

St. Aloysius School is a family of God
where we can grow in Catholic Faith, Character and Knowledge
627 Beatrice Drive Tulare, CA 93274 559.686.6250 www.sastulare.com

November 29, 2011

Parent Reminders:

We are now observing Winter Schedule. Classes begin at 9:00am and dismiss at 3:00pm (see note below regarding Friday Schedule).

Friday, December 2, classes will run on the regular schedule, 8:05-3:00pm. Students will attend First Friday Mass at 8:15am. If fog is a problem, come when you feel it is safe to do so. Students are not marked tardy if they are late because of fog.

GAMES- Varsity only will play at St. Paul's, Friday, December 2, 1pm. No JV games this week.

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL- The monthly rate for December is as follows: \$40- morning care, \$75- afternoon, \$105- both. If you are planning on using the monthly rate, be sure to turn in your payment by Thursday, Dec. 1st.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Earn hours-have fun!- Volunteer Schedules for the Holiday Extravaganza are posted in the school office. We need YOUR help (1, 2 or more hours) in several areas to help make this event a success. Earn a couple of volunteer hours and have fun while doing it! We are looking for volunteers for: Set up/Decoration (Friday, December 2nd (anytime 8:30-4:30pm), Vendor Tables, Silent Auction, Clean-up. Please sign up in the school office or call Kathleen Johnson (#804-6866) so we can get you on the list to help! We also need a few people to help with the Bar/Beverages and the Live Auction—call Kathleen if you would like to help.

Silent Auction Update- Please have your silent auction item and cash donations to the office or table host by Wednesday, November 30th. If you have any questions, please contact Maria Martins at 688-4578.

Sober Car Driver(www.webesober.com)- This service will be available for the night of the Holiday Extravaganza. They have lowered their price to \$25 anywhere in Tulare & Visalia, \$40 to Tipton (\$10 to make multiple stops for additional people in same car). They will drive you and your car! Flyers will be posted at the event.

Linens -You may also earn hours washing linens after the Holiday Extravaganza is over. Please contact Michelle Faria for more information, 905-5818.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR- Earn hours from home! Are you interested in coordinating volunteers for fundraising events and earn volunteer hours? Parents' Club is looking for someone that would be able to make phone calls, create sign-up sheets for the office, coordinate with chairpersons, etc. If you are interested, please call Christy Faria at 240-5615 or the school office, 686-6250.

Please see reverse side →

POETRY & PROSE- Please note there will be a short practice this Friday at 3:15pm in the first grade classroom. Auditions for Poetry & Prose will be on Tues., Dec. 6 & Wed., Dec. 7 starting at 9:30am in the school cafeteria. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Roberts in 1st grade or call the school office.

LOGO UNIFORM SALES- Last chance to order before Christmas break and basketball season will be Wed., Nov. 30th. The next order will be in January. Any questions or to place orders please call or text Anne Marie Faria at 905-5819, or call the school office 686-6250.

MAGAZINE SALES- This Friday, December 2, magazine orders are due. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards purchasing new technology.

CHILDREN'S MASS- If your child would like to be entered into the drawing for a part in the 5:30pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve, please fill out, sign and return the bottom portion of the note that went home in a previous Tuesday Note, by Friday, Dec. 2.

TOYS FOR KIDS 2011- We now have a "Toys for Kids" barrel in the school office. This drive is being sponsored by the Tulare Police Department. Please donate a new unwrapped toy to brighten Christmas for a less fortunate boy or girl. Barrels will be picked up on, Thursday, Dec. 8th.

ANNUAL TULARE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING- You are all invited to the Christmas tree lighting with Santa, free cookies, hot chocolate, fire truck rides, and face painting in addition to entertainment. This will be Thursday night, December 1st from 5:00-8:00pm at the corner of "K" and Tulare Avenue.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE UPDATE- Right now we still need to collect 1,358 canned food items to reach our goal of 2,012 items donated. While that seems like an overwhelming number, if we break it down it becomes very doable! To collect 1,358 items, *each student* would need to bring in 7 items. 7 is a number within everyone's reach, but it's something we ALL have to work towards together. The deadline for donations is Friday, December 16th giving us 3 more weeks. Let's get those cans in, Cougars!

RECYCLE- Please see attached flyer for items you can collect from home, work, family, etc. to be recycled and help the school earn money.

