



December 3, 2021

Virtue of the Week—MEEKNESS



This week our strength building on the virtue of **HUMILITY** is **MEEKNESS**. The strength to restrain anger and discouragement in the midst of adversity enabling a person to do good in response to evil. **Meekness** is not weakness! It is strength under control.

Prayer

“O Jesus, **meekest** Lamb, who being cursed did not curse, who suffering injuries did not threaten, who receiving the greatest contempt, answered with divine **meekness** or preserved an admirable silence, help me to follow Your example, to repress my anger, to embrace **meekness**, and armed with patience, to suffer willingly any labor so that I may come to enjoy eternal repose with You.”

Venerable Leo Du Pont, known as the Holy Man of Tours and the Apostle of the Holy Face

Free Rapid & PCR Testing

252 E. Washington St., East Peoria
(309) 210-6887

There is a new Covid testing center in East Peoria. You do not need an appointment and it is free. You have results emailed to you within 20 minutes. This is a self-administered test. Thank you.

St. Patrick School
100 Harvey Street
Washington, IL 61571
309-444-4345
<https://school.stpatswashington.com>
Facebook: St. Patrick Catholic Parish,
Washington, IL

Important Upcoming Dates

- Fri, 12/3:** **Girls Basketball**, 8th Grade Regionals @ Roanoke-Benson 5:00pm
- Girls Basketball**, 6th Grade Diocesan Tourny @ St. Jude 8:00pm
- Sat, 12/4:** **Boys Basketball** vs. St. Phil @ Home 9:00am
- Girls Basketball**, 6th Grade Diocesan Tourny @ St. Jude 5:00pm
- Sun, 12/5:** **Pre-Lego League** Rm 101 4:00pm
- Mon, 12/6:** **Christmas Program** @ Five Points; Band arrives 5:30 pm, Non-band students arrive between 5:30-5:50pm
- Tues, 12/7:** **Boys Basketball** @ St. Jude 5:00pm
- Thurs, 12/9:** **Boys Basketball**, 7th Grade Tourney @ St. Joe's-Pekin TBD
- Fri, 12/10:** **Boys Basketball**, 7th Grade Tourney @ St. Joe's-Pekin TBD

THE MISSION OF ST. PATRICK SCHOOL is to foster the spiritual growth and academic life of its students, faculty, and staff, and to teach children, with the cooperation of parents, a Catholic way of life.



Please remember to send your student with a water bottle. Due to Covid, the drinking fountain is shut off. Water is only available with the bottle filler. The kids get very thirsty after PE and recess.

Thank you!

2nd Grade enjoying the Fall Leaves!



The 5th and 6th grades visited the Community Festival of Nativities. On display were over 750 nativities.



"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself."

CHARLES DICKENS
A Christmas Carol

 Dynamic Catholic

**"Reverence, Respect, Responsibility...
Excellence in Academics and Faith Formation"**

St. Patrick School Christmas Program
Five Points Washington
Monday, December 6, 2021

Band Program: 6:00 – 6:30

Christmas Classroom Program: 6:45 – 8:30

Band: Band students should arrive **at 5:30**. The band students are to meet backstage using the backstage entrance. (Band students will be shown this entrance at the dress rehearsal.) After the band portion of the program is finished, band students will meet their class in the back rows of the auditorium. Band students can pick up their instruments back stage, after the show.

Arrival: Parents and non-band students are to arrive **no earlier than 5:30 but before 5:50**. **The doors to the theater will not open before 5:30**. All students should come inside Five Points **with their parents**. Five Points has asked that we do not drop off the students without adult supervision. Thank you.

Parking: Parents are asked to park in the southeast area of the parking lot or across the street in the WCHS parking lot by the football field. Please do **NOT** park in the library parking spaces.

Dress Code: Students should wear dress clothes. Please NO JEANS, unless your class has a particular costume.

Theater Seating:

Grades K-2: Parents, please take your children to meet their teachers in the reserved Banquet Room.

Grades 3-4: We ask that 3-4 grade parents please take your child up to the balcony to meet their teachers.

Grade 7: The 7th graders will be helping Mrs. Kapraun. Please meet her backstage.

Grade 5, 6, 8: Will meet their teachers in the back rows of the auditorium and sit in assigned areas.

Parents: Please find seats in the main theater and **NOT** the balcony or the reserved back rows. We are using the balcony for Kindergarten through 4th Grade. The far back rows of the main level will be reserved for 5th, 6th, and 8th grade students.



























*Please do not leave before the program is finished. If you feel that you must leave before the program is over at 8:30, please sit at the end of a row, on an aisle. Thank you.

