

Diocese of Des Moines  
Evangelization &  
Catechesis



Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
November 19, 2014 Edition

Advent Ideas for 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade from Joyce Clawson at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Church (Ankeny):

Advent is fast approaching and with so much anticipation for Christmas, much of which makes adults grumpy, Advent many times gets lost in the secular lead up to Christmas. As those who work with a variety of ages in the ministry of formation we want to open up Advent for them, so that they can get ready for Christmas in a completely different way in which the world looks at it. We want to introduce them to the faith meanings of light and darkness, hungers and thirsts and all the other imagery that is part of Advent. We want them to know the meaning of the Christmas Story.

This month, Joyce Clawson, provides two lesson plans for children and families. I hope they are useful for you and your catechists. If you would like more information, please contact Joyce at [joyce@olih.org](mailto:joyce@olih.org). Thank you Joyce for sharing your ministry with us.

Decision Point (from Dynamic Catholic) has a great new app for iPhone and Android:  
Bishop Pates approved Decision Point (from DynamicCatholic.com) as one of our official Confirmation Curriculums. He was very impressed with the App and the process the formation takes towards discipleship.

If your parish decides to use Decision Point as your only curriculum, please let me help you with formation opportunities for your team and sponsors. The one drawback I have seen is that resources helping to form adults in these roles are lacking compared to other resources.

Disability Awareness Workshop Scheduled for December 4:

Please join us for a session whose goal is to open our eyes to the vibrancy and gift that is freely given by those sisters and brothers with disability. Through presentations and facilitated dialogue, we hope that your parish staff will begin a process that leads your parish community to the next best step of inviting, including and integrating people with disabilities in the full life of the community: especially our Sunday Eucharist.

**When:** Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Time:** 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (hospitality begins at 9:00 am with program at 9:30 am)

**Where:** All Saints Catholic Church (Worship Space) in Stuart

**Who to invite:** All Parish staff: business manager, parish secretary, DRE, youth minister, liturgists/musicians, deacons, School Principal, adult faith formation directors, and others you feel will benefit from this workshop

Workshop Facilitators for the Day:

- Dr. Nancy Thompson , Program Director for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD)
- Jess Streit, Coordinator of Special Needs Ministry at Saint Francis of Assisi Church
- Contributions also given by Kyle Lechtenberg, John Gaffney, Ken Bresnan and parents of a child with disability.

Register today with Sherri Simmer at [simmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:simmer@dmdiocese.org) or at 515-237-5058. Please let us know the number attending from your parish..

Help parents to instill an attitude of gratitude in their children:

Years ago, Zig created the popular phrase, "Have an attitude of gratitude." According to Zig, "The more you recognize and express gratitude for the things you have, the more things you will have to express gratitude for."

Thanks to our friends at the Today Show they are showcasing 20 ways to teach children and teens how to have a grateful heart. This is a wonderful article in that it is differentiated by age ranges: preschool, elementary years, middle school years and high school years. Today reports from the Greater Good Science Center that, "gratitude actually blocks toxic emotions even as it allows us to celebrate the present. What's more, grateful people are more stress-resistant and have a higher sense of self-worth."

This article would make a wonderful gift this Advent to parents. They will be able to name a sacred moment in the life of their children while providing a skill that lasts a lifetime.

Link to Gratitude Article: <http://www.today.com/news/get-grateful-20-ways-teach-kids-gratitude-tots-teens-1D80297963>

Prayer in Gratitude:

This Thanksgiving let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve on another and to walk together in God's gracious world. With thankful hearts we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing.

(Source is *Songs of our Hearts, Meditations of our Souls: Prayers for Black Catholics* edited by Cecilia A. Moor, Vanessa White and Paul Marshall, S.M.)

**The Cross**  
conveys all of the negative strength  
of evil  
as well as  
all of the omnipotent gentleness  
of God's mercy.

September 14, 2014  
Angelus of Pope Francis

