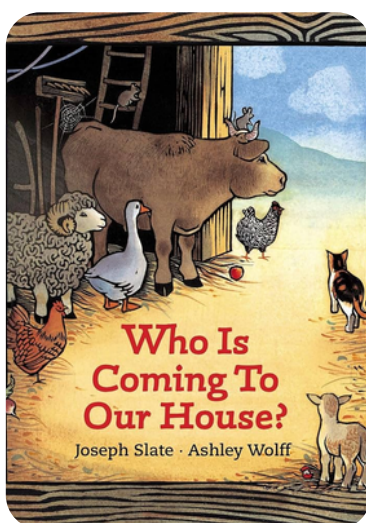
VOYAGES

Book Club-ScrewTape Letters
Cooking with the Saints
Decoding *The Jeweler's Shop* by
St. John Paul II

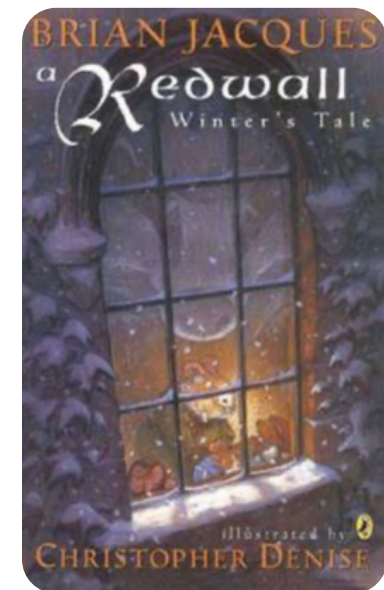
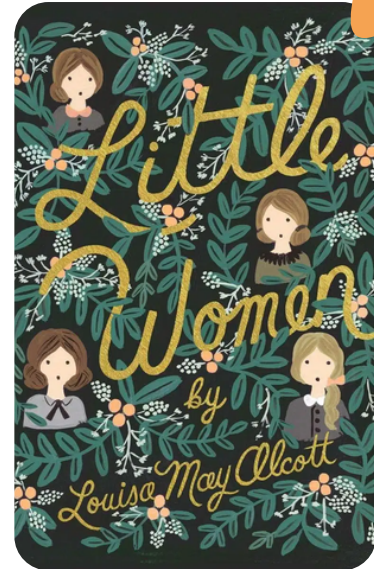
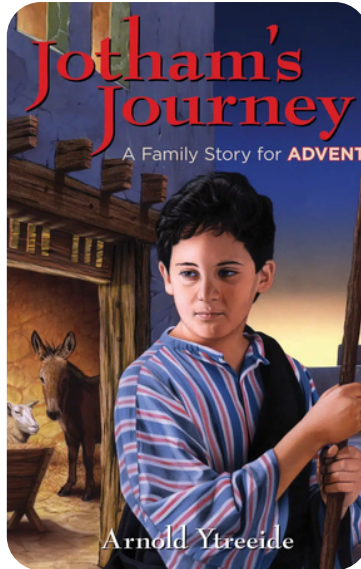
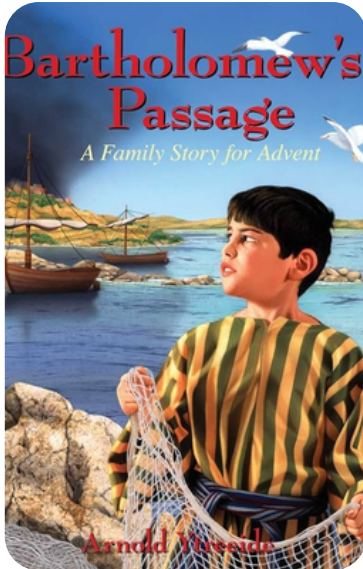
Members can view more details, RSVP for events, and see the full calendar in the member portal. Don't forget to check out the photo albums for even more photos from our recent events!

