ADVENT

ST. CATHARINE CHURCH

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come..."

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"Do This in Remembrance of Me" A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel

Why are **Homilies** so long anyway? To answer that question, we start by realizing that we don't always understand the Word of God perfectly when we first read it. Whenever we read a Bible passage, we should ask ourselves: "What is God saying here?" Sometimes it is pretty easy to listen to God; sometimes, it is not so easy. Sometimes reading the Bible can answer questions that we have; sometimes reading only seems to bring more questions. We humbly recognize that understanding everything about God and us is not always super-easy. So, in humility, we realize we need help. That is where the preachers of the Word come in–those who have been given a special grace to help God's people understand better his communication with us. With years of prayer and study, some preachers can become incredible resources, such as Cardinal Newman, who was known to preach on average about an hour and a half for every sermon!

Drawing Everyone Closer

In the homily, the bishop, priest, or deacon tries his best to help us hear what God is saying. We try to explain the Scripture and apply it to our lives in the local area. As we said last time, the whole point is to draw each heart in the congregation closer to Jesus. This is really important: the priest seeks out each heart. That is why sometimes the homily focuses on something you already know, do, or believe; that is why the homily might not always be perfectly on track with what you are thinking about. Because there are a lot of people in the pews with different backgrounds and experiences, preaching a homily that directly addresses everyone can be a little tricky. Have you noticed that sometimes the preacher says the same thing in a couple of ways? This is one way of helping different people to understand the same message.

Listening with Open Hearts

Make no mistake about it, though-the homily is not just the preacher trying to help people understand God's message to us. One of the most important parts of the homily involves everyone sitting in the pews: all are invited to listen with an open heart. Each one is encouraged to follow the homily in his or her heart, taking in what is helpful and being on the lookout for the true needs of the heart. If we believe that God is working through the ordained clergy who are preaching, then there will always be something in the homily for us; we just have to listen for it.

Another important part of listening to the homily is an openness to being challenged. If we think we already know it all (or enough), our hearts won't be ready to receive God's message to us through the preacher. We have to be ready to admit that we don't know everything and that we don't always understand everything perfectly. Listening to the homily takes some humility. I recall one of the seminary professors at Mount St. Mary's–Sister Joan–who had listened to decades of homilies day after day, including thousands by deacons in the seminary who were still learning their way. Even though she knew so much more than we did, even though at times it seemed we were trying her patience, she was always there in the front row, ready to listen attentively. What great humility! The preacher needs this same humility also, which is why we said above that he tries his best. Remember that when you hear something challenging, it is the preacher's duty to proclaim the truth, and perhaps could be God calling you closer to his heart through the preacher's very words.

This being said, we all know that the homily to the congregation is not always a spectacular touchdown pass. Sometimes we are distracted or tired. Sometimes we hope the preacher will speak on something in the readings that interests us, but he doesn't get to it. Whatever the case, the Lord only asks us to give a good effort at true listening, knowing there will be something there that will help us. And when that wooden pew seat starts to get a little hard, just think of the people in years gone by who listened to homilies for hours on end and remind yourself: "Wow, it is almost time for the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful!"

For Reflection:

- 1. Pray with the account of the Deacon Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-40. As you conclude your prayer, give thanks for those ordained ministers who help us understand and respond to God's Word in Scripture.
- 2. Help yourself engage with the homily at Mass by approaching this portion of the Liturgy as a treasure hunt or "game" of "hide and seek." What message has the Lord Jesus hidden for you in this homily?

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog



"Lord, Teach us to Pray"

-Luke 11:1

Prayer 101 What Every Catholic Should Know about Prayer with Mike Denz

> Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm Parish Hall – Refreshments Provided

Prayer & the Eucharist

with Jennifer Whitsett Spiritual Director

Saturday, December 16 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall Dinner and Childcare provided



Sign up for either or both nights here:



stcatharine.com/sacred-thinking

Women's Advent Book Study

REJOICE!

An Advent Pilgrimage Into the Heart of Scripture

THREE MEETING OPTIONS

Tuesdays: 7:30pm-9:00pm Beginning December 5th

Wednesdays: 8:00am-9:00am Beginning December 6th

Saturdays: 6:30am-8:00am Beginning December 9th

Children welcome at morning sessions

FR. MARK TOUPS

YEAR B

An Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture

God wants to draw you closer to himself this Advent. He wants to invite you away from the hustle and bustle to sit at his feet. And what better way to do that than through His Word? This new installment of the Rejoice! series from Ascension Press will immerse you in the readings that anchor us during the Advent season-the Sunday Mass readings.

