



Ignite the F.I.R.E.

Families Involved in Religious Education



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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Just like the Easter season, the Christmas season does not end on Christmas Day. As Catholics, we continue to celebrate the season after the secular world sets it aside. This year, Christmas season goes until Jan 12th, when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord.

This is such a special time of the year for days of importance for the Church. Right after the birth of Christ, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Father Craig's homily spoke of how we can look to the Holy Family for guidance, but to also remember that each of our families ARE the domestic church, and that each time we participate in the Sacraments, we bring Jesus into our lives. When we baptize our children, we bring Jesus into our home, and keep the Church alive in the world.

On Dec 31st/Jan 1st, we have another Holy Day of Obligation as we celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. This is a wonderful way to start off the year, by honoring the Blessed Mother of God, who is also the Patroness of our Diocese of New Ulm.

The following Sunday, we celebrate the Epiphany, the revelation of God incarnate revealed to the 3 wisemen. This is a day to bless your household with a special prayer, and writing 20 + C + M + B + 20 with chalk (blessed chalk is even better) over your doors as a sign that you have invited God's presence and blessing into your home. The letters can have 2 meanings: they represent the names of the 3 wisemen, Caspar, Melchior & Balthasar. It also can stand for the Latin words, "*Christus Mansionem Benedicat*", meaning "*May Christ bless this home.*" The numbers on each end are the current year, 2020.

The Baptism of the Lord is the last day of the Christmas season and reminds us of the gifts of grace that Christ gave us in the Sacraments. Even though we are baptized only once, the transforming power of God's grace lives in us throughout our whole lives. We have the repetitive gifts of reconciliation and Eucharist as long as we have priests, and these will give us the continued strength and hope we need to fight off the temptations of the world and the enemy.

May God bless your year and reveal His never-ending love to you this Christmas season!

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!" ~ St. Catherine of Siena