

YOUTH NEWS

January* www.stpatricksmauston.com * (608)847-6054

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 10th). During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us. Here are some ways that we can celebrate the Christmas season for a few weeks longer:

- **Saint Stephen (the first martyr of the church) is the patron saint of bricklayers and stonemasons and his feast day is December 26th.** St. Stephen was one of the first 'social workers' in the Church, and it was his task to organize meals to feed the poor. In some homes and communities a box is labeled and set beside the Christmas tree. Members of the family, in gratitude for their Christmas blessings, choose one of their gifts for the "St. Stephen's Box" — clothing and other useful articles which are donated to the poor or to a mission country.
- **Saint John the Evangelist is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors and his feast day is December 27.** As a family eat a fish dinner and remember that John and his brother, James, were Galilean fishermen, and called the "sons of thunder". John and his community of followers are credited with writing the fourth Gospel.
- **The Feast of the Holy Family is the Sunday following Christmas (this year it is December 27th so Saint John will get bumped ☺)** Use this as a time to celebrate your own family. Make a cake and celebrate date of your wedding anniversary as the "birthday" of your family. This might also be a good time to consecrate your family to the Holy Family. <https://teachingcatholickids.com/consecrate-your-family-to-the-holy-family/>
- We reflect on **The Holy Innocents on December 28th.** They were the children under the age of 2 who were slaughtered by the tyrant Herod because he feared one of them might be the newborn rival king (Jesus). Today would be a good day to pray for all who have been affected by abortion. That they may find healing through places like Rachel's Vineyard, a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. <https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/>
- **The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and the Church's World Day of Peace is on January 1.** Celebrate the Solemnity of Mary and the Octave of Christmas by attending Mass. The vigil Mass will be offered here on December 31st at 5pm (also happens to be Father John's birthday) and Mass on January 1st will be at Noon.
- On **the Feast of the Epiphany (January 3rd of this year)** tradition calls for us to bless our homes because of the Biblical reference to the three kings entering the home where the Holy Family was staying in order to worship the Christ child there. Using blessed chalk to write the letters C, M, and B, plus the year, above the main entrance to the home (or above the door to each room in the house), like so: 20 + C + M + B + 21. The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also represent the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means: "May Christ bless the house." Of course, the + represents the cross.
- **On the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (celebrated January 10th of this year)** discuss your family's Baptisms over a 12 days of Christmas themed feast found at <https://catholiccuisine.blogspot.com/2013/01/a-twelve-days-of-christmas-dinner-party.html>. The menu includes Four Calling Birds Chicken Wings and Six Geese-a-Laying Deviled Eggs.

So remember if stores can start Christmassing in October, then you're entitled to celebrate the *real* Christmas season in its fullness!!



Merry Christmas

January

- 1st ~ The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass @ Noon
- 13th ~ Religious Ed Classes start back up!
- 20th ~ Religious Ed Classes
- 27th ~ Religious Ed Classes



A FAMILY OF FAITH

Family Catechesis
for Our Parish



Thanks to Jamie Pouillie for driving around Santa!

We were so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of Religious Ed Students, Parents, and Adults that went Caroling on December 16th. Our smaller groups went out into the community after the 6pm Wednesday Night Mass and caroled at the homes of some of our Parishioners, and then we met as a larger group to carol at the Nursing Home, and Terrace Heights. THANK you to all that were involved! Some comments that I have received from this night are: "That was just a wonderful treat, I hope this continues next year." "Please tell the boys that came to my house thank you, I was feeling pretty bad and that just made my Christmas."

Dylan Demaske, Jasper Walsh, Trey Laridean, Brock Massey and Chase Johnson pausing for a photo at one of their stops.



Singing to the Nursing Home Residents



Therese and Bob Severson enjoying the songs from their balcony.

"In face of the hatred and anger of the world we must bring the gentleness and the smile of the Infant Jesus of Bethlehem. In face of the pride of the world we must bring the littleness and powerlessness of the tiny new born baby of the crib."

Little Sister Magdeleine