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BOOK ROUND UP

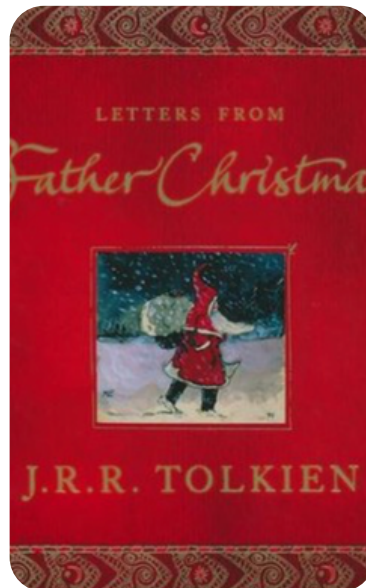
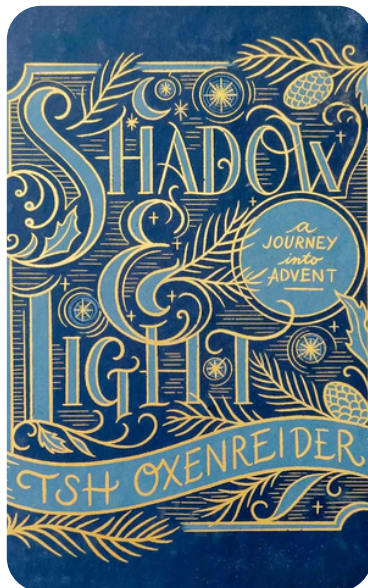
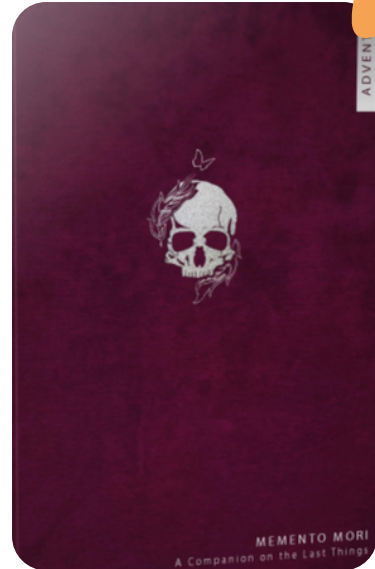
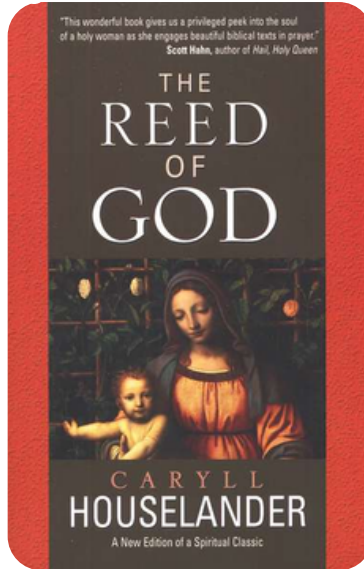
TINY TOTS



TWEENS AND TEENS



ADULTS



O Come, O Come Emmanuel

an interview with the Pinto Family

The Church is weeks away from hitting “reset” and beginning another liturgical year with the Advent season. Although it’s not as penitential as Lent, it’s still a time of thought, reflection and preparation for the Bethlehem Babe.

We sat down with the Pinto family, where they share how they keep this season sacred and meaningful for their family.

1. What traditions does your family do for Advent?

Our family does the traditional Advent wreath. We light it at dinner while we eat, and each year we bless it on the first Sunday of Advent. We also love to sing the “O Antiphons” as we get closer to Christmas.



Last year we also started a special Advent Calendar. We drew a Nativity scene background on a large paper and hung it in our living room under our family photos. Every day during Advent, we opened a numbered box. Inside each box was a small print out or drawing of something that could be added to the scene- sheep, shepherds, etc. It made the story of Christ’s birth come alive for us.

2. Do you have any special traditions that have been passed down in your family?

Yes!- Las Posadas. My family members were part of a mariachi band, so we would actually sing the Posadas songs and go house to house in our neighborhood with all of our relatives. It was such a beautiful way to live out the story of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter. That tradition paused after my grandfather passed away, but we still sing the songs, and I hope to bring it back someday with my own children.

3. Do you have a favorite Advent memory?



When my oldest, Sienna, was a baby, a group of women and I had a Jesse Tree ornament exchange party. Each woman made 28 of the same ornament, and by the end, everyone went home with a complete set. It's still one of my favorite Advent memories.

The Jesse Tree is a great tradition to start in Advent. It walks through the whole story of salvation history, from Creation all the way past the Resurrection. Each day we hang one ornament and read a Scripture passage that goes with it.

