



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

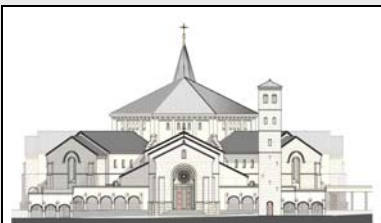
Telephone: (972) 712-2645
Fax: (972) 712-1087

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

December 2008

The star is a common symbol in our culture. When we do good work at school, we can expect a gold star. If someone is the best and brightest in their field, they are often called a "star." Even the red Macy's star, which has been around since the 1850's when Rowland Macy opened his first store in New York, originated as a symbol of hope. Mr. Macy was a sea captain who became lost at sea and thought he was lost until a star appeared in the skies above him. He adopted the red star as a symbol for Macy's and it has been around ever since.

During the season of Advent, the star is a symbol for Christ, the Light of the World, shining in the darkness, leading all who wander. The star was the guidepost of the Wise Men, who were searching for a king, but found a baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. This Advent, every time you see a star - whether in a night sky, on a school paper, or even on a shopping bag - take a moment to think of Christ and how we are all following his star.



"...and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was."
Matthew 2:9

Important Upcoming Dates:

12/4: Deadline for KCIC poster submissions

12/6: Breakfast with Santa

12/8: Immaculate Conception of Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

12/12: Our Lady of Guadalupe (Celebration begins at

12/21-1/8: Christmas Break

1/11/09: Special Sac's First Communion Parent Meeting

Week of 1/25/09: 2nd Grade 1st Communion Parent Meeting

Customs and Traditions

Advent Star Sugar Cookies

As your family anticipates the coming of Christmas, make these delicious star cookies together to celebrate the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

Ingredients:

2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 cup butter, softened
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and baking powder. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Roll dough out on a cutting board that has been dusted with flour. Using a star cookie cutter, cut into star shapes. Place cookies onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 8-10 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand on cookie sheet for two minutes, then remove to cool completely on wire racks. Decorate with white frosting and advent-colored sprinkles (purple)

If you are baking impaired, simply buy a roll of premade sugar cookie dough, roll and cut, and bake as directed. Kids love the decorating part best anyway!

Saint of the Month: Our Lady of Guadalupe

***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.*



In 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a humble Indian convert named Juan Diego. She asked that a church be built in her honor on the hill of Tepayac in Mexico, at the site of the apparition. Juan Diego tried to give this message from Our Lady to the bishop, but the bishop required a sign. Days later Mary appeared again to Juan Diego. This time, in the presence of the bishop, Juan Diego opened his cloak, or *tilma*. When he opened his *tilma*, a cascade of rare Castilian roses fell to the floor. The bishop immediately knelt in front of Juan Diego. The roses were only one sign. A much more significant sign was the portrait seen below, which Our Lady left imprinted on the inside of Juan Diego's *tilma*. This *tilma* remains today at the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Over the centuries, many experts have examined the cloak, but no one has been able to explain how the portrait was imprinted onto the *tilma*.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of all the Americas. In the United States, we celebrate her feast day on December 12.

More information about Our Lady of Guadalupe can be found on-line at <http://www.shjolg.com/> and <http://www.sancta.org/>

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Francis of Assisi

Bring your family to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Friday, December 12. The celebration begins at 6:00 a.m. with *Mañanitas* (praying Laudes, the morning prayer of the Church, and serenading the Virgin). *Mañanitas* is followed by dancing by the La Danza group, singing and Mass. At 4:00 p.m. there will be an Our Lady of Guadalupe procession from Pizza Hut park to St. Francis of Assisi, followed by Mass at 7:00 p.m. Following Mass there will be a bilingual play that will teach the story of when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego.

ADVENT

. . . is a time for active waiting and preparing, a period for making our homes, our hearts, and our world ready for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

It is a time of hope . . .

thinking about what kind of world we hope for, and how we can help to bring it about.

It is a time to pray for peace . . .

thinking about those places in our homes, neighborhoods, and world where we so desperately need the Prince of Peace.

It is a time of love . . .

receiving expressions of love from others and demonstrating love ourselves.

It is a time of joy . . .

being with family and friends, finding concrete ways to make our joy real through music, dance, and creative activities.

