



LITURGICAL LIVING



Issue 01 – Published on 27/11/2020

SAINT OF THE WEEK

On December 6th we celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas. He was born in 270 AD to a Greek family in the Roman Empire. He became a priest at a young age and was consecrated bishop of Myra in 317. He is remembered as a good and faithful bishop who helped the poor and needy and had a special love for mariners and children. There are many legends of St. Nicholas and the most famous one is that of the three golden balls. It tells us how he threw three bags of gold into the house of three poor women and these fell into their stockings. St. Nick is the 'original' Santa Claus! Read more about him here:

<https://catholicallyear.com/blog/not-believing-in-santa-claus-is-like/>

PREPARING THE WAY

One of the most famous Advent traditions is that of having an Advent wreath. We find it both in our churches and homes (and even at school!) But what does it stand for? The four candles symbolize the four weeks of Advent. The first candle is a symbol of hope, the second one of faith, the third of joy and the fourth one of love. Three of the candles are usually purple (symbolizing waiting) and the third one is pink – a symbol that the coming of the Lord is near. The leaves used are evergreen (they do not wither in Winter!) and thus are a symbol of the eternal life that Christ has won for us with his death and resurrection.

FAMILY CORNER

For younger kids:

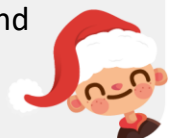
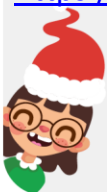
Despite the fact that at this time of year it is very easy to find and buy an advent wreath, it is much more fun to make one! Here is a link to a blog post that will guide you to making your own advent wreath: <https://catholicallyear.com/blog/an-easy-no-mess-kid-friendly-not-crafty/>. Here is also an introduction to advent by Brother Francis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pxPALw2abo>.


For older kids:

Here is an interesting video about the meaning behind advent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksHKrlaO1pl&t=210s>

For all the family: We strongly encourage you to visit, and subscribe, to www.bekids.mt. This is a local, diocesan, website which can be a wonderful resource to understand the Sunday liturgy better, the lives of the saints and their virtues, to follow catechetical programmes and also to do fun activities. It is updated weekly!



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