This year's Advent pilgrimage (for the busy Catholic) will bear fruit in your life as Jesus comes to live more fully in your heart, and you experience greater joy and peace throughout the Advent season and beyond.

> **\$20 (includes book & refreshments)** www.stcatharine.com

Questions? Elyse Hueckel • ehueckel@gmail.com

JESUS MOVEMENT WINTER RETREAT

WE ALL NEED TO RETREAT WITH THE LORD AND WITHDRAW FROM THE JAM-PACKED SCHEDULES AND ROUTINES THAT SURROUND US. THAT'S WHY WE'RE INVITING YOU TO THE JESUS MOVEMENT WINTER RETREAT.

REGISTER NOW!

WHEN: DECEMBER 8-9TH WHO: 9TH-12TH GRADERS WHERE: DAMASCUS

7550 RAMEY ROAD CENTERBURG, OH 43011



JOIN US FOR A TIME OF COMMUNITY AND FUN, PRAYER AND ADORATION, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME REST WITH JESUS. WE WILL CONCLUDE THE RETREAT WITH THE OUTPOURING, OUR QUARTERLY WORSHIP EVENT.



PRESCHOOL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FOR LITTLE ONES AND THEIR FAMILIES

December

7 Little Saints
7 Pray & Play @ ADORE
8 Family Rosary @ 8pm and cookie exchange

January

4 Little Saints4 Pray & Play @ ADORE18 StoryTime with Jesus

February

Little Saints
 Pray & Play @ ADORE
 StoryTime with Jesus

March

7 Little Saints7 Pray & Play @ ADORE

April

4 Little Saints4 Pray & Play @ ADORE18 StoryTime with Jesus

May

2 Little Saints
 2 Pray & Play @ ADORE
 23 StoryTime with Jesus

Little Saints



Preschool aged little ones and their families learn about our Catholic Faith and the lives of the Saints! (9:30 - Lower Level)

Story Time with Jesus



Preschool aged little ones and their families come for a story and a short time of Adoration! (9:30 - Gallery)



On ADORE revival nights volunteers staff the childcare room so parents can go to Confession and Adoration. (7 - 8pm - Lower Level)

find out more at stcatharine.com Questions? email Toni (toni@stcatharine.com) or Heidi (heidithompson522@gmail.com)

St. Catharine School 7th Grade Class Presents:



Breakfast with Santa

 When: Saturday, December 16th 9:00-11:00 am
 Where: Sorohan Parish Center Cost: \$10.00/person



Reservation Includes:

Breakfast - pancakes, eggs, sausage, fresh fruit, juice and coffee
 Mrs. Claus' Bakeshop - items starting at \$1 (cash only)
 Crafts, Coloring & Face Painting
 Raffle ticket entries for the giant stocking
 Photo with Santa

Reservations may be made with the below form or on the St. Catharine Church website (https://stcatharine.com/breakfast-with-santa)

Reservations must be received no later than Mon, December 11th

Additional forms or questions, contact Stephanie Weber: <u>stephanieaweber@gmail.com</u>, (614) 571-3036

Reservation Form for Cash/Check Payments

Checks made payable to St. Catharine School (reservation name/7thBWS in memo)

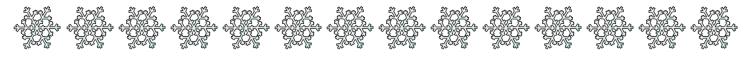
Reservation Name:

Phone Number:_____

Number of Adults x \$10.00_____

Number of Children x \$10.00_____

Return to school office, ATTN: Stephanie Weber (7thBwS)



FEASTING

December 2 Catholic New Year's Eve

December 3 1st Sunday of Advent

> December 6 St. Nicholas

December 8

Immaculate Conception Mass 8am, 7pm

> December 9 St. Juan Diego

December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent & Our Lady of Loreto

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe 7pm Mass & Family Consecration Day!

> December 13 St. Lucy

December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 16-24 Christmas Novena begins

December 24 4th Sunday of Advent

December 24

Christmas Eve Masses 4p, 6:30p, 10pm

December 25 Christmas Day Mass 11a

December 31 Feast of the Holy Family Lord God, let Your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

From the Advent Wreath blessing

Are you ready?

Advent is the beginning of a new year in the Church and the beginning of a busy time of year - shopping, visiting, wrapping, baking. It can be overwhelming! Set aside some time to prepare your heart for the birth of baby Jesus. Advent is full of beautiful feasts and fun traditions that are perfect for families preparing to receive God's greatest gift.