DAYCARE- Daycare is looking for a new or used laptop for the kids to play educational games while they are in daycare. If you have one that you would like to donate, please contact Colleen Rocha or the school office. Thank you!

MASS- 3rd grade will prepare the liturgy this Friday, Dec. 2nd.

DECEMBER

*This month's pillar of character is RESPONSIBILITY!
 Let's be responsible by doing what you are supposed to do. Plan ahead! Persevere: keep on trying! Always do your best. Use self-control. Be self-disciplined. Think BEFORE you act- consider the consequences. Be accountable for your words, actions and attitudes. Set a good example for others!*



Lunches for the month- 14x\$3.00=\$42.00
 Milk for the month- 14x.35cents=\$4.90
 Kinder Milk- 15x.35cents=\$5.25

C. GILLISETTE



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	4 Spaghetti, Veg., Fruit, Milk	5 Chicken Fajitas, Fruit, Veg., Milk.	6 St Nicholas Poetry & Prose Assembly El Pargo Fundraiser	7 Sloppy Joes, French Fries, Fruit, Milk	8 Immaculate Conception Chili Boats, Chips, Fruit, Veg., Milk	9 Sandwiches (Egg Salad), Veg., Fruit, Milk	10 Holiday Extravaganza/ Reverse Draw 6pm
	11 Our Lady of Guadalupe Burritos, Veg., Fruit, Milk	12 Hamburger Casserole, Veg., Fruit, Milk	13 Tacos, Cheese, Fruit, Milk	14 SMART Lab 5-8	15 Hamburgers, French Fries, Veg., Fruit, Milk	16 Sandwiches (Tuna), Veg., Fruit, Milk Game@Oak Valley 1pm	17
	18 Tostadas, Veg., Fruit, Milk	19 Sandwiches, Veg., Fruit, Milk	20 Christmas Program 7pm	21 12:30 Dismissal Tom Sawyer Assembly End of First Semester	22 Christmas Break	23 Christmas Break	24
Christmas	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NONDISCRIMINATION
 Children who receive free or reduced-price meals must be treated in the same manner as those who pay full price for their meals. In child nutrition programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age or disability. If you believe there has been discrimination, please write to the Secretary of Agriculture Washington, D.C. 20250

2011 Holiday Extravaganza

Here's a peek at the Class Baskets & Live Auction items we will be seeing at this year's event! Don't miss out!

Class Baskets

- Kindergarten – Noah's Ark décor & quilt made by the students
- 1st Grade – Gourmet Italian
- 2nd Grade – Pre-lit Christmas topiary with students' pictures made into ornaments
- 3rd Grade – BBQ Basket with a gas grill, tools & meat
- 4th Grade – Christmas Treasures with nativity set made by students
- 5th Grade - Pismo Beach Trip (includes stay at the Sea Gypsy and extras)
- 6th Grade – Family Game Night (includes Monopoly game made by students)
- 7th Grade – Sun & Fun in Pismo
- 8th Grade – Christmas tree decorated with ornaments done by the students each year since Kindergarten.

A special thank you to our Room Moms for their creative efforts to make this year's class baskets!

Live Auction

- St. Aloysius Garden Brick
- Prime Rib Roasts (two @ 14lb each, each serves 20)
- Special Student Lunch with 2 friends & faculty member of their choice
- Paso Robles area Wine Tour
- 18" Fresh Water Pearl Necklace
- Truck Tool Box
- Pismo Beach Condo (3 bedroom/2 bath)
- Mini Razor OR 90 Quad (TBA)
- 4 Reverse Draw Tickets (sold during draw—increase your chances of winning big!)

Please See Resource Side →

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

Themed Table Update

Last chance to donate to our Silent Auction!!

This popular auction is a great way to fulfill your required auction donation.

CASH DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

(Please specify which table you are donating to on your envelope)

**Please turn in your auction item and cash donations to the office or table host
no later than Wednesday, November 30th.**

