

# Feed My Sheep

Support for Formation Ministry  
in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

December 2013 Joyce Donadee & Lisa Brown, Editors ([jdjdonadee@gmail.com](mailto:jdjdonadee@gmail.com) & [lcbrown@stpaulspgh.org](mailto:lcbrown@stpaulspgh.org))

## Lots of Free Resources for Advent, Christmas & Epiphany

### Advent

**Jesse Tree** – Isaiah 11:1 “A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots.” A Jesse tree can be made for a classroom or sent home to be used with the family. Children can color or make the ornaments which are placed on the tree every night. The ornaments trace the heritage of Jesus going back to the beginning of the Bible. The Bible readings for each night retell the stories of the Bible from Creation to the birth of Jesus which falls on the 25<sup>th</sup> night, which is Christmas Eve.

<http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/19971201/FRIDGE/FRIDGE1.HTM>

**Advent Prayer cards** – one set for children and another for youth at [www.myfaithmylife.org](http://www.myfaithmylife.org)

**Advent wreath with stones, bowl, and candles**  
<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/522065781775559403/>

**Advent wreath prayers and other Advent/Christmas ideas** from Church Publishing  
<http://www.kingofpeace.org/advent/advent.htm>

### Christmas Nativity Set

You can print figures of the Nativity for children to color, cut out and fold to make their own Nativity Set – out of paper or cardstock. <http://goodgroundpress.com/holyfamilycutouts.aspx>

**Nativity ornament** made of popsicle sticks  
<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/522065781774140241/>

**“For Unto Us a Child is Born”** – Ornament out of popsicle sticks <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/522065781775554045/>

### Epiphany

**Chalking the Door** – On the Epiphany of Our Lord, January 6, family and friends gather at the main entrances to homes or apartments or church door and ask God’s blessing on their dwellings and all who live or visit there.  
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/IN-Formation/Epiphany2013.pdf>

**The Feast of Light; play** – This service is out of darkness and light and shows how the message of Jesus spread throughout the world and throughout the ages to the present day. It can be a simple liturgy of lighting the candles in the sanctuary or children can read it for each other during Children’s Chapel or Sunday school. (15 minutes)  
<https://www.churchpublishing.org/media/custom/IN-Formation/Epiphany2013.pdf>



Check out our Children’s Ministry Advent/Christmas Pinterest board for more ideas!  
<http://www.pinterest.com/edpchildrensmin/childrens-ministry-adventchristmas-edp/>

## St. Matthews is Reaching Out

St. Matthew’s in Homestead is hosting a “Happy Birthday Baby Jesus” party for the children in the Homestead area on December 21. We are expecting approximately 36 children.

Activities will include the telling of the Nativity story with the children using masks. There will also be a Christmas craft, games and carol singing. The overriding message: Jesus came to earth for all of us and loves all of us.

Santa will be there and each child will receive a treat bag that includes warm footies and mittens, Christmas coloring and activity packs, apples, oranges, bracelets with Christmas messages, and other goodies.

After the party the parents will be joining the children at our monthly soup supper where we share our joy in Christ and

What is happening in YOUR parish as far children, youth or families are concerned? Please email Lisa Brown ([lcbrown@stpaulspgh.org](mailto:lcbrown@stpaulspgh.org)) or Joyce Donadee ([jdjdonadee@gmail.com](mailto:jdjdonadee@gmail.com)) - we would love to hear from you!

*St. Matthew's—continued*

our love for our neighbors. The suppers are offered in thanksgiving for our joy and knowledge in Christ and serve the working poor, the indigent and homeless and those who are alone.

That same morning we will be distributing food baskets at our monthly food bank. We thank and praise God for our many blessings and the friends that we have made through our neighborhood programs. *Alice Ursin*

### **Forma Membership -**

It is not too late to receive a Diocesan scholarship to become a member of Forma, which is an Episcopal organization of almost 400 people involved in Children's Ministry. To find out more, check out the Forma website at <http://episcoforma.org/> Their postings provide many ideas for Sunday schools to use – everyone on our Children's Ministry Team is a member and values the help that it gives.

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### **Godly Play Core Training is Coming to Pittsburgh**

**Core Godly Play Training: Pittsburgh 02-14 CORE**  
Christ Church, North Hills  
5910 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Friday, February 21 from 5:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, February 22 from 8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, February 23 from 12:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

**The Rev. Cheryl V. Minor, Ph.D.**  
*Godly Play Foundation Trainer*

Early Registration \$295                      Standard Registration \$360  
Early registration are those received four or more weeks before the training date.

To know what Godly Play looks like, visit one of our Godly Play classrooms in the Diocese of Pittsburgh – at St. Michael's of the Valley, St. Andrew's (Highland Park), St. Stephen's, (Wilksburg), St. Brendan's (Franklin Park), and Christ Church North Hills; or watch a Godly Play Video <http://www.stjohns-stamford.org/educationgodlyplayvideo.php>. Six parishes in our Diocese have already signed up. There are four more openings. Invite your friends from other denominations. They are welcome to sign up (Godly Play is used by sixteen different Denominations). We need to have a minimum of 10 people sign up.

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is offering five \$100 scholarships to its members

- Dinner the first night and lunch the next day are included in registration
- Please read "Teaching Godly Play: How to Mentor the Spiritual Development of Children" by Jerome W. Berryman; the [Kindle edition](#) is now available on Amazon.
- Godly Play Foundation certificate awarded upon completion of Core training
- To support each member of the circle, participants are required to be present the entire training
- Refunds, discounts and pro-rates are not given for partial attendance of each module
- If you are unable to attend training, your paid tuition may be transferred to another person or for a future training. Contact the Foundation to obtain or apply credit.

### **REGISTRATION for Pittsburgh 02-14 CORE**

For registration you will need participants' names, email addresses, dietary requests and a credit card

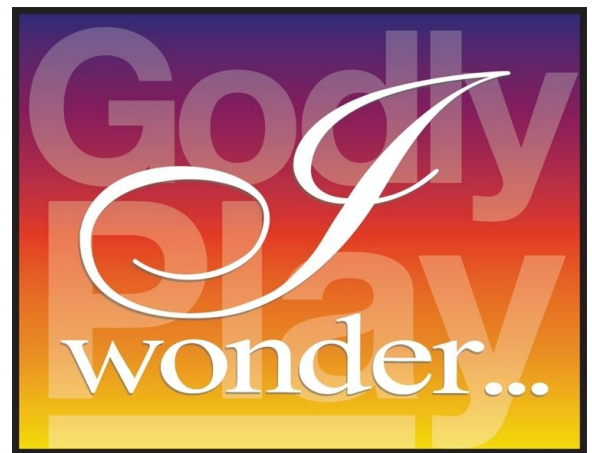
Assistance and registration links can be located at [www.GodlyPlayFoundation.org](http://www.GodlyPlayFoundation.org)

**Forma Conference,  
Alexandria, Virginia**



**January 22, 23, 24 2014**

Forma's National Conference will be held in Alexandria, VA January 22-24. Diocesan scholarships are still available for this event. This year the convention is within driving distance so that you can go, learn, and bring back new ideas. The Conference provides opportunities for networking, listening to nationally known speakers, attending workshops, seeing children's spiritual formation materials, and experiencing worship and prayer through the eyes of children. For more information contact Joyce Donadee at [jdjdonadee@gmail.com](mailto:jdjdonadee@gmail.com)



Godly Play® Foundation