



The Beacon

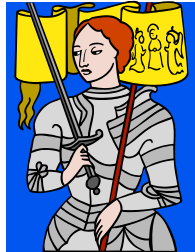
News from St. John's Children's Ministries

Volume 5, Issue 7

November 2010

All Saints Parade on November 7

All Saints Day is November 1st. In honor of this special day, the preschool through 12th grade Sunday school classes will present a "Parade of Saints" at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, November 7th. Each class has chosen a particular saint to celebrate and will display one or more banners in his or her honor. The students will carry their banners during the procession – and some classes may even dress the part! After the procession, children in preschool through 5th grade will return to their regular Sunday school class while the older students are welcome to join the service.



REMINDER

Upcoming Family Ministry Events

- November 7** – All Saints Parade 10:00a service & Christmas Pageant Meeting, 11:30a
- November 14** – Advent Conspiracy, One Service 9a, no Sunday School
- November 21** – Sunday School Volunteer Meeting 11:30a
- November 28** – Advent Wreaths, 3:00p
- December 05** – Christmas Pageant Meeting, 11:30a
- December 12** – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:30a
- December 15** – Parent Talk: Internet Safety w/ Kirkland Police Dept., 6:30p
- December 18** – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:00a
- December 19** – **Christmas Pageant**, 4:00p

Celebrate Advent at St. John's

Advent is a wonderful time to prepare our hearts for Christmas. This year in addition to our annual **Christmas Pageant**, on December 19 at 4:00 p.m., there are several ways you and your family can enjoy this time at St. John's, please mark your calendars for these wonderful events.

Sunday, November 28th, join us for the annual **Advent Event**. We will make advent wreaths, sing Christmas carols and make Jesse tree ornaments. Some of the Jesse ornaments will be used to decorate St. John's and some ornaments will go home. Bring your favorite salad, soup or sandwiches to share. It all begins in the Great Hall at 3:00 p.m.

On Friday, December 10, the Chancel Choir presents its annual **Lessons and Carols**. This century old tradition tells the Biblical story of man from Adam to the birth of Christ. Scripture and song highlight this wonderful telling of God's love for us through it all. The service begins at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 12 join us for our **Christmas Potluck** at 6:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Along with the potluck dinner is a reenactment of the nativity story told through YOU! Diners will have the opportunity to don costumes and use props as they perform the story of the birth of Christ.

Finally, on Friday, December 24th join us for our **Christmas Eve Services**. There is a casual family friendly service at 4 p.m. with carols and a kid's sermon. A traditional Christmas service will be held at 8 p.m. with Chancel Choir providing the music.

For more information on any of these event, or to help with any of these events please contact the church office at 452.827.3077.





Christmas Pageant & Greening of the Church Dec. 19

We are busy preparing one of St. John's favorite traditions,

The Annual Christmas Pageant, *Away in a Manger*.

It will be performed on **Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m.** followed by an all church potluck. The pageant is presented by the youth and children of St. John's Sunday school classes.

This year our families will have an opportunity to participate in a tradition that is coming back to St. John's - the Greening of the church for Christmas! After the pageant and potluck the children and their families will have an opportunity to decorate the Christmas tree in the Narthex. You can also help by serving on the pageant committee.

The committee will meet on Sunday, November 7th and Sunday, December 5th at 11:30 a.m in classroom 4. We need help with set design, publicity, costumes, reception, music, and production. Please consider blessing your holiday season by helping the wonderful children of our parish honor Christ's birth.

If you are interested in helping feel free to attend the next committee meeting or call Cathy Christensen in the church office.

Next Parent Talk: Internet Safety

It feels like kids are using the internet for everything – school projects, communication with family and friends, and as well as fun activities and games. The internet has become an invaluable tool for research and long distant relationships but it can pose a risk to their safety as well.

On **Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.**, Officer Jon Ishmael of the Kirkland Police Department will lead the next Parent Talk, Internet Safety. The event will help parents better understand the technology their children are using, point out what hazards are on the internet and how to best protect children while online. The key focus will be to empower parents to teach children and youth how to use the Internet in a responsible and ethical manner, while protecting them from becoming victimized. There will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions of Officer Ishmael on this topic.



