



November 22, 2020

Dear parents,

Included in your Advent / Christmas Home Kit are the following items:

**1. Holy card of St. Nicholas and a bag of chocolate coins.**

The original St. Nicholas was a bishop in Myra (Turkey) known for his generous deeds done in secret. St. Nicholas once placed a bag filled with gold coins inside the window of a poor family's house, so that their daughter would be able to marry the man of her dreams. The feast of St. Nicholas is December 6, which falls on a Sunday this year. The custom is for the children to leave their shoes by the door the night before and in the morning, chocolates and other goodies are found in those shoes, much to the delight of the children.

**2. The Jesse Tree with sticker ornaments.**

Prepare for the coming of Christmas by reading a bible verse leading up to and including the birth of Jesus Christ. Each day of Advent read the day's bible verse and add the ornament to the tree. Advent begins Sunday, November 29.

**3. The Liturgical Calendar for 2020-2021.** Parents, this calendar is for you to put up in your home. The calendar is circular and begins with Sunday, November 29 (Advent). All the Sundays of the year are on the outside rim of the circle and you read down towards the center of the circle for the weekdays. The liturgical seasons are represented by their colors and the days contain all the Saints feasts and holy days.

**4. During Advent, spend time as a family by doing a **service project** together.** Included are some ideas that benefit the less fortunate through Hope Clinic: Wrap Disposable Silverware Sets, Pack Sack Lunches, or Make Neck Straps for Kid's Masks. You can complete the project at home and deliver them directly to Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti or you can drop them off in the St. Francis parish office with a note: Attn Ellen Ward, RE Service Project. Write a few lines about your service and sign your name(s). Confirmation students can receive service hours for these projects. These and other ideas can be found at: <https://thehopeclinic.org/offsite-projects-1>

**5. We've arranged a **Family Dough Holy Night** for you.** See the enclosed sheet for directions and enjoy making cookies as you hear the story of Christmas. The link to the video is at: <https://www.gocurriculum.com/dough-holy-night-parent-portal> Enter the password. The password is: **LETSDOUGH** (all caps)  
BTW: Confirmation students can earn service hours for leading the family night, making cookies, and telling the Christmas story.

Have a blessed Advent and joyous Christmas. God bless you,

Ellen Ward, DRE

St. Francis of Assisi Parish / [ward@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ward@stfrancisa2.org)

734-821-2130 (office) / 734-476-5640 (cell)