

St. Gabriel Parish

The Messenger

Religious Instruction December 2023 Newsletter



We have a winner!

Thank you to all the families who participated in the first Mission Possible Family Challenge. Your definitions of the word 'mission' were excellent and your point of view of Jesus' mission on earth was delightful and insightful! Well done!

Congratulations to a Grade one student and her family from Whispering Hill who won our first Advent & Christmas gift bag!!

Didn't get drawn this time? Don't despair! Your submissions will be brought forward for our next draw which will take place the week of February 22nd! Continue to check our upcoming newsletters for more Mission Possible Family Challenges. Check the reverse of this newsletter for your December challenge.

Christmas Day Meal Blessing

*We offer you and your family
this Christmas dinner blessing:*

Eternal God,
This joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of
your one true light.
May that light illuminate our hearts and shine
in our words and deeds.

May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the
love represented by the birth in Bethlehem
fill our lives and become part of all that we
say and do.

May we share the divine life of your son
Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to
share our humanity.

Bless us and the feast that You have
provided for us, let us be thankful for the true
gift of Christmas, your Son.

Amen.

Source: [Advent & Christmas Prayers](#)

What's Going On?

There are many exciting events taking place at St. Gabriel's Church for our families. Take a gander! Mark your calendar! All are welcome!

**Come for Caroling & Coffee
Every Wednesday!
6pm to 7:30pm**

**Wednesdays,
Dec. 6, Dec. 13 & Dec. 20th
Caroling, Potluck Snack,
Crafts & Games**

Mass times

Join us as we celebrate a special season!
Christmas Eve Mass - Dec. 24, 9:00 pm
Christmas Mass - Dec. 25, 10:00 am
New Year's Eve Mass - Dec. 31, 10:00 am
New Year's Day Mass - Jan 1st, 10:00 am



Advent Family Activities

Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem

If you have a nativity set, set up the stable in a central location. Tell the story of the journey Mary and Joseph had to make to Bethlehem. Start Mary and Joseph on their long journey by placing them some distance from the stable. Every day move them closer to the stable, until they arrive on Christmas Eve.

Source: [28 Family Advent Activities Your Kids Will Love](#)

Light It Up!

December is the darkest month of the year! Here is a creative family activity to light up your yard!



Mission Possible: December Family Challenge

Today, December 6th, is the Feast day of Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas is the saint that is at the heart of the jolly Santa Claus that we experience today! Read the brief information about Saint Nicholas. Complete the task below and return this slip to school by December 13th. Your submission will be added to the draw for the chance to win a Family Gift Basket! Good luck!

St. Nicholas's anonymous gift-giving originated in his hometown of Patara in Turkey. According to ancient tradition, to deliver a destitute family of a widower father and his three daughters, the young Nicholas secretly threw three bags of gold coins through their window on three consecutive nights. His anonymous nocturnal gift-giving has continued in many countries to today, including being translated into Santa's visits.

Discuss acts of kindness you can do as a family ...anonymously... for a friend, family member or even the community. Write your ideas below! Even better, take the time to put one of your ideas into action!

Anonymously, our family will ...

Child's first name: _____ Gr. _____

Please return this slip to school by December 13th for a chance to win the Family Gift Basket which will be drawn the week of February 22nd.