Dismissal: Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students will be picked up by their parents in the side aisles of the theatre. Students in grades 5-8 will meet their parents in the main hallway, outside the theatre. We ask for patience during dismissal.

Donations: At the end of the program, seventh grade students will be taking monetary donations at the exits. If we would like to continue this tradition at Five Points again next year, we may need to raise the money on our own. Any donation is greatly appreciated by the students and staff. We are all very excited to perform on the “big stage”. THANK YOU!

Please Note: Students must be in school the last half of the school day on December 6th, in order to participate in the Christmas Program that evening, per Handbook policy.

2021 Family Advent calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 Make and bless an Advent wreath. Light the first violet candle tonight and each night this week.</p> 	<p>29 Read about Elizabeth and Zechariah's special blessing in Luke 1:5-25.</p> 	<p>30 Ask a family member you have hurt in the past year for forgiveness. Offer it to one who hurt you.</p> 	<p>December</p> <p>1 Set up your family Nativity scene, but leave out the Holy Family.</p> 	<p>2 Make cookies to bring to a nearby nursing home.</p> 	<p>3 Cut and paste pictures from old Christmas cards into ornaments for this year's tree.</p> 	<p>4 Attend Confession as a family and go out for a treat afterward to celebrate forgiveness!</p> 
<p>5 Light two violet candles in the Advent wreath each night this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."</p> 	<p>6 Show love on St. Nicholas Day by filling an old shoe with treats and leaving it outside someone's door.</p> 	<p>7 Read about the angel's visit to Mary in Luke 1:26-38. Talk about ways we can also say "yes" to God.</p> 	<p>8 In honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, attend Mass and pray a family Rosary tonight.</p> 	<p>9 Send Christmas cards to your pastor, priests, and religious or ordained ministers who are important to your family.</p> 	<p>10 Together, write your Christmas cards. Let older kids address the envelopes and younger ones seal them.</p> 	<p>11 Clean out your closets of unwanted clothes or toys in good condition. Donate them to a shelter or other charity.</p>
<p>12 Light two violet candles and the rose one for joy. See who can sing loudest at Mass today.</p> 	<p>13 Pick a Christmas card you've received this week and pray for the person who sent it.</p> 	<p>14 Place the Mary and Joseph figures of your Nativity set across the room from the scene.</p> 	<p>15 Write letters to Baby Jesus telling him that you look forward to his coming. Read them aloud on Christmas Eve.</p> 	<p>16 Put a lamp or electric candle in a window to welcome the Christ child. Light it each night until Christmas Day.</p> 	<p>17 Family Movie Night: Make some popcorn and watch a Christmas movie.</p> 	<p>18 Put up and decorate your family Christmas tree. Stand back and admire your work.</p> 
<p>19 Light all four candles in the wreath tonight and all week.</p> 	<p>20 Move Mary and Joseph closer to the Nativity scene. Try to imagine what it was like to travel to Bethlehem by donkey.</p>	<p>21 Decorate a "Jesus Candle" with symbols of Jesus. Light it at Christmas dinner.</p> 	<p>22 Take a drive or walk around your home to look at the Christmas decorations or displays.</p> 	<p>23 Place Mary and Joseph in the Nativity scene. Add grass or straw to the manger to get it ready for the Baby.</p> 	<p>24 Gather some friends and neighbors and go Christmas caroling at a nursing home or homeless shelter.</p> 	<p>25 Put the Baby in the manger and read the story of Jesus' birth in Luke 2:1-20.</p> 

Partners in FAITH™



Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2021

St. Patrick School

Doreen Shipman, Principal



Thoughtful Moments

Immaculate Conception

On December 8th, we celebrate the conception of Mary in St. Anne's womb without Original Sin. This is the patronal feast of the United States. In addition to attending Mass (it's a Holy Day of Obligation), pray a joyful Rosary to celebrate.

The Magi's Gifts

To help combat consumerism at Christmas, some families limit the number of gifts to three in honor of the gifts of the Magi.

Consider giving children one gift that is their

heart's desire, a piece of clothing that is not just sensible, and one gift that will help them grow (a book or sports accessory, for example).



"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength" (Isaiah 40:28-29).



Is Heaven worth the wait?

To many children, a day off from school or a family vacation is like heaven in itself. Sacrificing and doing penance to work toward Heaven after death is too abstract a concept to motivate them toward holiness. Yet, the season of Advent is designed to turn our eyes to Heaven so we can be ready when Jesus comes to bring us there. So how can we help youngsters understand how great Heaven really is?

