



P-3 NEWS



St. Thomas the
Apostle School
Worship in Spirit &
Truth
December 2011

December Newsletter

Advent Arrives!

This month in preschool, we will be focusing on the theme of Advent! This is a beautiful time of waiting in the Church - waiting for the birth of Christ. As we all know, it is very hard for preschoolers to "wait"! Our class will focus on the themes and symbols of the season through the Advent box as well as the infancy narrative presentations in the atrium/Good Shepherd program.

We will be emphasizing "kind deeds" for Jesus. A sheet will be in your child's folder to record their kind deeds. Each slip they return (please do just one at a time) will be placed into a gift-wrapped box that we will take over to the church during our birthday party for Jesus. More slips are available if you need them.

During the hustle and bustle of the season, preschool will be a refuge and a place to keep the "Christ" in Christmas! Their hearts will be so ready for Jesus!



The P-3 Feast! We thank God for all of you!
Thank you God for new babies! Congrats to the
Smith Family on the birth of Fallon!

The Advent Box

The Advent Box contains four nesting boxes that are opened each Tuesday of Advent, one box at a time. We work on patience while anticipating the birth of Christ. Inside each box are activities, prayers, stories, and treats that help to explain the relationship between Christmas ideas and Christ so that our little ones can understand.

On the last day of class prior to Christmas break, we will have a small birthday party for Jesus here in our room and visit the Church to deliver our "kind deeds" present to Jesus!

Fire Safety Day!



Grace to the rescue during our safety week! We learned about 911, Stop, Drop & Roll, and practiced a fire drill!

Jesus is the reason
for the season!

Good Shepherd Program

This month, we will focus on the infancy narratives: The Annunciation when the angel came to Mary, The Visitation when Mary visits Elizabeth, and the Birth of Christ/Adoration of the Shepherds. In the atrium, there are figures the children can work with, along with a scripture booklet for each story. Our liturgical colors have changed to **purple** for Advent, a time of **waiting**. They will turn to **white** at Christmas, a time of **celebration!** You can point this out at church on Fr. Jim's vestments as well as the banners hanging on the wall behind the altar.

Reminders:

** Please wear **warm clothing** each day as the weather gets colder - coats, hats, snowpants, boots (if needed), and mittens (easier to get on than gloves). Please label everything! We will go outside every class!



-We are **collecting gallon-sized empty milk jugs** to make an igloo in Jan.! Please clean and dry them and send them in!

Curriculum Update

Spanish - Family members/Piñata story

Math - One to one correspondence, counting, AB color/shape patterns

Science - What is snow?

Fine Motor - Wrapping gifts, Lacing

Zoophonics - We will finish the remaining letter sounds this month!

Evan, Grant, and Josie shaking the cream to make **butter** for our feast!



Upcoming Events

Dec. 1 – The Advent Box begins!

**Begin good deeds for Jesus.

Dec. 15– Gingerbread Party! Please send in one item to decorate our houses. (See sign-up sheet in the hall)

Dec. 20 – Birthday Party for Jesus! Wear PJs/Bring bear or blankie today! Last day of school before Christmas break!

Dec. 21 – Jan 3 - Christmas Break!

Merry Christmas to all families on behalf of Mrs. Koorndyk and Mrs. Bridge!

Thank You!

-Thanks to **everyone** who came to the P-3 Feast and provided our fabulous snacks and decorations!

-Thanks to **Mrs. Wohlgemuth** for reading to our class on Tuesdays! 😊

-Thanks to **Mrs. Perdue** and **Mrs. Wohlgemuth** for being Parent Catechists for All Saints Day!

-Thanks to **Mrs. Salinas** for coordinating our flower planting service project! We can't wait until Spring to see the daffodils!

-Thank you to **Don Serba** for coming to lap time, teaching us safety rules, and dressing as a firefighter!