Choose just a few of the traditions of our Faith to help your family ready their hearts for Jesus. Consider tying some of the preparations you already do for Christmas to the feasts and traditions of the Church. Put up your tree on the feast of St. Nicholas, hang your Christmas lights on the feast of St. Lucy, or decorate your gingerbread house on the feast of Our Lady of Loreto. If you do them together anyway, why not share the stories of our Faith at the same time?

First Sunday of Advent (or December 1 for some traditions)

Advent wreath: Create an easy one with one pink and three purple candles (check the dollar store!) and evergreens from your own yard. A quick search online will bring up information about all the symbolism of the Advent wreath and for the traditional prayers.

Jesse Tree: This tradition traces salvation history from Creation through the birth of Jesus with readings and symbolic ornaments for each day of Advent. It is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom..." The Jesse Tree tells the stories of the people who lived before Jesus was born. They waited for Him, just as we wait for His birthday during Advent. Search online or email Toni Carmon for more about the Jesse Tree.

Spiritual Christmas Crib: Each day of December, we "build" one part of the stable by offering the suggested spiritual practice and saying the short prayer to create a beautiful "crib" for the Christ Child. The adult version in this bulletin begins on December 1.



St. Catharine

Advent 2023

December 6 - Feast of St. Nicholas

Santa Claus was born in Turkey. He became bishop of Myra. The Catholic Church recognizes Nicholas, bishop of Myra (aka Santa Claus), as a canonized Saint - which means he is in Heaven and can intercede to God for us. So let's celebrate! Learn some of the legends about St. Nicholas. In many homes, children set out one of their shoes by the fireplace with a letter to Santa on December 5. In the morning on December 6, maybe the letter will be replaced with a golden chocolate coin and a candy cane or an orange.

December 8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast (also a holy day of obligation opportunity) is not about the conception of Jesus, but of the Virgin Mary. Wear blue, go to Mass at St. Catharine and afterwards, join us for a family rosary and cookie exchange in the St. Peter room to honor our Blessed Mother.

December 10 - Our Lady of Loreto

Read online about the fun story of the Virgin Mary's house. There is also a video on Prime, called The Mystery of the Holy House. On this day, it can be fun to decorate a gingerbread house together. If you decorate the house to celebrate Our Lady of Loreto, don't forget to add the angels!

December 9 - St. Juan Diego and December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Share the story of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe with your children. Make Mexican hot chocolate (recipes online or buy Abuelita) and enjoy it with cookies for dessert after a fun Mexican meal of tamales, fajitas, or tacos to celebrate the day. Pray the joyful mysteries of the rosary together. If you have been doing the Mary's Mantle Consecration, join us after Tuesday evening Mass to say the consecration prayer together and receive a small gift to celebrate the day.

December 13 - St. Lucy Day

Her name means light, so consider celebrating this day with a nighttime car ride to look at Christmas lights. Pile everyone in the car in their pajamas with some hot chocolate and sing Christmas carols as you drive around your neighborhood. This is one of those traditions your children won't forget next year.

December 16-24 - The Children's Christmas Crib and The Golden Nights: Praying the O Antiphons

Keep the focus on preparing for the birth of Baby Jesus. The Children's version of the Christmas Crib begins on December 16. For each of the nine days leading up to Christmas, children can draw another part of the stable, offer the spiritual practice, and say the short prayer. The "Golden Nights" - or O Antiphons might be for adults and older children. The O Antiphons are short prayers from the Divine office (during Vespers), each addressing God with a different title each day ("O Wisdom," "O Root of Jesse," etc.), calling on Him to fulfill His promise to send a Savior. In some families, the Golden Nights are accompanied by special treats (of course) - after prayer you can share whatever golden wrapped candies you find that year, a different surprise each night. You can find the prayers online or email Toni Carmon (toni@stcatharine.com) to pick up a booklet.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

This is not the end, Christmas is just beginning! Swap out your Advent candles for white or gold candles and use your Advent wreath until at least Epiphany. Crank up the Christmas music and bring out the cookies! Can you keep celebrating God's great gift to us until the feast of the Baptism of Jesus? Merry Christmas!

Truly, there's not enough room on this page to include all the fun things your family could do to celebrate the great Gift God has given us, His Son. Don't try to do them all. Start small and have fun. Have a blessed Advent.