All good things start there. *"Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17).* If all good things on Earth come from Heaven, imagine how great it is at the source.

Our life in Heaven will be more wonderful than the most wonderful experience on Earth.

The company is best there. When we get there, we will have joyful reunions with beloved grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends who have died before us.

We get to mingle with the saints and angels.

Best of all, we get to be with Jesus and His Father forever.

The one who loves us best is there. As much as earthly parents love their children, it's nothing compared to the love God has for each of us. He is the perfect parent – our true Father – and He is waiting for us in Heaven.



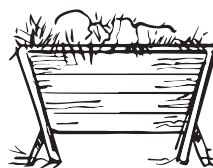
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for the Savior who comes on Christmas. It is a reminder that there is a greater purpose to our lives. So, the Church encourages us to make our hearts

Why do Catholics celebrate Advent?

ready during Advent.

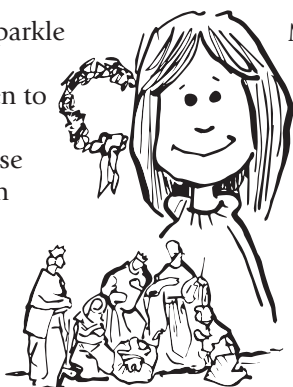
We know that Jesus will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet Him next.



Make your family Christmas sparkle with Jesus

What mother or father doesn't cherish the sparkle of excitement in a child's eye at Christmas? As Catholic parents, though, we want our children to have real joy, not just the anticipation of receiving gifts or getting out of school. Try these tips to help children turn their eyes to Jesus on this special day:

Focus on Jesus: On Christmas Eve, read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 1:5 – 2:39 or Matthew 1:18 – 2:23. Sing your favorite religious Christmas carols. After attending



Mass on Christmas Day (a Holy Day of Obligation), light a candle and sing, "Happy Birthday" to remember the meaning of the day.

Make it come alive. The true joy of the holiday comes from knowing that God really came. Gather around your family nativity scene and act out the story of Jesus' birth by moving the figures. Imagine what a legion (army) of angels looks like and how the shepherds felt when they saw that God was born. Help children experience the wonder of the miraculous birth.

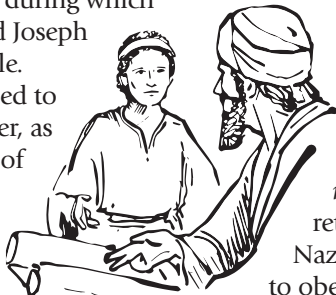
Scripture LESSON

Luke 2:41-52, Jesus led the way

On December 26th, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family during which we recall when Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple.

The Holy Family traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. When they started the return trip in their large group, each parent thought Jesus was with the other one and traveled for a day before realizing that He had stayed behind. Upon finding Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

They found Jesus in the Temple talking with the priests who were



amazed by the boy's wisdom and understanding. But to Mary's stunned query about why He remained behind without permission, Jesus' mystifying reply was, "*Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?*" The boy returned with his parents to Nazareth where He continued to obey them.

What can a parent do? Explain to children that Jesus himself had a mission He was eager to begin but was obedient to his parents. He wants us all to respect our parents and those in authority over us.

Parent TALK

In early Fall one year, I got laid off and subsequently started my own business. That meant money was super tight. I wasn't sure how we would buy



Christmas gifts for the children, so we turned to St. Nicholas for help.

We learned that St. Nicholas was born in the third century in Asia Minor. His

wealthy parents died while he was a child and he subsequently used his fortune to help the needy. When he became a bishop, he was a vigorous defender of the truth and was persecuted for his faith.

Immediately, we started a family novena to St. Nicholas. During the first week of December, I received a check for unused vacation pay from a former employer – more than enough to buy some gifts and make a nice Christmas dinner. There is no doubt in our minds that St. Nicholas brought our Christmas gifts that year.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego. She had St. Juan carry roses to the bishop as proof. When the roses were emptied from his tilma it retained the

image of the Blessed Mother.

December 13 – St. Lucy (304). Amidst pagan Sicily, St. Lucy vowed to remain chaste for Jesus. A disappointed suitor turned her in for being a Christian and she was executed for her faith.

December 27 – St. John the Apostle (1st Century). An apostle and friend of Jesus, St. John was known for his fiery temper. Scholars believe he is the "beloved disciple" who sat by Jesus at the Last Supper in John's Gospel.



Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

THE PEORIA AREA
Community Festival of
NATIVITIES



A Thrill of Hope

December 2-5, 2021

Thursday 5PM-9PM

Friday & Saturday 10AM-9PM

Sunday 12PM-6PM

— FREE ADMISSION —

3700 W. Reservoir Blvd., Peoria, Illinois

CommunityFestivalofNativities.com

750+ NATIVITIES • MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Letter to Santa Drop off



And



Visit

Take your own pictures!

