

# Young Shepherd's Guide

Teaching our children to  
**LOVE AS CHRIST LOVES**  
 and to  
**SERVE AS CHRIST SERVES**  
 at  
**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC CHURCH**

DECEMBER 2010

Religious Education K-6  
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## THE YOUNG SHEPHERD'S GUIDE IS GROWING—

Be sure to read page 2 for more information

### December 8: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception— Holy Day of Obligation

#### What Is a Holy Day of Obligation?

The first precept of the Church states: "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor." Holy Days of Obligation honor the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints. The faithful are required to sanctify these special days by attending Mass and celebrating with the Christian community.

- January 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God;
- Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter, the solemnity of the Ascension;
- August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
- November 1, the solemnity of All Saints;
- December 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception;
- December 25, the solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

What do we commemorate on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception? The dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854 (CCC Para 491):

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin (Pius IX, *Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854: DS 2803)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Dec 5 Bring food for Sharing Sunday  
 Dec 8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception—Holy Day of Obligation  
 Dec 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Dec 19/20 **NO CLASS**  
 Dec 26/27 **NO CLASS**  
 Jan 2/3 **NO CLASS**  
 Jan 8 First Reconciliation Retreat  
*(First Communion families only)*

### A Spectacular Service Sunday!

THANK YOU to all who made the GSCC "Service Sunday" on November 14th a tremendous success. Your efforts resulted in **205 Breakfast Bags, 270 Snack Bags, and 115 Toiletry Bags** for area shelters and agencies, in addition to hundreds of handmade placemats, cards and letters to be sent to our Mount Vernon neighbors that are homeless, sick and alone, and our veterans overseas.

**You also helped raise over \$1,100 through the Baby Bottle Campaign!**

### INFORMATION TABLE

Please check out the Religious Education Information Table on a regular basis for important information, forms and updates throughout the year, including the **latest issue of the Young Shepherd!**

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We count on parent volunteers to keep the RE program running smoothly. Please email [RE@gs-cc.org](mailto:RE@gs-cc.org) if you can help with our current needs:

**RE Nursery Coordinator**—we have Nursery volunteers already in place, but we need one central point of contact to make sure the Nursery is adequately staffed during each session and to send out reminders to volunteers.

**Admin Help**—to assist during RE sessions with office-type tasks.

### SUNDAY MORNING RE REMINDER

Sunday morning classes last about 20 minutes longer than mass. We are asking that parents be respectful of this and gather in the RE hallway near the parent information table. The children become easily distracted when they see a parent standing outside of the class and this makes it difficult for the catechist to complete the lesson. If you need to pick up your child before class is over, please see Stephanie or Joan.

**We CAN Do It**

Sharing Sunday is held the first Sunday of each month with donations going to UCM. With the increased need for food by those in our community we are challenging each RE student to bring one canned good to class each month.

A special volunteer is coming in to collect the donations. If each child participates we can add over 600 items to the food pantry each month!!

**Mark your calendar for these dates to bring food:**

- December 5th
- January 9th
- February 6th

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is held during the 9:00 mass. School age children are invited to participate in this great activity that brings the scripture to their level. **Volunteers are needed to assist in the following roles.** The time commitment is once a month.

- Homilist - lead the liturgy, read the gospel, lead the homily
  - Musician - lead the psalm and gospel acclamation. Vocalist, pianist, and all musicians are welcome.
  - Coordinator - Set up/Clean up
- For more information e mail Scott Innis at [innis3@verizon.net](mailto:innis3@verizon.net).

**DECEMBER SAINTS**

- 3 St. Francis Xavier
- 4 St. John Damascus
- 6 St. Nicholas
- 7 St. Ambrose
- 12 St. Lucy
- 14 St. John of the Cross
- 26 St. Stephen
- 27 St. John
- 29 St. Thomas a Becket

For more info go to [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

**KEEPING UP WITH THE KIDS**

**RE Hallway Shows Faith In Action**—Come see the creative ways your children are growing in their faith by visiting the RE classroom hallway! This month our colorful bulletin boards feature:

- ◆ 2nd grade All Saint's Day Saint Information Posters,
- ◆ 3rd grade Handprint Wreath to celebrate the season of Advent,
- ◆ 4th grade artwork of the Holy Face of Jesus,
- ◆ photos from VBS and Peace Camp.

Congratulations to the children for putting their faith into action!

A special thank you to Monica Selcik for using her time and creativity to help make our hallway fun and educational!

**FAMILY FAITH** Activities for the whole family to grow in faith

**GIVING TREE/TOY DRIVE** (Nov. 27 - Dec. 13, 2010)

The Giving Tree and Toy Drive merge this year to benefit UCM and local needy families in our parish and immediate area. This year choose an ornament from our Giving Tree (located in the commons area), purchase the toy or gift specified, and bring the *new* unwrapped gift to our drop-off bin (located under the Youth Ministry bulletin board) by Sunday, December 13. Donations of gift cards also welcomed in lieu of gifts - gift cards are accepted in the Parish Office.

**ADVENT WREATH**

If you would like to participate in the lighting of the Advent wreath at the beginning of Mass or carry the gifts up during the 'Preparation of the Altar and Gifts', please arrive about 10—15 minutes before Mass and let the ushers know. If someone else has not already been chosen, they will be happy to have you participate!

**ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE**

*December 13, 2010 /4:00 - 5:30 PM, 7:00 - 8:30 PM*

Prepare for Christmas through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. English and Spanish speaking priests will be available at both sessions to hear confessions. Join us for this time of personal reflection as you prepare your heart to receive Jesus in the Sacrament.

**LAS POSADAS** (MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH)

*December 15 - 23, 2010; Weekdays 6:45 PM/Sat 6:00 PM & Sun1:00 PM (Marian Chapel)*

This ancient Christmas celebration of Las Posadas recounts the tale of Mary and Joseph being refused entry at several inns before finding shelter in a stable. The Posadas lasts for nine consecutive days and includes a meditation on Nativity themes and Christmas carols (in Spanish). All are welcome to attend, especially the children! (Run time 30 minutes) **Materials are available in English.**