



# CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION BROOKLYN DIOCESE NEWSLETTER

## Volume III—Issue I - WINTER 2018



### Welcome

Dear CYO Community,

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. As we begin the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, on behalf of the CYO Staff, I wish each of you a season of peace and joy. The Catholic Youth Organization is having a very active Fall Season. This issue of the CYO newsletter will review the events and happenings throughout the diocesan organization.

This issue also introduces two new sections of the newsletter, *CYO Scrapbook* and *Play Like A Champion Coaches' Corner*. The Catholic Youth Organization in the Brooklyn and Queens has a long history dating back to 1940. The section “CYO Scrapbook” each issue will provide some historical photos, newspaper articles and stories from our CYO past throughout the diocese. The Coaches' Corner will provide insight and educational information from the Play Like A Champion Today program.

Enjoy the newsletter and be sure to share the Family Advent Calendar in this issue with your family this season.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

*Robert Caldera*

Executive Director, CYO



### UPCOMING EVENTS

12-08-18— CYO VOLLEYBALL CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT BEGINS

12-10-18—VOLLEYBALL AD MEETING 6:45PM IC CENTER

12-15-18—BOYS SWIMMING OLYMPICS @ EISENHOWER PARK

12-19-18—GIRLS VOLLEYBALL ENTRIES DUE

01-12-19—BOYS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP @ EISENHOWER PARK

01-18-18—GIRLS SWIMMING BEGINS

01-19-18—GIRLS VOLLEYBALL BEGINS

01-20-18—END OF GIRLS BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON

01-26-18—GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS BEGIN

02-10-18—BOYS BASKETBALL REGULAR SEASON ENDS

02-23-18—BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS BEGIN

02-23-18—GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINALS

02-24-18—GIRLS BASKETBALL DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

03-01-18—FLAG FOOTBALL ENTRIES DUE

03-08-18—BASEBALL & SOFTBALL ENTRIES DUE

03-16-18—BOYS BASKETBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINALS

03-17-18—BOYS BASKETBALL DIOCESAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

03-23-18—GIRLS SWIM OLYMPICS @ EISENHOWER PARK

03-29-18—FLAG FOOTBALL REGULAR SEASON BEGINS

03-30-18—GIRLS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS @ EISENHOWER PARK

### CYO Annual Mass With Queens Deanery #5

On Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the CYO parish programs in Queens Deanery # 5 came together for its' annual CYO Mass. This year the mass was held at St. Kevin's Church in Flushing. Bishop Raymond Chappetto was the main celebrant with pastors and priests from each parish concelebrating. Rev. Kevin McBrien, pastor of Our Lady of the Snows and Dean of the deanery works each year with the CYO in organizing the mass. All children at the mass received a special medal of St. Sebastian, patron saint of athletes. The medals were blessed by Bishop Chappetto. The athletes also received a special blessing by the Bishop as they begin their new sports season. Rev. Ralph Edel, chaplain of St. Francis Prep preached the homily stressing the importance of having fun and being a team player on and off the courts and fields always following the words of our number one coach, Jesus Christ.



## Coach's Grandsons Carry on His Basketball Legacy

By—Jim Mancari—The Tablet

This past February, the CHSAA lost a basketball coaching legend when Tim Leary – who coached varsity boys' hoops at St. Francis Prep, Fresh Meadows, for 43 seasons – died at the age of 73 after a nearly year-long battle with gallbladder cancer.

Though he's no longer physically with us, Leary's basketball legacy is being carried on in the Diocese of Brooklyn through his two grandsons: Aidan and Jack Leary.

Aidan, 12, and Jack, 10, play Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball at St. Rose of Lima, Rockaway Beach. Aidan is a seventh grader at Scholars' Academy, Rockaway Park, and plays for St. Rose's Rookie boys' CYO team, while Jack is a fifth grader at P.S. 47, Broad Channel, and plays for St. Rose's Bantam CYO boys' team.

Basketball has been in these boys' blood since they were born. Their grandfather's teams won a total of 646 games – the most for any St. Francis Prep coach, the seventh most among New York State basketball coaches and the second most in the CHSAA to the late Jack Curran of Archbishop Molloy H.S., Briarwood.

