



**St. Francis of Assisi Church**

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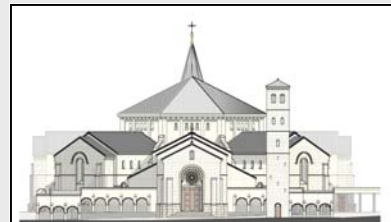
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**Children 's Ministry**

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

# Children's Ministry Faith Formation

November 2007

This month we celebrate our 33rd Annual Mexican Dinner at St. Francis. A few years ago a carnival was added to the dinner to create a day-long community celebration that can be enjoyed by parishioners of all ages. Bring your family to try Putt-Putt, darts, a treasure hunt, hay ride and much more. The Mexican Dinner is delicious and can be purchased to eat at the church, or packaged for a take-home family meal. Plan on attending this wonderful event on Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 11am-4pm and 6pm-8pm. See the Church bulletin for information on purchasing tickets.

The Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest also kicks off this month. The children will be learning about Our Lady of Guadalupe and discussing the true meaning of this joyous holiday before working on their posters in the classroom. Any posters that are not completed in class will be sent home to be finished and turned in at a later date.



**Children's Christmas Choir:**

The Children's Christmas Choir is comprised of children in grades three and up. Rehearsals will be the three Wednesdays before Christmas: 12/5, 12/12 and 12/19 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please bring your child to share their musical gifts with our parish for Christmas.



## Customs and Traditions

As the vibrant greens of summer give way to glints of gold, the Church has blessed us with a bounty of saints' day celebrations, each one flickering like a candle in a long procession marching ever onward toward the great feast of All Saints Day on November 1.

This year, celebrate All Saint's Day by providing your children with wooden ice cream spoons and some odds and ends such as markers, ribbon, scraps of fabric and construction paper. Read stories of some of your favorite saints. There are many wonderful books on the saints and stories can be found on-line as well. Some web-sites to find information on the saints are:

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.domestic-church.com/index.htm>

The great thing about this activity is that it is easy to make almost any saint recognizable just by including certain symbols. In the picture on the right, St. Therese wears the habit of a Carmelite and carries the crucifix adorned by roses. St. Francis appears in a friar's robe with a beard and tonsure and bearing the wounds of the stigmata.. A sweet little bird alights on his shoulder, a reminder of Francis' affinity toward animals and his famous "Sermon to the Birds"

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

**11/1:** All Saints Day  
Holy Day of Obligation

**10/28-11-1:** No Classes

**11/3:** First Reconciliation Workshop and Annual Mexican Dinner

**11/4:** Start of Annual Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

**11/18-11/29:** Thanksgiving Break - No classes

**11/29:** Deadline for KCIC Poster entries

## Saint of the Month: St. Martin de Porres

*\*\*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. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. His father was a Spanish gentleman and his mother was a freed black slave. At fifteen, Martin became a lay brother at the Dominican Friary at Lima. Martin was put in charge of attending to people who were suffering from many forms of illness. Martin would take of them and pray long hard hours for them as well. Miracles began to occur and many sick people were healed because of Martin's prayers.

When he was older, Martin became a priest and continued caring for the sick until the day he died. Martin had a great desire to go off to some foreign mission and thus earn the palm of martyrdom. However, since this was not possible, he made a martyr out of his body, devoting himself to ceaseless and severe penances. In turn, God endowed him with many graces and wondrous gifts, such as, aerial flights and bilocation.

St. Martin's love was all-embracing, shown equally to humans and to animals, including the mice who were eating the vestments and food of the priests, and he maintained a hospital for cats and dogs at his sister's house. He also possessed spiritual wisdom, demonstrated in his solving his sister's marriage problems, raising a dowry for his niece inside of three day's time, and resolving theological problems for the learned of his Order and for bishops. A close friend of St. Rose of Lima, this saintly man died on November 3, 1639 and was canonized on May 6, 1962. His feast day is November 3.

## BABY BANKS

It is time for Baby Banks again! Last year Children's Ministry set a diocesan record for Baby Bank collections and we hope to repeat that success this year. Baby Banks were distributed in all Faith Formation classes during October.

The money collected in the Baby Banks is used by the Catholic Pro Life Committee to fund their outreach to mothers and babies in need in the Dallas Metropolitan area, with half the money collected in the Baby Banks staying with our parish pro-life committee for their outreach efforts. The loose change you give provides for prenatal care, formula, diapers, newborn pediatric care and much more. Last year we collected over \$6,500. Let's see if we can beat our own record this year!



**SAFE ENVIRONMENT UPDATE:** Starting in November, all cleared volunteers will be issued name badges with their clearance dates. These badges are to be worn at all times when volunteering at the parish.