

# CCD Happenings

The Church of St. John and St. Mary Chappaqua, NY

December  
2014  
Issue 2



## TOMORROW'S FORECAST: GOD REIGNS AND THE SON SHINES!

All time belongs to God. To help us recognize this, the Catholic Church marks the passage of time with a cycle of seasons and feasts that invites us, year after year, to deepen our relationship with Jesus. Join us this Christmas season and in the new year as we journey together to learn more about our own faith life and encourage our children to do the same!

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

Lina Serpico and Lori Guillaro

### SAVE THE DATE

- Sixth Grade - Level mass  
Sunday, January 11, 10 am
- Monthly Birthday Mass  
January 25, 10 am
- Family Fun Night, Friday,  
January 9, 6:30 pm



## Blessing the Family Christmas Tree

You will need water or holy water (if available) to celebrate this blessing.

Blessing the Christmas tree is a fun way to begin the Christmas season. You may bless the tree as soon as you put it up, or you can wait until after you have decorated it. When you are ready to do the blessing, gather everyone around the tree and designate someone to lead the following prayer.

**Leader:** Loving God, we stand before you once again. We stand here ready to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus.

(Have everyone extend a hand in a gesture of blessing. Sprinkle water or holy water on the tree while praying the following prayer.)

**Leader:** Bless this tree, this sign of life and freshness and perseverance in our midst. It stands as a reminder that you are born anew in us each day. Bless our family and friends as we celebrate this joyous season. Keep us safe in our travels, kind in our conversations, and gracious in our giving and receiving. We ask you this in confidence, because we know you love us.

**All:** Amen.

(Join in singing a favorite Christmas carol, such as "O Christmas Tree" or "Joy to the World.")

### Christmas Mass Schedule

#### December 24th

**3:30 pm Children's  
Choir Caroling**

**3:45 pm Children's  
Pageant**

**4:00 pm Family Mass**

**9:30 pm Caroling**

**10 pm Vigil Mass**

#### December 25th

**7:30 am Mass**

**10 am Mass**

**12 Noon Mass**



**A Very BIG THANK  
YOU to our Family  
Events Committee  
for another great  
pizza and movie  
night!**

# Fifth Grade Mass

On November 9, the 10:00 Mass featured our 5th graders. Students greeted our parishioners as they entered the Church and offered a lapel pin with a cross/American flag to our veterans, they served as lectors and read the First and Second Readings and the Prayer of the Faithful, were gift bearers, and served as ushers for the offertory collection. We continued the celebration in Skelly Hall where our 5th graders and their families supplied baked goods for our sharing table. All CCD students were asked to contribute to the care packages for Ariel Coreth, aboard the USS San Diego and Andrew Ehrlich, aboard the USS Makin Island who are members of our parish and are currently in the Middle East.

Our CCD children wrote thank you letters to Ariel and Andrew praying for their safe return to their families. Many also decorated girl and boy soldiers and wrote words of comfort and thanks. We shipped many boxes of goodies to Ariel and Andrew. We were together sharing our faith and honoring our veterans. It was a great day!



## REMINDER

Last Day of CCD Classes will be Thursday December 11th. We will resume classes on January 6th, 2015

Happy New Year!

If your child is interested in joining the Children's Choir, please contact our Music Director Kyle Mange at [kylemange@hotmail.com](mailto:kylemange@hotmail.com)



## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

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.

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