On November 14 Learn How Christmas Can Still Change the World

On **Sunday, November 14** St. John's will be joining an international movement, better known as the **Advent Conspiracy**. There is only one service, at 9:00 a.m. and no Sunday school. The idea is to find ways as a church body to alternatively give this Christmas and place Jesus at the center of the celebration. It isn't asking you to give up buying gifts altogether. Perhaps your family might buy one less gift this year then donate the money saved to a non-profit charity or organization. Or maybe you will give gifts in the form of donations to worthy causes. Or perhaps you want to give more of your PRESENCE instead of PRESENTS. You might even want to save money by making your gifts this year.

The bottom line: **Worship Fully** - It's all about Jesus. Don't let the stuff, the obligations, the stress take over. Fight back and WORSHIP Jesus! Make him THE priority! **Spend Less** - What would it look like if you spent less this year on Christmas? Maybe 5 gifts instead of 10? That wouldn't be so bad. Really...it wouldn't! **Give More** - People don't need more trinkets, they need more of YOU. Give them gifts that will bring you and them together. **Love All** - And, with the money you save not spending so much on gifts that will sit in the attic in 6 months, you can maybe give that \$\$ away to someone who really needs it. Come and see how you can join the Advent Conspiracy. We will have several non-profit charities and organizations in the Marsh Hall that you check out. And several St. John's members will offer classes on homemade gift ideas, including several ideas for kids. The most important thing is to remember that as a community we need to Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All. If you would like further information, call Cathy Christensen in the church office.

Does Just Saying "No" Really Prevent Substance Abuse? Just Say "Yes"!

by Dr. Brad Schwall

Preventing substance abuse involves much more than just teaching children and teens to say "no" to drugs. Saying "no" does empower youth to refuse drugs when offered to them, but emotional health and resilience are the keys to preventing substance abuse.

Just Say "Yes"

If you can answer "yes" to the following questions, you are on the right track to helping your child develop skills for avoiding substance abuse.

Do you know the history of substance abuse in your family?

A family history of substance abuse and dependence can indicate that your child is more at risk for abusing substances.

Are you building a close relationship with your child?

If you are connected to your child, you will know more about what is happening in her or his life. A close relationship also indicates you are setting limits, providing structure, and offering guidance.

Are you modeling healthy choices?

Modeling healthy choices demonstrates the positive consequences of not abusing substances.

Are you talking about the consequences of substance abuse with your children?

Ongoing conversations ensure that your child understands the problems caused by substance abuse and encourages your child to be open and honest about questions and issues.

Are you helping your child develop skills for coping with challenges and problems?

Substance abuse and dependence occur when people seek the effects of substances and tolerance for the substances develops leading to increased and intensified intake, dependence, and consequences.

Helping your child learn to identify and handle feelings and problem-solve equips your child to face challenges rather than attempt to escape them.

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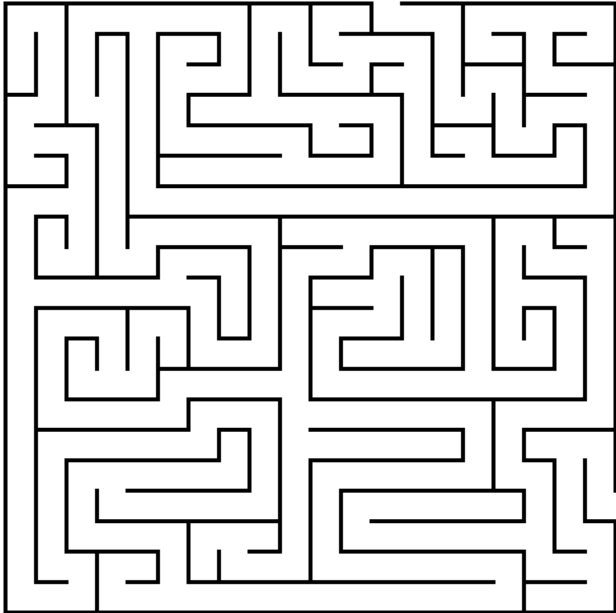
Ten Meaningful Ways to Celebrate Thanksgiving This Year