4. How do you keep your Advent season separate from the world's more secular preparations for Christmas?

We try to be really intentional about that. We don't decorate before Christmas, only the greenery goes up early. The tree and lights go up gradually, but we don't actually turn the lights on until Christmas Eve. It makes that night feel so special! Then on Christmas Day, we celebrate with a big feast and something that feels truly festive and different from the rest of Advent. We mostly do this through good food!

"O Antiphons" of Advent

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century. They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. (USCCB)

Learn more about the O Antiphons and how you can integrate them into the final week of Advent on the website [Catholic Cuisine!](#)

Listen to them and pray along on Youtube at these links:

[O SAPIENTIA / O WISDOM - O Antiphons: Day 1](#)

[O ADONAI / O ADONAY - O Antiphons: Day 2](#)

[O RADIX JESSE / O ROOT OF JESSE - O Antiphons: Day 3](#)

[O CLAVIS DAVID / O KEY OF DAVID - O Antiphons: Day 4](#)

[O ORIENS / O DAYSPRING - O Antiphons: Day 5](#)

[O REX GENTIUM / O KING OF NATIONS - O Antiphons: Day 6](#)

[O EMMANUEL - O Antiphons: Day 7](#)



Liturgical Living Corner: Feast Spotlight

St. Nicholas: December 6

The feast of the “official” Santa Claus’ is a fun way to start our Advent season. It usually lands somewhere near the 1st Sunday of Advent.

St. Nicholas lived out his life helping others, anonymously giving gifts to the needy, after inheriting his parents’ estate.

Hence, some say the legend of St. Nick or Santa Claus was born.

Different countries around the world remember him fondly with various traditions. Weave a new tradition or two into your homeschool day and let St. Nicholas’ generous spirit shine in our own holiday seasons.



CELEBRATE THE DAY!



- **Leave out your family’s shoes for St. Nick to fill with small treats and gold coins.**
- **Bake a batch of candy cane cookies, a symbol of St. Nicholas’ crozier.**
- **To honor his spirit of giving, see if your church has a giving tree, or some way to help the needy this time of year.**
- **To make your own St. Nicholas Mitre or print a few coloring pages, click [here](#).**

Liturgical Living Corner: Saint Spotlight

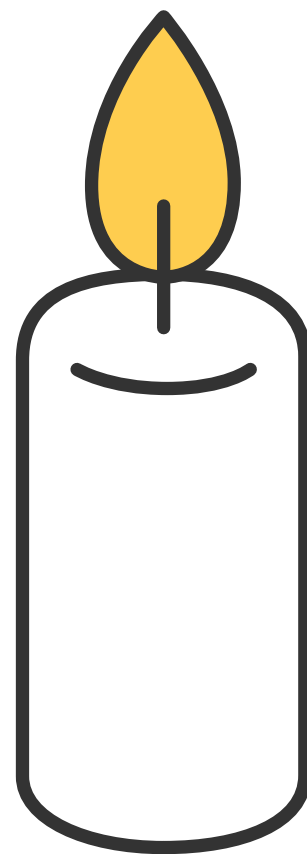
St. Lucy: December 13

The Feast of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr, brings a little light in the more preparatory mood of Advent. Her name comes from “lux,” which means light.

Tradition says she was bringing supplies to Christians in the catacombs and wore lights on her head so her hands were free.

Some families wait until her feast to light their outdoor Christmas lights for the first time.

Check out the list below to see how best your family can honor this beloved saint!



CELEBRATE THE DAY!



Check out these St. Lucy coloring pages



Make a special St. Lucy crown.