### Building Character

But for Leary, it was never about winning. It was more about building character among his players through the sport of basketball – something he was very successful in doing during his tenure as a coach. That same message has trickled down to his grandsons.

"He (Leary) taught me that it's not about winning or losing," said Aidan, a shooting guard who also participates in football, baseball and swimming. "It's about being able to play for a team and being able to work hard and see what happens and what comes out of it."

Aidan and Jack remember their grandfather taking them to his L'il Terriers high school practices the past few seasons. Aidan interacted with the high schoolers, who helped him with his shooting and passing. Jack meanwhile watched intently from the sidelines to see how he could improve his game.

"He (Leary) taught me that it's not just a one-person game," said Jack, a combo guard who also plays football and baseball. "You can't win a game on your own; you have to work as a team, pass the ball around, only take good shots – easy shots not hard ones that you can't make."

Leary's son and the boys' father Timothy is proud of his sons for following in their grandfather's footsteps. He currently coaches Aidan's CYO team and played himself for Our Lady Help of Christians, Midwood, and Bishop Ford H.S., Park Slope.

Ironically enough, his Falcons varsity team defeated his father's Prep team twice during his junior season at Bishop Ford. Again though, for Coach Leary, basketball was more than just winning.

"My father coaching basketball was such a large part of our lives growing up that it's in our fabric as a family," Timothy said. "We spent so much of our lives around it."

"Just being able to make the time in a busy schedule to be involved with my kids in the CYO programs is important to me now more than ever to try and pass on some things I learned from him."

The boys just finished up a preseason hoops tournament. Aidan said he felt his grandfather out there with him, and Jack agreed, saying he especially thought about his grandpa each time he made a 3-pointer.

These boys knew how much their grandfather loved basketball, so they're taking it upon themselves to make sure Leary's passion for the game continues to be celebrated.

"Because he (Leary) was able to coach for so long, a lot of people know his name," Aidan said. "So I just want to carry on his legacy that he brought to so many people and how many people he helped have a career in basketball."

"This season is going to be all about him (Leary) because he passed on his career knowledge to us," Jack said. "Now maybe I could pass that on to my teammates."

There's no doubt that Leary taught his grandsons well – both on the court and as budding young men.

And as the late coach now smiles down upon Aidan and Jack, he knows the family name is in good hands when it comes to the tradition of basketball.



# THE TABLET

If you would like to have your CYO event or Parish function covered by the newspaper of the Brooklyn Diocese please contact Jim Mancari @ The Tablet

## JIM MANGARI

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CYO BASKETBALL

The 6th Annual CYO Pre-Season Basketball Tournament was held in late September and early October for boys and girls teams in the Bantam, Rookie and Intermediate divisions. This year the tournament was called the "Medal Games". Each participant in the tournament received a medal of St. Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes. St. Sebastian is the patron saint of athletes because of his physical endurance and his energetic way of spreading and defending the Faith.

Keeping with the tradition of the tournament, the games were played at Catholic High Schools in our diocese, Msgr. McClancy, St. John's Prep and Archbishop Molloy. This was the perfect opportunity for the teams to prepare for the upcoming season and to visit the high school campuses.

Congratulations to the 45 teams that participated in the Medal Games and special congratulations to the teams that advanced to the Championship "Medal Game" in each division:

- Bantam Boys: St. Rose and St. Francis DeSales
- Bantam Girls: St. Joan and St. Mary Winfield
- Rookie Boys: St. Bernard and St. Margaret
- Rookie Girls: St. Stan Maspeth and St. Agnes Rockville Centre
- Intermediate Boys: St. Rose and St. Joan of Arc
- Intermediate Girls: Corpus Christi and St. Mary Winfield



BAKETBALL ALL-STAR GAMES

We are pleased to announce the return of CYO Basketball All-Star Games for the 2018-19 Season. There will be over 60 games played over five days for the Pee wee, Novice, Bantam, Rookie and Intermediate divisions. We would like to thank the host sites of these events for their hospitality, generosity and cooperation in organizing these events.

