

## Advent Traveling Nativity Program Packet

November 28, 2018



Hello Parents,

As Advent draws near, we are excited to share that Holy Name will be participating in a schoolwide **Advent Traveling Nativity program**, which involves the pieces of the nativity set traveling from class to class for daily reflection during Advent. I hope that through this program, our teachers' leadership in the classroom, and your support at home, our students will affirm and further develop their understanding of the true meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons focused on the coming of Jesus Christ. Building on this year's theme at Holy Name of "Bringing the Gospel to Life", this Advent Traveling Nativity program is one way to bring the Gospel of the Nativity of Our Lord to life for our students. It is an opportunity for them to grow in closeness to the individuals in the nativity through their beautiful stories in the Bible and their witnesses to a life of faith and encounter with Jesus that can be related to our students' own lives now as well.

The Traveling Nativity program will take place **December 3<sup>rd</sup> through December 21<sup>st</sup>** (the first Monday of Advent through the Friday before Christmas break begins). The pieces of one nativity set will be passed between the classes on the upper level and the pieces of a second nativity set will be passed between the classes on the lower level. A rotation schedule with room numbers is attached. I welcome you to follow along and share in your child(ren)'s experience. During the **first two weeks**, each nativity piece will rotate through each of the classrooms. During the **final third week**, each class will keep one nativity piece in their classroom for deeper reflection.

As our school community participates in this program, the teachers will lead their students in an Advent prayer and a daily reflection on the nativity piece in their classroom. The office will also highlight the nativity pieces and Advent prayer during the Advent season. Holy Name Advent prayers and example reflections for each nativity piece are attached. I also encourage you to unite with us in praying the Advent prayer with your family as well as asking your child(ren) each day about which nativity piece is visiting their classroom and reflecting on the importance of that individual in the context of the birth of Jesus and for the growth of our faith.

On the **last day (Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>)**, the nativity pieces will be brought together in a prominent location for all to see in its unity highlighting the dynamic story of the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. We hope that all who see the beautiful nativity scenes will join our school community in reflecting on this wonderful part of Jesus' life and of the story of salvation.

### **Included in this packet:**

- Classroom rotation schedule for the nativity pieces
- Holy Name Advent Prayers
- Nativity piece sample reflections

Blessings upon your Advent experience,

Mrs. Mary Freeman  
Retreat and Outreach Coordinator

## Classroom Rotation Schedule

### Preschool - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

	Jesus	Mary	Joseph	wiseman (gold)	wiseman (frankincense)	wiseman (myrrh)	shepherd	sheep	angel	star
3-Dec	114	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103	
4-Dec		114	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103
5-Dec	103		114	113	110	111	112	108	107	106
6-Dec	106	103		114	113	110	111	112	108	107
7-Dec	107	106	103		114	113	110	111	112	108
10-Dec	108	107	106	103		114	113	110	111	112
11-Dec	112	108	107	106	103		114	113	110	111
12-Dec	111	112	108	107	106	103		114	113	110
13-Dec	110	111	112	108	107	106	103		114	113
14-Dec	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103		114
17-Dec	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103		114
18-Dec	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103		114
19-Dec	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103		114
20-Dec	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103		114
21-Dec	113	110	111	112	108	107	106	103		114

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

	Jesus	Mary	Joseph	wiseman (gold)	wiseman (frankincense)	wiseman (myrrh)	shepherd	sheep	angel	star
3-Dec	201	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212
4-Dec	212	201	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211
5-Dec	211	212	201	202	204	205	206	207	208	210
6-Dec	210	211	212	201	202	204	205	206	207	208
7-Dec	208	210	211	212	201	202	204	205	206	207
10-Dec	207	208	210	211	212	201	202	204	205	206
11-Dec	206	207	208	210	211	212	201	202	204	205
12-Dec	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201	202	204
13-Dec	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201	202
14-Dec	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201
17-Dec	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201
18-Dec	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201
19-Dec	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201
20-Dec	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201
21-Dec	202	204	205	206	207	208	210	211	212	201

## **Holy Name Advent Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, Your Son, Jesus Christ, is Your greatest gift to us, a great sign of Your love. During this Advent season, You call us to focus on the coming of Jesus. We reflect on the first coming of Jesus through the incarnation, God taking on a human nature, and the nativity, God being born into the world. We also reflect on the daily coming of Jesus as He dwells in the Tabernacles in the churches, lives within our hearts, and speaks to us through Scripture, prayer, and the witness of others. In addition, we prepare for the second coming of Jesus as we grow in holiness by Your grace that we may one day live with You, God, forever in heaven.