- 1) **Significance of the Holiday:** Take at least a few minutes and remember what and why we are celebrating. Review the story and history of the holiday, and ensure it is a day that is much more than turkey, football, and pie.
- 2) **Gratitude Table Cloth:** Every year, pull out the same table cloth to use for the meal. Everyone around the table will write 3 things they are grateful for each year on the table cloth.
- 3) **Give to the Homeless:** Visit your local homeless shelter and serve a meal to people who have so little. In addition, organize a local fund raiser at local Churches, schools, and community centers. Collect food, financial donations, clothes, toys, books, etc. - and give them as a Thanksgiving gift to local families in need.
- 4) **Kick off the Christmas Season:** As a family, set aside the night after Thanksgiving as the time to decorate the house in preparation for Christmas. Make it a family event - put up the tree, decorate the house, turn on the Christmas music, play games as a family, and have lots of candy of course!
- 5) **Turkey Bowl:** What is Thanksgiving without one, right? Make it a tradition that family members play a football game on the morning of Thanksgiving.
- 6) **Thanksgiving for a Family in Need:** Have each child donate a little money (and/or their time) and help give Thanksgiving to a family in need. Contact the local homeless shelter, Churches, orphanages, schools, etc. - and find a family that you can give a Thanksgiving meal to.)
- 7) **Express Gratitude:** Around the dinner table, before the meal starts, each person will express 3 things that they are grateful for. For younger kids, place 3 pieces of corn (symbolic of early pilgrims) or 3 pieces of candy - and they can't eat the candies until they express 3 things they are grateful for.
- 8) **'Thank You' Cards:** Everyone in the family will take a few minutes and write thank you cards to people they are grateful for. It could be: parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, relatives, etc. Another idea for parents is to put a Name Card at every spot for the Thanksgiving meal. The outside will have the name of the person, and the inside is a small note of gratitude -tell each child or guest why they love or are grateful for them.
- 9) **Yearly Family Thanksgiving Cards:** Everyone sends their yearly family updates at Christmas ... so be a little different and send yours at Thanksgiving time. In connection, express your love, gratitude, and appreciate personally to the people you send cards to.
- 10) **Family Day:** Simply make this special holiday a family day. Eat the meal together, play games as a family, watch a movie, campout in the family room, and just spend time together.

Source: [www.EzineArticles.com/?expert=Matthew Toone](http://www.EzineArticles.com/?expert=Matthew_Toone)

Thanksgiving Maze

Help the Mayflower find America!



Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? Yes - a building can't jump

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims!

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

REPENT.. for you may not know the day of our Lord's Return, but Thanksgiving is the last Thursday in November.



THE PURPOSE DRIVIN POULTRY - Passionate preaching to a congregation of turkeys (no pun intended) unwittingly near Judgement Day (Thanksgiving)



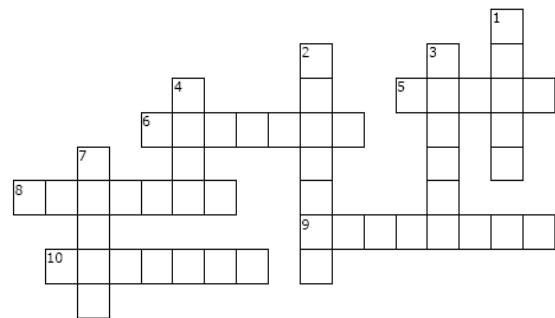
Did you know.....

The day that Thanksgiving is celebrated has changed often over the years? Prior to 1863, the President of the United States would make an annual proclamation of which day Thanksgiving would be held. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln officially proclaimed the last Thursday in November as the official national Day of Thanksgiving. In 1939, Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the third Thursday of November, to stimulate the economy by lengthening the holiday shopping season. In 1941, Congress stated that from then on, Thanksgiving would take place on the fourth Thursday in November.



My Thanksgiving List

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. The Son of God
6. An area of land that has its own government; a nation, the USA
8. A person whom you know well and like a lot
9. The person who gives instruction at school
10. Things such as dresses, pants, shirts, and blouses

DOWN

1. A building in which people live
2. A person's mother and father
3. The condition of the body and how free it is illness; Are you in good _____?
4. What people and animals eat to keep them alive
7. The holy book containing God's Word

COUNTRY	PARENTS	CLOTHES	FRIENDS	JESUS
TEACHERS	BIBLE	FOOD	HOUSE	HEALTH