

What Your
Child Is Learning This
Week
December 6, 2009



December 14th Class
1st class after the Holidays:
January 10th
January 17th

Learning about the Christmas Story...



This week and next week we focus on the Story of Christmas. We learned that Baby Jesus came to earth. Jesus was a child just like us. He had a mom & dad just like us. He came to save the world. He came to earth as a "regular person" not a king or someone rich and famous. He was born in a "barn" in a manger, which is a food box for cows and sheep.

I encourage you to tell and retell the Christmas Story to your children. If you can, purchase a plastic, wooden or other unbreakable nativity set and let your child play with it while you retell the story. Soon they will be able to tell the story too.



Today is the Feast of St. Nicholas. The children learned that St. Nicholas was a bishop who loved little children and taught them about Jesus. They learned that, like all bishops, St. Nick carried a gold shepherd's crook and the Candy Cane is made in the same shape. It reminds us of him and the shepherds at the Nativity. Children around the world put their shoes out the night before his feast, hoping St. Nick will fill them with a candy cane, orange or treat. It's a wonderful family tradition, and reminds kids that "Santa Claus" is really St. Nicholas.



Today is the Parish Christmas Party for Children. The party runs from 10:00am until 1:00pm in the Parish Center.

Your children will enjoy having lunch with Santa and Mrs. Claus, shopping at the Secret Santa Gift shop and writing letters to Santa. There will be craft activities available for the children to do too. This is a wonderful way to meet other parish members and get in the Christmas Spirit.

Thank you to Diana Peterson for organizing this family focused event.



Questions or concerns?
Please call the Religious Ed office.
Our door is always open to help you in any way we can.

<http://stmariagoretti.org/SMG/>

Religious Ed Office
Misty Brumm 271-8081
Shari Kuemmel 271-3732

ST. NICHOLAS DAY BLESSING OF THE CANDY CANES

GOOD ST. NICHOLAS, WE HONOR YOU
ON THIS, YOUR HOLY FEAST DAY.
WE REJOICE THAT YOU ARE THE
PATRON SAINT
AND THE HOLY SYMBOL OF JOY FOR
PEOPLE IN MANY LANDS.
COME, GREAT-HEARTED SAINT,
AND BE OUR COMPANION
AS WE, ONCE AGAIN, PREPARE OUR
HOMES AND HEARTS
FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF CHRISTMAS,
THE BIRTH OF THE ETERNAL BLESSING,
JESUS CHRIST.

MAY THESE SWEETS, THESE CANDY
CANES,
BE A SIGN OF ADVENT JOY FOR US.
MAY THESE CANDY CANES,
SHAPED JUST LIKE YOUR BISHOP'S
STAFF,
BE FOR US A SIGN OF YOUR
BENEVOLENT CARE.
WE REJOICE THAT YOU ARE THE HOLY
BRINGER OF GIFTS
AND THAT SO MANY HAVE BEEN
DELIGHTED THROUGH YOUR GREAT
GENEROSITY.
HELP US TO BE AS GENEROUS OF
HEART.

WHEREVER THESE CANDY CANES ARE
HUNG,
ON THE TREE OR WALL OR DOOR,
MAY THEY CARRY WITH THEM
THE BRIGHT BLESSING OF GOD.
MAY ALL WHO SHALL TASTE THEM
EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF GOD
UPON THEIR TONGUES AND IN THEIR
HEARTS.

WE ASK GOD NOW TO BLESS
THESE, YOUR BRIGHTLY STRIPED
SWEETS
IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT,

AMEN.

Good Deeds Manger



Set up the manger scene with Mary,
Joseph and the manger. Tuck Jesus
Away someplace for safekeeping until
Christmas Eve.

As your child does good deeds in the
Days leading up to Christmas Eve, they
May receive a piece of "hay"(the yarn)
To place in Jesus' bed to make a soft,
Warm place for Him to lay. By
Christmas
Eve, the manger should be all set for
Baby Jesus to arrive!

A Parent's Advent Prayer...

*Good and gracious God, you know
how much
Fills my mind and heart these days.
Help me to pay attention
To your presence in my life.
Help me to look for and find
opportunities this Advent
To become more aware
Of how you touch my life each day.
May I become evermore a sign
Of your love in the world.
Amen.*