*The following are the themed tables and the hostess name and
contact number.*

Christmas Table.....Dina Tigner 804-5981 or Dana Ribeiro 804-5982

Toys for KidsKortnie Faria 752-1711 or Natalie Mendonca 684-1447

Spa TableDiana Silva 686-8633

Wine Table.....Lori Cardoza 688-3916

Sports Table.....Danny Santana 967-5674

Men's Table.....Mike Mederos 686-8302

Accessory Table.....Julie Pimentel 687-8842

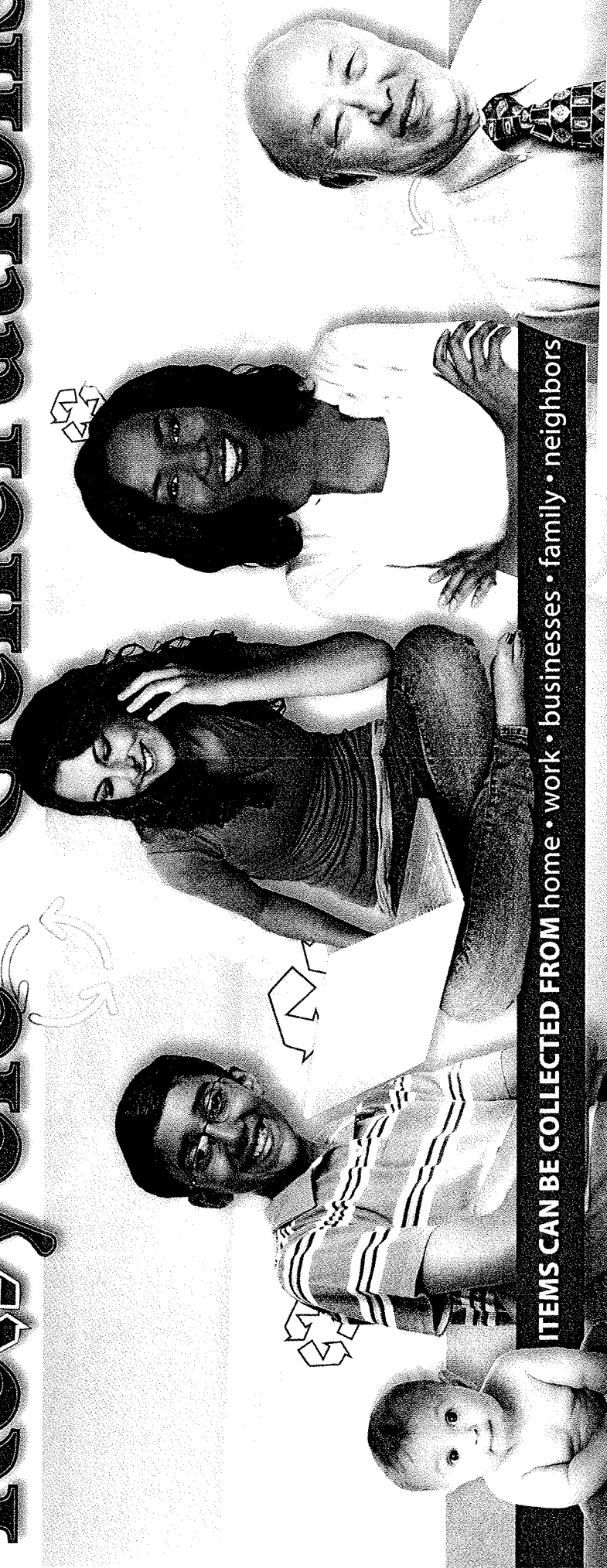
Special Occasions.....Christina Garcia 688-8949

Garden Table.....Maria Martins 688-4578

Home/Religious Table.....Julie Pimentel 687-8842

Realtor Table.....Julie Beltran 679-8322

Recycle for Generations



ITEMS CAN BE COLLECTED FROM home • work • businesses • family • neighbors

CELL PHONES

LASER CARTRIDGES

INKJET CARTRIDGES

GPS DEVICES

LAPTOPS

PDAS

iPODS

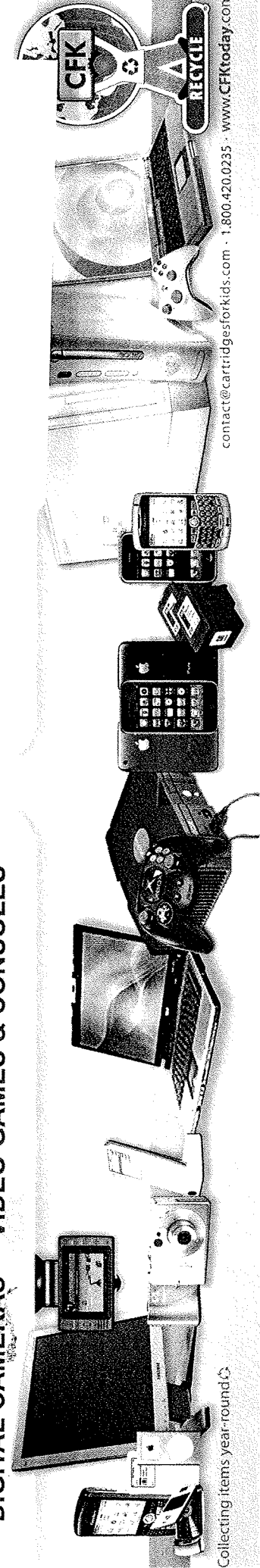
DVDs

DIGITAL CAMERAS

VIDEO GAMES & CONSOLES

drop items off at:

ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL OFFICE
627 BEATRICE DR.
TULARE, CA 93274
559 686-6250

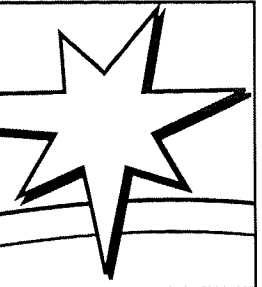


Collecting items year-round

contact@cartridgesforkids.com • 1.800.420.0235 • www.CFKtoday.com



Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2011

St. Aloysius School
Mr. Joel Nunes, Principal

Thoughtful Moments

Mass Changes

As of November 27th, you will have noticed that some of the prayers and responses we say at Mass are different than those to which we have been accustomed. Many of the changes use more poetic and reverential language. This is an opportunity to look at the familiar Mass with new eyes and a new appreciation.



A lived faith

Enrolling children in Catholic school or sending them to parish religious education is an important first step toward raising them in the Catholic faith. But it is only the beginning. The most important part is showing children how to live their faith each and every day. That kind of education can only come from a Catholic parent.

God came

The miracle of Christmas is that the God of love came to us. Isn't that amazing? Even more incredible, he hasn't left. Look for ways you and your family can find Jesus in the world this Christmas.



Put Christ's love back into your family's Christmas

Shop the malls in October and you may see Christmas decorations. Even grocery stores play carols before Thanksgiving. Don't let the barrage of holiday selling rob you and your family of a truly joyful season. Try these suggestions for reducing stress, boosting joy, and putting Christ's love back into Christmas.

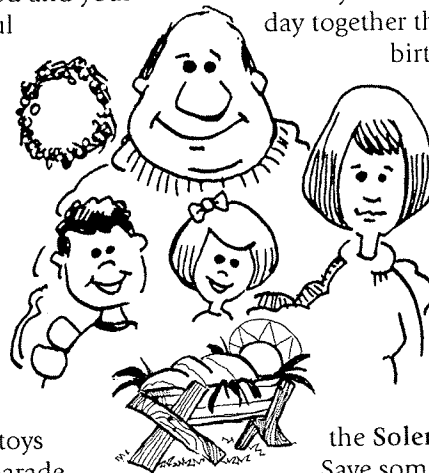
Avoid Christmas commercials. Nothing kills the spirit of Christmas like children pleading for overpriced, poorly made toys they just saw in the parade of holiday commercials. Instead, record the good Christmas shows and fast-forward through the commercials. Or, turn off commercial television and rent Christmas movies or

check them out of the library.

Separate your Christmas celebrations. Reserve December 25th for Christ's birth. Attend Mass, read the story of the Nativity, spend the day together throwing Jesus a happy birthday celebration. Let the 26th be the day for the secular celebration.

Make it last. Celebrate each day of the whole Catholic Christmas Season. Gather family close for a special meal on the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 30).

Pray for world peace on the Solemnity of Mary (Jan. 1). Save some Christmas gifts to give on the Epiphany (Jan. 8) to honor the Magi's gifts. Renew your Baptismal promises on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 9), the last official day of the Christmas Season.

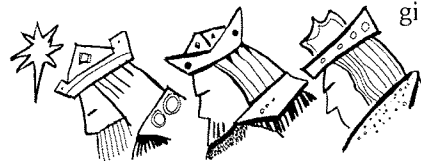


Why Do Catholics Do That



Why did the Magi give gifts to Jesus?

The Magi knew that they were traveling to greet a new king and brought gifts that were appropriate at the time for a king. Over the years, the Church has reinterpreted the gifts in terms of Jesus' life.