ALL-STAR GAME SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 16, 2018 – PEEWEE DIVISION**

- GATE OF HEAVEN – 6 GAMES (1-6pm)
- ST. THOMAS AQUINAS – 5 GAMES (1-5pm)

**SUNDAY – DECEMBER 23, 2018 – ROOKIE DIVISION**

- MARTIN LUTHER HIGH SCHOOL – 6 GAMES (1-6pm)
- MONSIGNOR MCCLANCY HIGH SCHOOL – 7 GAMES (1-7pm)

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 5, 2019 – BANTAM DIVISION**

- ST. BERNARD – 5 GAMES (3-7pm)
- ST. FRANCIS DESALES – 9 GAMES (12-8pm)

**SATURDAY – JANUARY 12, 2019 – NOVICE DIVISION**

- CORPUS CHRISTI – 5 GAMES (10am-2pm)
- EPIC HIGH SCHOOL – 6 GAMES (10am-3pm)

**SUNDAY – JANUARY 20, 2019 – INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**

- GATE OF HEAVEN – 7 GAMES (1-7pm)
- ST. GREGORY – 6 GAMES (1-6pm)



## CYO SOCCER

Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the 2018 Fall CYO Soccer Diocesan Championships. A special congratulations to the tournament champions and runner-up's:

DIVISION	CHAMPIONS	RUNNER UP
SUBNOVICE BOYS	BLESSED TRINITY	ST. ANASTASIA
PEE WEE BOYS	BLESSED TRINITY	ST. ANDREW
NOVICE BOYS	ST. ANASTASIA	ST. MEL
BANTAM BOYS	ST. CAMILLUS-VIRGILIUS	ST. ANDREW
ROOKIE BOYS	ST. LUKE (M)	BLESSED TRINITY
INTERMEDIATE BOYS	ST. JOSEPH	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES (N)
SUBNOVICE GIRLS	BLESSED TRINITY	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
PEE WEE GIRLS	ST. ANASTASIA	ST. CAMILLUS-VIRGILIUS
NOVICE GIRLS	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES	BLESSED TRINITY
BANTAM GIRLS	ST. FRANCIS DE SALES	OUR LADY OF HOPE
ROOKIE GIRLS	OUR LADY OF GRACE	OUR LADY OF HOPE (S)
INTERMEDIATE GIRLS	ST. ANDREW	HOLY CHILD



## CYO VOLLEYBALL



### CYO VOLLEYBALL

#### PRE-SEASON CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

PARs, Volleyball ADs, Coaches;

You are invited to participate in the **6<sup>th</sup> Annual CYO PRE-SEASON- CHRISTMAS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT**. The tournament is open to CYO Parish teams in the following divisions:

- NOVICE (Born in 2008)
- BANTAM (Born in 2007)
- ROOKIE (Born in 2006)
- INTERMEDIATE (Born in 2005)
- TYRO (Born in 2003 & 2004)
- JUNIOR (Born in 2001 & 2002)

➢ Games will be played at St. Gregory, St. Andrew, Our Lady of the Snows, St. John's Prep. The format of the tournament will be DOUBLE-ELIMINATION. Games will begin the weekend of December 8/9 and run through the Christmas Holiday Break. This will be a great way to prepare your teams for the upcoming season.

➢ The fee for the tournament is \$125.00 per team, plus teams are responsible for the referee fee for each game. (\$20.00 per team/per game). To reserve a spot please complete the bottom portion of this form and send it with payment to:

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION

7200 DOUGLASTON PARKWAY

DOUGLASTON, NY 11362

ATTN: ROB CALDERA

For further information, contact us at the CYO office:

Rob Caldera, CYO Director: [rcaldera@dlobrook.org](mailto:rcaldera@dlobrook.org)

718-281-9549

2018-19

#### CYO PRE-SEASON VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM:

PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_ PAR/AD: \_\_\_\_\_

DIVISION (Check if entering tournament) \_\_\_\_\_ COACH'S NAME/PHONE/EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NOVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

BANTAM: \_\_\_\_\_

ROOKIE: \_\_\_\_\_

INTER: \_\_\_\_\_

TYRO: \_\_\_\_\_

JUNIOR: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAY LIKE  
A CHAMPION  
TODAY**

Character Education Through Sports

On Saturday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Parish Athletic Representatives attended the Play Like A Champion Today Conference at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. The day began with a prayer service led by Rev. Dwayne Davis, Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas and member of the CYO Board of Directors. The prayer service was followed by breakfast where over fifty parish athletic representatives and athletic directors socialized as they prepared for the day. Kristin Sheehan, program director of the Play Like A Champion Today Educational Program conducted an energetic and very educational program, training our leaders the Sports as Ministry, A Catholic Mission for Coaches and Parents. The program's theme was Developing Virtue Through Sports including topics such as *Understanding the role as coach minister* and *Promoting the spiritual nature of sport*.

