

# family MATTERS

## THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

is filled with family gatherings, autumn activities, and church feasts.

In the Church, this month we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. How will your family remember and give thanks for all who have gone before us?

Vocation Awareness week is November, 5-11. "Vocations grow on trees...family trees." What can you do in your own family to help your children remain open to God's call, whether to marriage, priesthood, or religious life?

National Bible week begins November 12th. Place your bible in a visible place in your home and with your family, commit to reading a passage of Scripture each day of the week, start with Psalms 147:7-8.

We celebrate the feast days of St. Agnes of Assisi, St. Cecilia and Christ the King.

Honor Christ's kingship (November 26th) by placing a white pillar candle in the center of your table.

Thanksgiving, a very special holiday for many families. It is centered on gratitude rather than gift-giving.

With the holiday rush just around the corner, why not spend the month of November giving thanks!

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; with the lyre make music to our God, Who covers the heavens with clouds, provides rain for the earth, makes grass sprout on mountains.  
~Psalms 147:7-8



### St. Andrew Christmas

#### Novena



**H**ail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

## ADVENT

What traditions will your FAMILY be doing this Advent?

Making an Advent Wreath, Jessie Tree or Advent Calendar?

Maybe it is time to start a new tradition to prepare your FAMILY for Advent.

November 30, is the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. St. Andrew was the very first disciple called by Our Lord, and he is the one who got his brother, St. Peter to become Jesus' disciple too. In keeping with his role as "the first", the feast of St. Andrew marks the beginning of a new liturgical year with the start of Advent.

The Sunday that falls nearest to St. Andrew's feast day on November 30, is always the first Sunday of Advent.

The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is often called the "Christmas Novena" or the "Christmas Anticipation Prayer", because it is prayed 15 times a day from the Feast of Andrew the Apostle (November 30) until Christmas Eve. While the novena is tied to the Feast of St. Andrew, it is not actually addressed to St. Andrew, but to

God himself, asking Him to grant our request in honor of the birth of His Son at Christmas.

You can say the prayer all 15 times at once, divide up the recitation as necessary; perhaps 5 times at each meal, before or after school, or at bedtime. The beauty and sweetness of this prayer will unfold for you through its daily recitation, allowing you to meditate more fully on the mystery of the Incarnation.



*Prayed as a FAMILY, the St. Andrew Christmas Novena is a beautiful way to focus our attention on the Advent season, increase our awareness of the real focus of Christmas, and to prepare our families spiritually for His coming.*