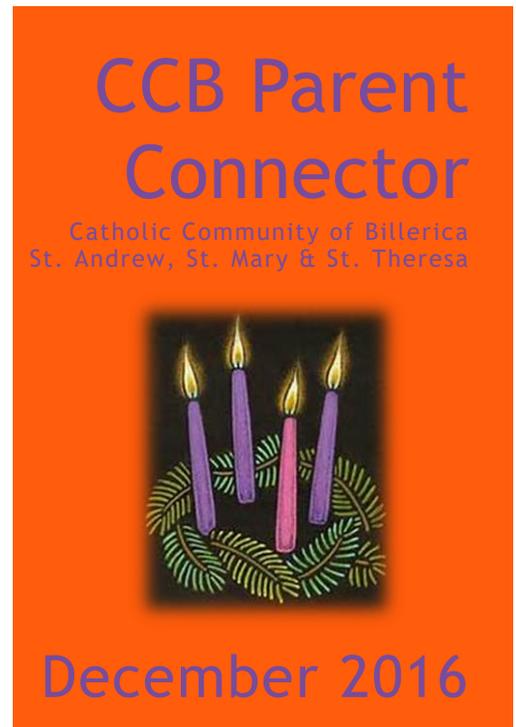




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IN THIS ISSUE

Celebrating Advent & Christmas

Christmas can be a wonderful opportunity to begin family traditions that your child(ren) will remember forever. Rather than give in to the hustle and bustle of shopping and gifts, you can choose to focus on the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. What an incredible gift we are given in Jesus: Emmanuel, "God with Us."

The First Sunday of Advent was Nov. 27. If you have not already set up an Advent Wreath...it is not too late! You simply need a circular wreath of evergreens and four candles – one pink and three purple (see photo insert above!). The pink candle is lighted on the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday (the priest wears rose or pink colored vestments in order to encourage us to continue to prepare ourselves for Christmas) For prayers to say each Sunday you may want to

check out www.dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever.

An Advent Calendar is also a wonderful way to share the excitement of waiting for the birth of Jesus Christ. You can even find a free printable advent calendar online! Consider investing in a nativity set; there are kid friendly one's that you can let children set up with fear of breaking. Decide as a family if you wish to wait until Christmas to add the baby Jesus to the scene, or perhaps let your children add a piece of straw/hay to the manger scene each day or when they do a good deed.

Traditions are important. Start now!

And remember: The most important Christmas tradition is to attend Mass and celebrate the birth of Christ!



Christmas Mass Schedule

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Imaginative Prayer

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A Prayer for Advent



Imaginative Prayer Experience on the Birth of Christ

Imaginative Prayer involves reading a passage slowly and deliberately so one can imagine the story in detail. The reader then places themselves in the scene, becoming engaged with the story. Let us take for example Luke's Gospel account of the Birth of Jesus (Luke 2: 1-20). If you do not have a Bible at home, you can find it online (The New American Bible, Revised Catholic Edition is a good choice of translation).

- *Find a comfortable position and take a few deep breaths.*
- *Become aware that you are in the presence of God*
- *Read Luke 2: 1-20 slowly and deliberately*
- *When you are familiar with the text, allow yourself to imagine the story in detail.*

Visualize the setting (the scenery, landscape, buildings, what the buildings look like, what time of day it is, look at the people in the story, what they look like, what is happening to them and how they feel, listen to what the people are saying, the tone of their voice, look at what the people are doing, observe them.

You may want to enter into a conversation with one of the people in the story: Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, Jesus...

Or just simply be there with the mystery.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24

St. Andrew Parish: 4 PM and Midnight

St. Mary Parish: 4 PM and 6 PM

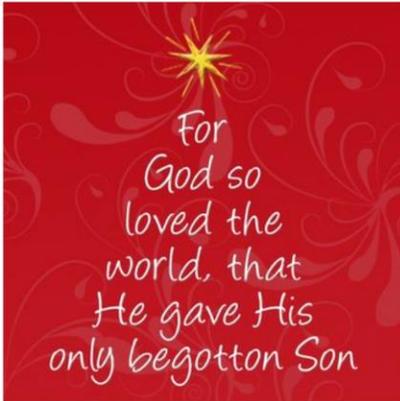
St. Theresa Parish: 4 PM (Church & Hall) and 10:30 PM

Sunday, December 25

St. Andrew Parish: 9:30 AM

St. Mary Parish: 8:30 AM

St. Theresa Parish: 10:30 AM



Thursday, Dec. 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Masses will be celebrated at St. Theresa on Dec. 7 at 4 PM & Dec. 8 at 9 AM, St. Andrew on Dec. 8 at noon, and St. Mary on Dec. 8 at 7 PM.

Festival of Lessons and Carols: Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 PM at St. Andrew Church. All ages will enjoy!!