The Play Like A Champion Today staff sent us a report and summary of the conference. They stated, "It is a true pleasure to partner with Brooklyn CYO today and for many years to come in creating a positive, growth filled, Catholic sport environment."

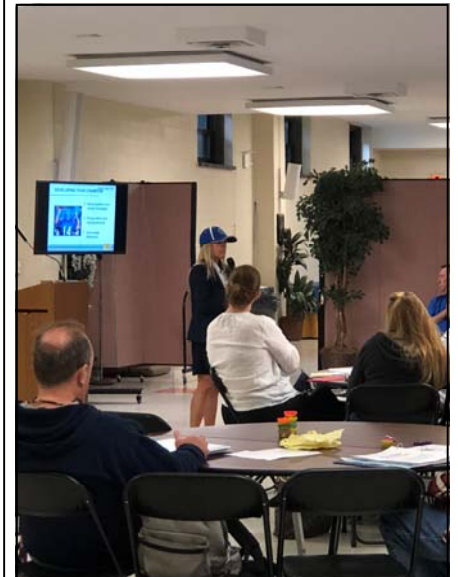


**Prayers for Coaches**



God,  
Grant me the insight  
to see the potential in every player;  
Patience to encourage improvement;  
And character to always set a winning example.  
May those I coach always see  
You in my life and be brought  
closer to you through me.

Amen.



**COACH'S  
CORNER**

Play Like a Champion Today prepares coaches to understand their coaching vocation as one of ministry. So what does it mean to be a Coach Minister to your team? Let's explore! The word minister comes from the Latin ministerium which means service. Coaches provide a service to athletes, their families and the school community. They do this in the name of the Church. When you coach, you stand in the shoes of Jesus Christ, our greatest teacher and guide. Sports can be a ministerial endeavor when coaches embrace this concept in daily coaching habits. We urge coaches to make a commitment to living out Coaching as Ministry by implementing several of the following ideas on your team this season:

- ◆ Prayer before and after practices and games. Have athletes take turns leading prayers using either traditional prayer or free form.
- ◆ Team participation at Mass. Go as a team in uniform or church clothes before a game, or plan to sit together as a team if many attend the same Sunday Mass. Ask your priest to provide a special blessing for all the athletes present. You could also do this at the end of the season as a Mass of thanksgiving.
- ◆ Dedicate your practice/game to something specific and mention this in the opening prayer. Examples include learning something new, staying safe and healthy, improving a specific skill, or becoming a better teammate.
- ◆ Ask for the intercession of St. Sebastian, the patron saints of athletes. You could even distribute St. Sebastian medals to your team.
- ◆ Participate in a team service project. Have discussions with your team on the following topics: How can we use our Godgiven individual gifts and talents to become the best team?

Coaches should also reflect on how the idea of Coaching as Ministry impacts how you...

Develop each of your players' skills and sense of confidence. Treat members of your team, your opponents, and officials. . . Exercise authority as a coach. Create lineups and distribute playing time

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [WWW.CYODOB.ORG](http://WWW.CYODOB.ORG)



This issue we take a look back at the 1977 CYO Diocesan Basketball Championships featuring CYO Hall of Famers Kevin Mahoney and Gary Evans.

The Tablet—March 31, 1977

St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Thomas More, St. Anastasia's, St. Rita's, St. Marks and St. James Also Champs

# St. Mary's, Winfield, Wins Two CYO Diocesan Crowns



ST. MARY'S, WINFIELD, NOVICES



ST. MARY'S, WINFIELD, INTERMEDIATES



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, FLATLANDS, ROOKIES



ST. THOMAS MORE SENIORS

CYO HELD ITS '77 version of the diocesan boys basketball playoffs at two different Queens sites. Over 200 trophies were presented to the eight champions and eight runners-up.