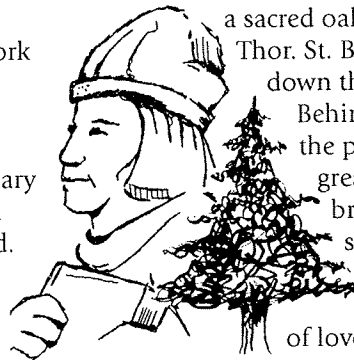


They gave him gold to recognize his royalty. The expensive gift of Frankincense, often burned to carry prayers to Heaven, was a symbol of Jesus' priesthood. His last gift, Myrrh, was used in burial preparations, a sign that Jesus would suffer and die for us.

The Christmas Tree teaches about love

Like many of our Christmas traditions, the background of the Christmas tree is a patchwork quilt of many cultures. One piece concerns St. Boniface, a missionary in the time of Pope St. Gregory II.

St. Boniface's greatest challenge as a missionary was to eliminate pagan superstitions that kept people from accepting the Gospel he preached. One Christmas Eve, St. Boniface was traveling through the woods with his companions and came upon the townspeople gathered around



a sacred oak about to offer a human sacrifice to their god, Thor. St. Boniface stopped the sacrifice and chopped down the oak.

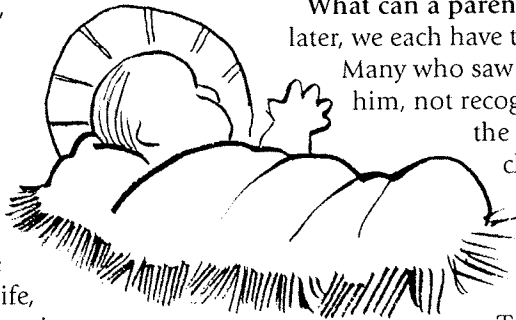
Behind the oak stood a fir tree. St. Boniface asked the people to bring it into town and set up in the great hall of the duke. They placed candles on its branches and listened while St. Boniface told the story of the Nativity and the Baby who would grow up to be the Savior and sacrifice himself for all of us. Many were captivated by the story of love and were converted.

Scripture LESSON

John 1:1-18 Who Is Jesus?

This month we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. By coming to Earth, living among us and teaching us, he taught us about God and his nature. We are able to share in God's divine life through Jesus's life, death and Resurrection.

In this gospel, St. John explained that Jesus took on our humanity because he loves us and wanted to share our experience. He chose to live as we live. He experienced what we experience.



Remembering that, we can also know with confidence that Jesus understands us.

What can a parent do? Sooner or later, we each have to make a choice.

Many who saw Jesus rejected him, not recognizing him as the Messiah. Help children to make a deliberate choice to recognize Jesus as their own personal Savior.

Teach them to ask, "Do I live my life as if I'm a child of God?" Tell them what it means to live as a child of God and to follow Jesus. Jesus is our friend and brother.

Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas (350). St. Nicholas gave away most of his fortune and is credited with saving three girls from being sold into slavery to pay their father's debt. His anonymous acts of generosity helped him become the patron saint of children.

Dec. 8 – **Feast of the Immaculate Conception.** The day we celebrate Mary's conception in St. Ann's womb, free from Original Sin. A Holy Day of Obligation.

Dec. 14 – St. John of the Cross

(1591). As a Carmelite, St. John led a reform in the Order to encourage more prayer and simplicity. Some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came while in prison. His mystical-poetical reflections showed his love of prayer.

Dec. 27 – **St. John (1st century).** An apostle, St. John was known for his fiery temper. He once asked Jesus if he could rain fire from heaven on an inhospitable town. Later, he and St. Peter asked the Holy Spirit to descend upon the Samaritans. Friendship with Jesus really changes a person.



Parent TALK

Growing up, my family didn't practice many Catholic devotions. I mean, we went to church, but that's about it. So I was at a loss when Kevin came home from Catholic school and asked if we could light an Advent wreath. I had seen them in church, but we didn't own one.

I went online and read that an Advent wreath is a symbol of the four-week season before Christmas when we await the coming of the Savior. We could make our own using a Styrofoam ring, three purple candles, a pink one, and some greenery. So I got the supplies and we made a family Advent wreath.

During the busy season it was nice to take a few quiet moments to turn off the lights, light our Advent candles and say our Advent prayers.

Something else that has meant a lot to me is knowing that we joined millions of families all over the world in this beloved ancient tradition.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith* and *Partners in Faith*
(540)662-7844 (540) 662-7847 fax
www.partnersinfaith.com
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