

# Rough Draft

a middle school ministry newsletter



## Advent

Advent is one of the most important times in the Church year. We all know how to prepare for a test, or how to prepare for a trip, but if someone asked how to prepare during advent, most of us would be stumped.



“Christmas stuff” has been in the stores since Halloween, and many people have been busily preparing for Christmas by making lists, decorating, and buying gifts. Essentially, these are good ways to prepare for Christmas, but the problem is, they usually fall short.

Here’s one way to use what you already do to prepare for Christmas. As you’re making your Christmas list, take a spiritual inventory, and make a list of what gifts you most need from God.

As you go shopping, take some time to pray for those you are shopping for. Your prayer is the most important gift you can give them.

Finally, as you help to decorate your home, make sure to decorate your soul as well by spending extra time in prayer and by engaging in charitable acts of kindness.

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## @ Home

What are some ways your family prepares for Christmas? Do you bake cookies, send Christmas cards, etc.? How can you attach spiritual significance to these actions to better prepare for Christ’s coming?

## Up and Coming

- Our next session will be Monday, January 11th, from 6:30-8 pm in St. Joe’s School Hall.
- This Wednesday, December 16th, we will be hosting: Elf in the ATTIC. See the other side of this page for details.
- Looking for the readings of the day? They are available at the [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) or on our prayer web site at [www.ypray.org](http://www.ypray.org).
- Check out our youth ministry web site at [www.sjsmym.org](http://www.sjsmym.org)



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Matt Bruce - Dir. of Youth Ministry  
[matt@sjsmym.org](mailto:matt@sjsmym.org)  
414.771.4626 x108

Ellen Koranda - Assoc. Dir. of Youth Ministry  
[ellen@sjsmym.org](mailto:ellen@sjsmym.org)  
414.771.4626 x106

*www.sjsmym.org*

Youth Ministry Office / 12130 W. Center St. / Wauwatosa, WI 53222 / fax 414.771.4311