Four games were played at St. Thomas Apostle gym, Woodhaven, a converted movie theater on Jamaica Ave., and the dramatic thrill of victory and agonizing taste of defeat was as powerful as anything movie goers ever witnessed there.

The most sensational win was recorded by St. Mary's, Winfield, Intermediate squad which won a 54-39 victory over St. Athanasius, Brooklyn, despite the fact that its season's high scorer Brian Flynn did not play in the finale.

St. Mary's received a team-high 16 points from Jimmy O'Connell, who plays the game with only half a left arm. O'Connell finished off St. A's with 12 clutch markers in the final three minutes.

Mrs. Mary O'Connell says her son's arm is a birth defect and that he "sleeps, eats and drinks basketball."

"He has so many trophies at home but the diocesan championship was the one he really wanted. This is everything to him and I'm so proud of him."

Coach Kevin Mahoney says "Jimmy doesn't need the publicity about his arm. He just wants to be known as a good ballplayer."

The Winfield squad put together an 18-0 CYO season. In the championship match-up, it also received ten points from

Jimmy Lenehan, nine apiece from Dominic Migliorato and David Yurman and eight from Hector Mayo.

Migliorato, says St. Athanasius, was "the team's inspiration" because of his all-around desire and hustle.

St. Athanasius, coached by Sal Ferrera, got a game-high 18 points from Steve Chille, eight from Lenny LaGrya and six each from Rickey Caggiano and Anthony Azzarelli.

In one of the best played Rookie games you'll ever see, St. Thomas Aquinas, Flatlands, put away Sacred Heart, Cambria Heights, 71-59, to complete a 30-0 season. The Aquinas five which won the diocesan Bantam title a year ago, is a balanced, disciplined group that plays a much more sophisticated game than you would expect from seventh graders.

Mike O'Reilly dominated the scoring with 29 points, while teammates Robert Fox added 22. Peter Cannizzo and Steve Mennella had nine apiece. Richie McDade scored only two points but was the team's controller at his point-guard position.

For Sacred Heart, Martin Gaspard's 18 points was high. James Rucker and Nigel Villareal hit for ten each. Alfred Powell scored eight and Evan Toulon had six for Charles Carle's team.

St. Rita's, East New York, Cadets scored a mild upset in defeating St. Athanasius, Brooklyn, 56-47. St. A's held the lead in the early going but St. Rita's took away the boards from the taller Brooklyn five and controlled the pace the rest of the way.

Backcourt Star Troy Roberts and Steve Hickson contributed 17 points each to the winning cause which, also aided by Woodrow Webb's 16.



ST. ANASTASIA'S BANTAMS



ST. RITA'S, EAST NEW YORK, CADETS



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Valid From: 11/16/2018 1/3/2019 12



### Hall of Fame Nomination Form

Catholic Youth Organization of the Diocese of Brooklyn  
7200 Douglaston Parkway,  
Douglaston, NY 11362  
Tel: 718.281.9548  
Fax: 718.281.9557  
www.cyo08.org

We are currently seeking nominations for individuals to be elected into the CYO Hall of Fame. Nominations must be submitted directly to the CYO office, at the above address. **Deadline for nomination is February 28, 2019.** We are also asking you to help us publicize the opportunity to nominate by including the news in your parish bulletin, newspapers, website or other locations. If you have any questions please contact the CYO office at 718.281.9548.

#### NOMINATION GUIDELINES, GENERAL RULES & QUALIFICATIONS

Nominee must have made significant contributions to the CYO athletic programs as a player, coach, parish athletic representative, athletic director, official, clergy, league coordinator, supervisor or other member of our community whose accomplishments have been of the highest caliber over an extended period of time that brought to life the Mission, Philosophy, and values of the Diocese of Brooklyn CYO.

#### CANDIDATE

I NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ for induction into the CYO HALL OF FAME.

\_\_\_\_\_ LIVING \_\_\_\_\_ DECEASED (PLEASE CHECK ONE)  
PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

#### CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ \*IF DECEASED PLEASE INCLUDE FAMILY CONTACT INFORMATION  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Please provide a summary of the Nominee's CYO involvement. Please include length of service, parish and the activity/position. (Please submit additional material or use additional sheets if necessary)

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Please provide a summary, outlining the community involvement of the Nominee. Please include length of service, organization and the activity/position.