Holy Spirit, inspire us as we reflect on the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the witness of faith of all those who are a part of the nativity story. Guide us as we strive to walk in Your love together as a school family at Holy Name this Advent. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to Jesus. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in You, God. Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to You. Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of Your love. Amen.

(Portions of this prayer are taken from Dynamic Catholic's "Advent Prayer for Families".)

## **Holy Name Advent Prayer (Short Version)**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your gift to us of Your great love through Jesus. Holy Spirit, guide us as a school family at Holy Name as we reflect on the Nativity of Jesus as He came into the world to bring Your saving grace to us. During this season of Advent, help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus anew and to grow in holiness as we look forward to our lives united with You. May the light of Your love fill our hearts and shine forth into the world. Amen.

## **Nativity Piece Sample Reflections**

### - **Baby Jesus**

- **reflection:** Christ's presence in our lives. Jesus Christ was born, making God present in a special way to the world.
- **application:** How do we see Jesus in our lives (Eucharist, prayer, love, kindness from others...)?

### - **Blessed Mother Mary**

- **reflection:** humility. The Blessed Virgin Mary humbly received the message from the Archangel Gabriel and humbly accepted her role as Mother of God.
- **application:** How can we be humble in doing God's will in our lives and in interacting with others?

### - **St. Joseph**

- **reflection:** caring for others. St. Joseph was chosen by God to care for the Holy Family as husband to the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster father to Jesus, the Son of God.
- **application:** How can we care for God's children and show our love to God?

### - **Angel**

- **reflection:** sharing the joy of Christ. The angels in the nativity story told the shepherds about the joyful news of Jesus Christ's birth.
- **application:** With whom can we share the joy of Christ in our world today?

### - **Wiseman with gift of gold**

- **reflection:** the kingship of Jesus. The gift of gold to Jesus from the wiseman represents that Jesus is king, King of the Universe (note: this feast day was the Sunday before the first Sunday of Advent).
- **application:** How do we recognize Jesus as king (authority, leader, and provider) of our hearts, our lives, and our world (ex. Sacred Heart of Jesus devotion, Christ reigning in our hearts)? What can we do to show God and others that we know He is king (ex. "as for me and my house, we serve the Lord")?

### - **Wiseman with gift of frankincense**

- **reflection:** the divinity of Jesus. The gift of frankincense to Jesus from the wiseman represents that Jesus is divine, the One True God, as incense was traditionally offered to the gods.
- **application:** How do we recognize Jesus as true God and one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity? How do we share this truth with others and live this out in our relationship with God?

### - **Wiseman with gift of myrrh**

- **reflection:** the sacrifice of Jesus. The gift of myrrh to Jesus from the wiseman represents that Jesus is the sacrificial lamb foreshadowing His great Sacrifice on the Cross, as myrrh was known for its healing properties and used in burials to anoint the dead.
- **application:** How do we recognize the power of Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross to forgive our sins and reconcile us to God and open ourselves to receive the graces that come from Him through this (ex. Reconciliation)? How does this connect to the Resurrection and Easter as well?

### - **Shepherd**

- **reflection:** listening to God's message and seeking Jesus. The shepherds who heard the angel's message of Jesus Christ's birth listened, believed, and acted on the message by seeking and finding Jesus, sharing the message, and praising God.
- **application:** How do we listen to the message of God (Mass readings, Bible stories, prayer...)? How do we show that we believe God's message and act on it?

### - **Sheep**

- **reflection:** us as part of the flock of faith cared for by Jesus.
- **application:** How do we follow Jesus the Good Shepherd?

### - **Star**

- **reflection:** signs leading us to Jesus. The Star that rose in the sky when Jesus was born was a sign to the wisemen that a king had been born and led them to Him.
- **application:** What are signs that we see that show us the presence of Jesus in our lives and how do we follow them to draw closer to God?