



St. Francis of Assisi Church
 8000 El Dorado Parkway
 Frisco, TX 75034

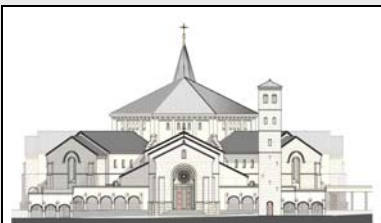
Telephone: (972) 712-2645
Fax: (972) 712-1087

Web Page:
www.stfoafrisco.org

**Children 's Ministry
 Faith Formation Staff:**

Diana Elwell
 Children 's Ministry Coordinator
 E-mail at:
delwell@stfoafrisco.org
 Ext. 229

Jeannette Manning
 Children 's Ministry Administrator
 E-mail at:
jmanning@stfoafrisco.org
 Ext. 234



Eternally We Build:
 God's Home, God's Family...

Children's Ministry Faith Formation

Kindergarten thru Fifth Grade

November 2008

On Sunday, November 30, we begin the season of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent is not the beginning of the Christmas Season. Rather, it is the beginning of a time when we focus on faithful anticipation. We anticipate and long for the coming of Jesus as our loving Lord and Judge at the end of time. We anticipate the coming of Jesus in our walk of faith every day, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist and in our acts of love, charity and justice toward others.

Throughout Advent you can gather as a family for prayer around an Advent wreath. You can create a Jesse Tree and decorate it with symbols that represent the roots of our faith. You can focus your efforts as a family on ways to offer your resources to others.

The week of November 16 there will be a table in the Narthex that will provide many ideas to help you experience a more meaningful Advent Season with your family.

Urgent Help Needed!

Children's Ministry Faith Formation is in need of parents willing to be called upon as substitutes for the following sessions:

Monday 5:00 and 6:30
 Tuesday 5:00 and 6:30
 Thursday 5:00 and 6:30

If we do not have substitutes and catechists are sick, etc., we could potentially have to cancel class. Please contact the Children's Ministry office to volunteer as a sub.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 11/1:** All Saints Day
Holy Day of Obligation
- 11/8:** First Reconciliation Workshop for 2nd graders and Children's Ministry Special Sacraments students.
- 11/17, 18 & 19:** 1st Reconciliation Celebration
- 11/24-12/4:** Thanksgiving Break
- 11/30:** First Sunday of Advent

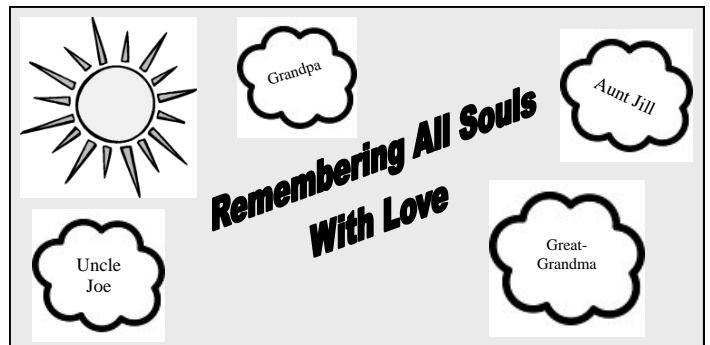
Customs and Traditions

All Souls' Day Banner

On November 2 we celebrate All Souls' Day. On this feast we remember everyone who has ever lived and died. We pray for our family members and friends. We ask God to give all those who have died happiness and peace in their new life with Him.

Using a wide sheet of light blue paper or poster board, create a sky or "heaven" background. Cut a yellow sun with rays from yellow paper. Cut fluffy white cloud shapes. On each cloud, write the name of a family member or friend who has died. Glue the cloud and sun shapes onto the sky background.

Place the banner in a spot where the whole family can see it. Gather your family together and pray for those whose names are on the banner. During dinner, talk about the wonderful times you shared with this person. Honor their lives by remembering the good things they did for you and others. Talk about the ways in which they made the world a better place.



Saint of the Month: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

***There will be many Saints depicted in our new church, through various works of art. This portion of the monthly Faith Formation newsletter will begin to introduce your family to those saints.*



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini is the first American citizen to become a saint. St. Frances was born in Lombardi, Italy in 1850, one of thirteen children. At eighteen, she desired to become a Nun, but poor health stood in her way. She helped her parents until their death, and then worked on a farm with her brothers and sisters.

One day a priest asked her to teach in a girls' school and she stayed for six years. At the request of her Bishop, she founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart to care for poor children in schools and hospitals. The order grew rapidly and Frances wanted to send missionaries to China. However, at the urging of Pope Leo XIII she came to the United States with six sister in 1889 to work among the Italian immigrants.

Filled with a deep trust in God and endowed with a wonderful administrative ability, this remarkable woman soon founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages in this strange land and saw them flourish in the aid of Italian immigrants and children. She became an American citizen in 1909 and died in Chicago in 1917.

At the time of her death on December 22, 1917, her institute numbered houses in England, France, Spain, the United States, and South America. In 1946, she became the first American citizen to be canonized when she was elevated to sainthood by Pope Pius XII. St. Frances is the patroness of immigrants.

Prayer to Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

How much there can be in a name is most clearly shown in you who were called Frances Xavier, thus expressing your wonderful missionary spirit. An emigrant to the United States from Lombardi in Italy, you took care of immigrants. You founded the Missionary Sisters and became the first American citizen to be canonized a Saint. Make us dedicated servants of God like yourself and care for the immigrants who need your help. Amen.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest



Each year, Knights of Columbus Council #12480 sponsors the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest at St. Francis of Assisi. This contest is part of the national campaign by the Knights of Columbus to remind people that Christmas is, above all else, a holy day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The children of St. Francis are invited to design their own posters on paper that is 11"x17".

The contest will begin on November 16 and entries will be collected until December 4. Judging will be December 6 at Breakfast with Santa. The contest is open for all children (pre-K through grade 12). Ribbons will be awarded for each grade level and three overall grand prize gift cards will be presented.