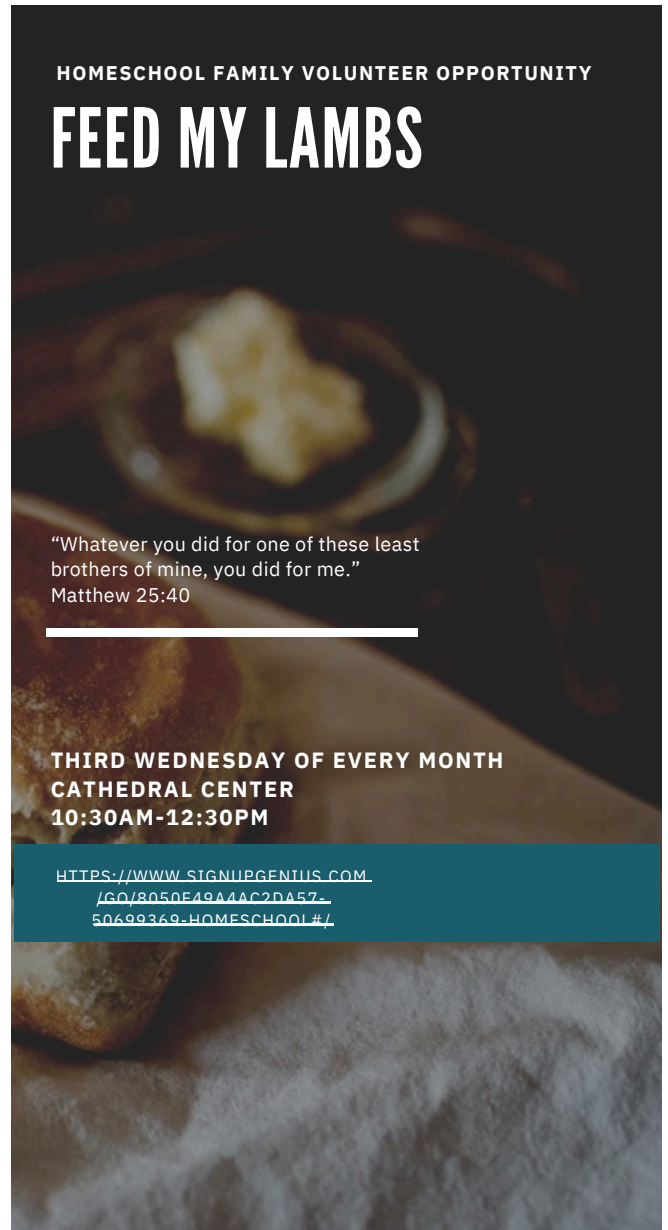
Try out Lussekatter (lucy buns) for breakfast!

Around the Diocese



Saint Cecilia Choir

Come join us on Sunday, November 23 at 4pm for our annual SAINT CECILIA CONCERT featuring The Cathedral Choir and other singers from the East Texas area. This year the featured work will be Marcel Tyberg's Mass No. 2 in F Major, whose works have been recently re-discovered nearly 60 years after his arrest by the Gestapo in 1944 and deportation to San Sabba and Auschwitz, where he died on December 31, 1944. Mark your calendars to join us for the St. Cecilia concert. Admission is free and all are welcome.



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/
/GO/8050E49A4AC2DA57-
50699369-HOMESCHOOL#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e49a4ac2da57-50699369-homeschool#/)



 **DIocese of TYLER**

ADVENT RETREAT: PREPARE THE WAY

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Catholic Church
St. John Paul II Hall
2800 Pine Tree Rd., Longview, TX 75604

Beloved

THE LORD IS WITH YOU

Inspiring Speakers • Fellowship • Prayer & Reflection • Adoration & Mass



DANIELLE NOONAN
WORSHIP LEADER



CHIKA ANYANWU
SPEAKER



SARAH SWAFFORD
SPEAKER



SISTER JUDE ANDREW
SPEAKER

MARCH 21, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM
W. T. BROOKSHIRE CONFERENCE CENTER

WWW.DIOCESEOFTYLER.ORG/WOMENSRETREAT



Have you visited one of the 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage locations in the Diocese of Tyler? The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler is one of these locations!

Dec 28 2025 is the Jubilee Closing Mass from
3:00-5:00 PM

SPONSORED BY THE TROOPS OF SAINT GEORGE

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 3RD ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS MARKET

8
NOV

HANDMADE
GIFTS &
FOOD

10AM-
2PM

CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
LOCATED IN THE CATHEDRAL HALL
423 S BROADWAY



PARKING CAN BE FOUND IN THE CHURCH'S PARKING LOT IF AVAILABLE
ADDITIONAL PARKING CAN BE FOUND ON THE SIDE STREETS & AT THE
PARKING GARAGE NEXT TO ETX BREWERY .4 MILES



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

CHRISTMAS SALE

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2025

START AT 9 AM

SHOP CHRISTMAS TREES, ORNAMENTS,
GIFTS, DECORATIONS, CLOTHING, AND MORE!

CATHEDRAL CENTER

423 S BROADWAY AVE, TYLER, TX 75702



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ST. VINCENT DE
PAUL FOOD PANTRY AND THE POOR OF TYLER.