



NEWSLETTER



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Have an idea for the newsletter? Then drop a line to Janae Spencer at janae@janaespencerphoto.com.

Welcome CFAC Families

I pray you had a peaceful Thanksgiving and that the upcoming Advent season is a fruitful and holy one for you.

Our fourth newsletter shares highlights from our events last month, a look at community members' Advent traditions, and a reflection from our Moms' Advent Retreat.

There are so many great ways to celebrate Advent, and this month we will get to participate in some of those together as a group with our St. Andrew Christmas Novena and St. Nicholas Day Celebration.

With so many wonderful celebrations during this time of year, I can feel overwhelmed by wanting to do it all. I know I'm not alone with feelings of busyness in this season. This year I hope to learn from Jesus in the manger, embracing the beauty of less, not more.

As we light our first Advent candles this year, let's intentionally make space to invite Jesus into our lives and homes.

You are in my prayers. Wishing you all a blessed Advent Season!

- Janae Spencer
Newsletter Editor

Reflecting on Last Month

The good times rolled at our Tween-and-Teen Bowling Event with over 40 participants taking part in the fun.

More highlights from last month include our field trip to Old Mill Pond and the Moms' Advent Retreat; the moms who attended enjoyed a relaxing day of spiritual reflection and fellowship. Stay tuned for a potential opportunity this spring.



Upcoming CFAC Events

First Friday Mass - Join us for First Friday Mass with Park and Play to follow. Please wear CFAC shirts.

St. Andrew Christmas Novena- The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is a cherished tradition of nine days of prayer, beginning on November 30th, inviting our community to join in preparation and anticipation for the Christmas season.

St. Nicholas Day Celebration- Join us for a fun filled morning celebrating good ol' Saint Nicolas. We will have activities for the kids, hot chocolate, and dessert.

Third Tuesday Mass - We meet each third Tuesday for Mass and fellowship, rain or shine! In the case of inclement weather, we'll meet in the Parish Hall for board games.



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

Advent Traditions

Last month we asked our community members what their favorite Advent traditions are. In this edition, we showcase Advent traditions that make this season uniquely meaningful for our members. From candlelit family prayers to festive decorations, there are so many rich ways to deepen our anticipation for the arrival of Christmas.

St. Nicholas Shoes

We have everyone in our house set their shoes out by the front door the night before December 6. The shoes are then filled with traditional treats like chocolate gold coins or oranges (a symbol of charity) plus a new book. St. Nicholas anonymously gave the gift of gold to a family who needed it and it's a fun tradition for us to carry on as a family.

-Spencer Family



Advent Trivia + Calendar

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.)