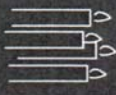
#### NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

2019 CYO HALL OF FAME MASS, DINNER & INDUCTION CEREMONY — MAY 31, 2019 — ICC CENTER — DOUGLSTON, NY

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !**





# FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>December 2</b></p> <p>Begin this journey of Advent by blessing your Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle and sing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."</p>	<p>Try reading or listening to the daily Mass readings together as a family, as part of your preparation for Christmas this year.</p>	<p>As you reflect on Mary's journeys to see her kinswoman Elizabeth and then to find shelter in Bethlehem, pray for migrants traveling to find family, hope, and safe haven around the world today.</p>	<p>Ever wonder where the phrase "O Root of Jesse's stem" comes from? Research how to make a Jesse tree and dive into Christ's lineage.</p>	<p>On this feast day of St. Nicholas, we remember his abundant generosity to the poor. Together, can your family purchase a gift from a giving tree this year for a person or family in need?</p>	<p>It's the first Friday of Advent! Start a Friday family tradition of praying a decade of the Rosary before bedtime. Brush up on rosary prayers here: <a href="http://www.usccb.org/rosary">www.usccb.org/rosary</a>.</p>	<p>On this Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, attend Mass as a family and add the Hail Mary to your pre-meal prayers.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>On this Second Sunday of Advent, light the second violet candle on your Advent wreath and consider donating to a special collection for <u>criticized</u> religious today.</p>	<p>"The Lord promises refreshment and freedom to all the oppressed of our world, but he needs us to fulfill his promise. He needs our eyes to see the needs of our brothers and sisters." (Pope Francis, July 6, 2018)</p>	<p>"Jesus, Mary, and Joseph themselves were refugees in Egypt... the Holy Family has become a figure with whom Christian migrants and refugees throughout the ages can identify, giving them hope and courage in hard times." (USCCB, <i>Strangers No Longer</i>, no. 26)</p>	<p>On her feast day, pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and maybe plan to enjoy some <i>pan de dulce</i> and hot chocolate as a family!</p>	<p>Today's Memorial of St. Lucy is marked by pagans and festivals in Scandinavia &amp; Italy. Research an Advent custom of your family's ethnic heritage and try it this year!</p>	<p>St. John of the Cross, whom we honor today, was known for his deep spirituality and compassion. Reflect today on what more your family can do to prepare spiritually for Christmas in these last 10 days of Advent.</p>	<p>Do remember Jesus was a refugee? How much does your family know about the plight of refugees today? Use this guide to help answer questions.</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter before the birth of Jesus, traditionally begins today. Pray for migrants seeking shelter around the world today.</p>	<p>Yesterday was Gaudete Sunday when we shifted our reflection from "the Lord is coming" to "the Lord is near." Rejoice! You are more than half way to Christmas!</p>	<p>"Christ saved men not with thunder and lightning, but as a wailing babe in the manger and as a silent sufferer upon the cross" (St. Jerome, <i>Letters</i> 82.1). Reflect on the humility of Christ today.</p>	<p>"If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 Jn 1:10). Go to confession as a family this season and enjoy Christmas with a clean hearts and peaceful souls, thanks to God's mercy.</p>	<p>Take time today to bless the family crèche. (Based on your family's tradition, you may choose to hide the baby Jesus until Christmas morning.)</p>	<p>Make this Friday night a family movie night and watch a Christmas classic together.</p>	<p>We learn in today's Gospel that Mary spent three months with her kinswoman Elizabeth before returning home. Thousands of travelers today are travelling to look for a new home. Read some of their stories.</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Add this "O Antiphon" to your daily or meal-time prayer today: "O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!" (<i>Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, Revised Edition</i>, 71)</p>	<p>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Mt. 1:23)</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Mt. 1:23)</p>	<p>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Mt. 1:23)</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>	<p>Copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from Pope Francis, copyright © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City, State. All rights reserved. Quote from 1 John is taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, copyright © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All rights reserved. Quote from the Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition, copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.</p>