Where? McMahon's(In The Plaza)

When? December 9th & 16th

What Time? 3-5pm

Donations Accepted: Proceeds will go to buy new things for the children's area at the Sunnyland Branch. Wish List: Lego table and Lego blocks. Vinyl, removable chalk banner and chalk.



Dear Santa.

My name is _____

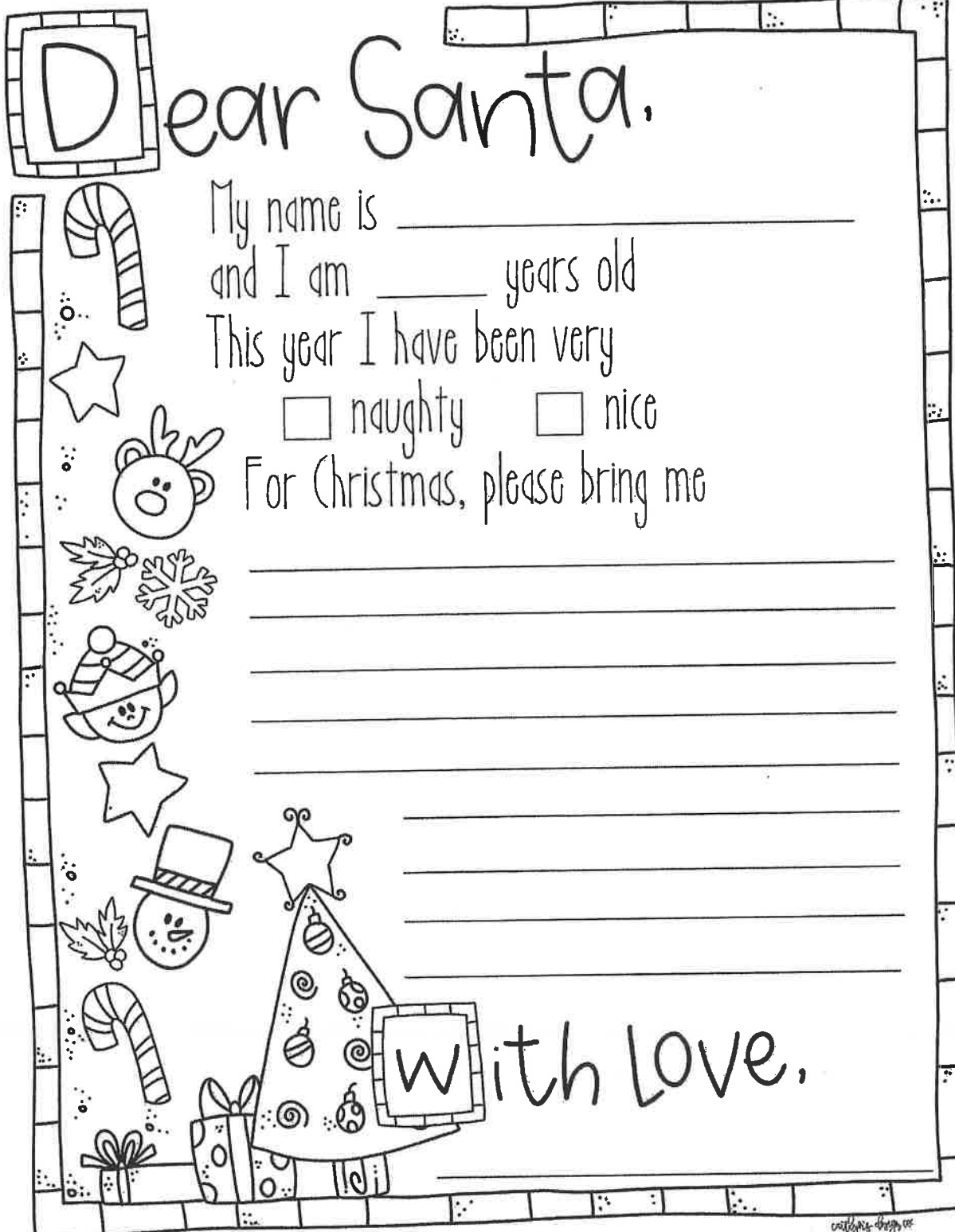
and I am _____ years old

This year I have been very

☐ naughty ☐ nice

For Christmas, please bring me

With love,





In order to raise money for the parish and have a little fun.....