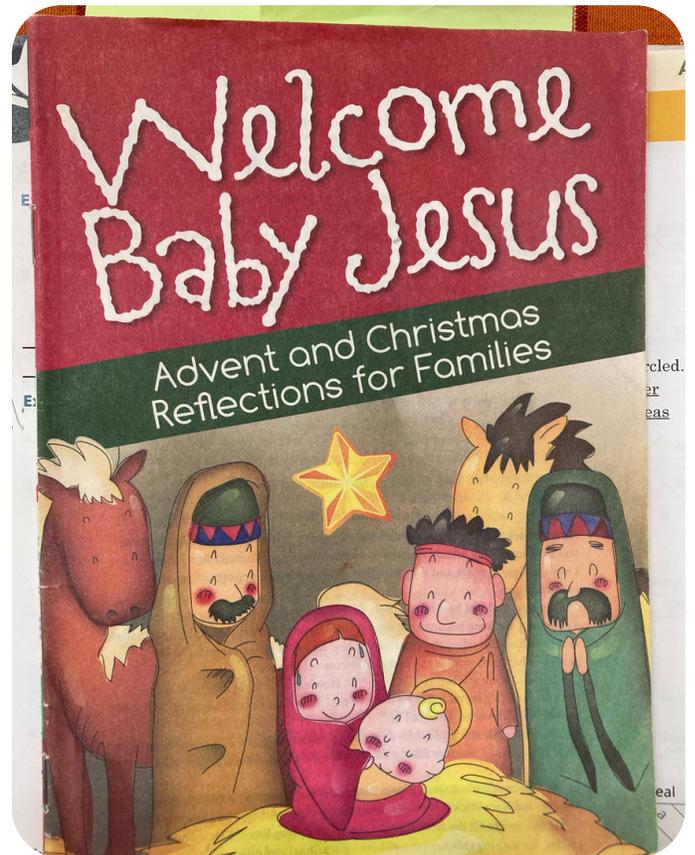
- Lockman Family

Advent Candles + Special Book

The Advent wreath is circular as a symbol of God's unending love and eternal joy. Each week we light a candle, and it gives us something to focus on: hope, peace, joy, and love.

During Advent we follow this booklet, "Welcome Baby Jesus." It has daily Bible readings, reflections, prayers, and tasks designed for kids.

- Batista Family



Jesse Tree

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, we begin decorating our Jesse Tree. Every night a new ornament is placed upon the tree, each symbolizing a story from the Bible that demonstrates God's salvation plan. The kiddos take turns placing the nightly ornament while we read the corresponding Bible passage.

On December 17th, we start adding O Antiphon Ornaments as well, one each day until Christmas Eve.

-Reaves Family

Finding Peace: A Look Back at Our Moms' Advent Retreat

by Jennifer Pacheco, community member

On Saturday, some of us homeschooling moms gathered at the Wellspring Spiritual Retreat center for a special time of prayer and reflection, lead by Father Gus. The focus was on the Psalms during the Advent season: Watch, Wait, Pray & Rejoice. And while we were only able to cover the first two as a group, the impact was immense.

Father Gus is a very soft spoken man who isn't in a hurry about much. After group prayers, he sent us on our way to spend time on the grounds with sheets of prayers and meditations in our hands. You could sit in any of the interior rooms, visit the Mary Garden, walk along the Stations of the Cross, make your way down the meditation spiritual, sit in the shrine, or my favorite one, a quick walk through the woods.

I left feeling refreshed and renewed. I knew I needed to share this place with my best friend. So we attended their monthly retreat the following Saturday. My friend, who isn't Catholic, was a little nervous to attend but walked away wanting to come to every single event by Father Gus.

This was truly an event for the books and I hope we get to come back together again soon!



“Be still and know that I am God”
Psalm 46:10

Around the Diocese



STABAT MATER
FOUNDATION

Advancing the Culture of Life Through Prayer and Art

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 14 - Adult art class
- Saturday, November 11 - Teen art class followed by family potluck supper and bonfire at farm
- Sunday, December 17 - Annual Lighting of the Voegler Cross

Where

Stafford's Meadow Farm
The Vogeler Cross
15500 Anderson County Road 2418
Montalba, TX 75853

For More Details and to Register
Contact **Robert Puschautz** at
robert@stabatmater.org
or
(773) 726-4976



LIFE BEYOND THE CHARIOT BOOK STUDY 2023

Sign Up at <https://dioceseoftyler.flocknote.com/LBCBookStudy2023>

Registration Now Open

they that Wait a women's retreat

they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength. they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
Isaiah 40:31



Heather Khym
National Speaker, Author of "Abide," Co Host of the "Abiding Together" podcast



Rachel Bulman
National Speaker & Author of "Becoming Wife" & "With All Her Mind"



Regina Boyd
Licensed Counselor, National Speaker & Author of "Leaving Loneliness Behind"



Noelle Garcia,
Emcee & Worship Leader
International Catholic Speaker

Save The Date: March 23, 2024
Location: W.T. Brookshire Conference Center
2000 W Front Street, Tyler 75702
Visit stphilipinstitute.org/events to stay up to date