ST. PAT'S IRISH SWEEPSTAKES

This raffle will begin November 5, 2021 and will run through Christmas Day, December 25, 2021.

10 CHANCES TO WIN

- 8 chances to win \$150 (One Drawing on Each Friday Nov. 5-Dec. 24, 2021)
 - \$500 Thanksgiving Day Drawing
 - \$1000 Christmas day Drawing

Winners need not be present to win. Purchase or sell the enclosed tickets anytime between now and December 23, 2021. Tickets are available in the parish office or online. All proceeds will go toward repairing leaks/repairs in the church.

There are several ways to buy tickets (\$20 each or 6/\$100):

- Send in your completed tickets or drop in the collection basket with a check or cash
 - Call the parish office to buy tickets or to obtain more tickets
 - Purchase online from our website: <https://stpatswashington.com/>
 - Pay with a credit or debit card by using the form on the reverse side and return to the parish office
- (If you purchase tickets online or use the form on the back, the parish office will fill in your tickets)

If you have questions, please contact the parish office at 309-444-3524.

Sincerely yours in Christ, *Fr. John*

ST. PAT'S IRISH SWEEPSTAKES



705 E. Jefferson St. Washington, IL 61571

TICKETS: \$20 Each/6 for \$100

10 Chances to Win

8—\$150 Drawings

\$500 Thanksgiving Day

\$1000 Christmas Day

Drawings Start: November 5, 2021

End: December 25, 2021

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Girls' Days

With the Apostolic
Sisters of Saint John

For girls
ages 9-14



November 13
December 4
January 22
February 26
March 26
April 30



10:30 am—4:00 pm

10809 Legion Hall Rd

Princeville, IL 61559

Contact: chiaralucegirlscamp@gmail.com

309-243-1488





Eureka College Women's Basketball

• KID'S WINTER CAMP 2021 •

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 11

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
REDDEVILSWBBCAMPS.COM

9AM-12PM

GRADES K-8

\$40

T-SHIRT INCLUDED



FREE LACROSSE CLINIC



WHEN: Sunday, December 12th 1-3pm

WHERE: BK Sluggers, 4200 E Washington Street, East Peoria

WHO: Girls & Boys between the ages 8-14

Did you know lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the United States and Washington High School has a boys & girls lacrosse team? This clinic will provide an overview of the youth program and provide your child the opportunity to learn fundamental lacrosse skills.



Light Up the Night

For Those Who Can't Be Home For Christmas

Almost Home Kids at OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois provides a bridge from hospital to home for children with medical complexities.

The children in transitional care often have never lived at home and may not be home for Christmas!

To make the holiday season special for the children, we are raising money to Light Up our courtyard for Christmas! You can help with a donation to our luminary fund. All donations will go to purchase reusable luminaries safe for use year after year at Almost Home Kids.

For every donation of \$20 you will receive a luminary kit to light at your home.

The children at Almost Home Kids are not the only people who can't be home for Christmas. Maybe you have a loved one in the hospital, or family who works holidays, or lives out of state, or is deployed overseas - Light-up the Night for them! Together, let's remember everyone who can't be home for Christmas.



On Sunday, December 19, at 6:00 PM, we will be transforming our neighborhoods into a holiday display with candle luminaries as we think of our friends and family that can't be with us.

Participants will line their street, driveway and walkways and light the candles inside at 6 p.m.

Please take a photo of your display and email it to sarah_kammerer1@yahoo.com.



While supplies last, each donation of at least \$20 will receive a candle Luminary Kit to light at home to remember their loved ones that will not be with them during the holidays.

This is our gift to you!

Luminary Kits include supplies for 20 luminaries (20 white bags and 20 four hour candles).

You supply the sand/dirt/rocks to weigh down your bags.

One kit will illuminate 40-60 feet of street/driveway/walkway.

Pick up your gift at AHK on December 16 & 17 during regular business hours.

To donate:

Please complete the attached form, include your donation (cash or check to Almost Home Kids), and mail or drop off to: Almost Home Kids, 5200 N. Hamilton Rd., Peoria, IL 61614
OR follow the QR Code to donate online.

Luminary Kit – Pick up

Luminary Kit - Delivery

\$20 donation = 1 luminary kit = _____

\$20 donation = 1 luminary kit = _____

TOTAL DONATION: _____

TOTAL DONATION: _____



Keep up with the latest news and events:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Questions? Call Sarah at 309-243-8957 or email: sarah_kammerer1@yahoo.com

Almost Home Kids at OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois | 5200 N. Hamilton Road, Peoria, Illinois | (309) 573-0710