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QUESTIONS OR SPONSOR INTEREST? Contact Deputy Grand Knight, Ed Stange at 440-479-8695 or deputy@koc11354.org CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

HELP ADORN ST. CATHARINE CHURCH BY REMEMBERING SOMEONE SPECIAL THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

\$10 for each listing/flower Names will be included in the Christmas bulletin Forms are due Thursday, December 14th

Visit www.stcatharine.com/christmas-flowers Or fill out the following form and place in

an offering basket or at the Church Office Make checks payable to St. Catharine

In honor of:

In memory of:

Your Name:

Phone Number:

Number of Flowers:

Total Flowers x \$10:



Build a Spiritual Christmas Crib

This Advent, build a spiritual crib in your heart for Jesus. Every day, starting with December 1, read (and do) the suggested spiritual practice. Say the short prayer (in italics) as often as you can remember. By Christmas, your heart will be a worthy crib for the Divine Babe of Bethlehem.

1-THE STABLE

Offer your heart to the little infant Jesus. Ask Him to make it His home. -Sweet Jesus, take my heart and make it meek and pure.

7-HAY

Supply the manger with hay, by overcoming feelings of pride, anger, or envy. - Jesus, teach me to know and correct my sins.

9-SWADDLING CLOTHES

Prepare these for Baby Jesus by folding your hands when you pray slowly & thoughtfully. - Jesus, let me love you more.

11-FUEL

Bring fuel to the crib of Jesus. Give up your own will; obey your superiors cheerfully. - Jesus, let me do Your will in all things.

2-THE ROOF Protect the Infant Jesus from rain and snow by avoiding every uncharitable remark. - Jesus, teach me to love my neighbor as myself.

3-CREVICES

Keep wind and cold from every crevice in the stable walls. Guard your senses against temptations. - Jesus keep temptations out of my heart.

4-COBWEBS

Clean the cobwebs from your crib by removing from your heart the desire to be praised. - Jesus, I want to please You in all I do today. 5-FENCE

Build a fence around the crib of your heart by keeping a strict watch over your eyes, especially at prayer. - Sweet Jesus, I long to see You. 6-MANGER

Fix the best corner of your heart for Jesus' manger by abstaining from what you like most in comfort today. - Dear Jesus, let me suffer for love of You.

8-SOFT STRAW

Fill your manger with soft straw through acts of sacrifice: bear cold without complaint or take less at meals. *-Mary, use these* sacrifices to prepare my heart for Jesus.

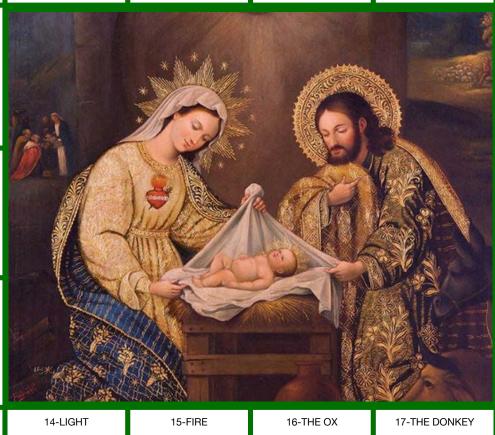
10-BLANKETS

Provide the manger with soft warm blankets. Avoid harsh words; be kind and gentle. - Jesus, help me be meek and humble like You.

12-WATER

Practice humility to bring fresh water to the crib. Honor the silence of Mary by not speaking of yourself. - Mary, help me to learn humility.

13-PROVISIONS	14-LIGHT	15-FIRE	16-THE OX	17-THE DONKEY	18-GIFTS
Bring a supply of food to the crib. Deprive yourself of some candy or treats. - Sweet Jesus, be my nourishment & strength.	See that the crib has sufficient light. Be neat and orderly today; keep everything in its place Jesus, be the life and light of my soul.	Warm the crib of your heart with a cozy fire. Be grateful to God for sending His Son. - Jesus, keep me close to Your Sacred Heart.	Lead the ox to the crib. Obey cheerfully without excuses and without asking "why." - I will obey for love of You, Jesus.	Bring the donkey to the crib. Use your strength to serve others. - Jesus, accept my service of love; I offer it for those who do not love You.	Gather some gifts for Baby Jesus and His Mother. Give to the poor and say a decade of the rosary Jesus, accept my gifts and possess my heart.
19-LAMBS	20-SHEPHERDS	21-THE KEY	22-ANGELS	23-ST. JOSEPH	24-BLESSED VIRGIN



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The Next Two Weeks...

Week of December 3rd First Week of Advent

Sunday, December 3rd

First Sunday of Advent		
8:30am	Holy Mass (Richard Lumpe)	
9:30am	Family of Faith: Morning in Bethlehem	
11:00am	Holy Mass (Jack Knauer)	
5:00pm	Holy Mass (People of the Parish)	
6:00pm	High School & Middle School Youth Group	
6:00pm	Catechism in a Year Dinner and Discussion Group	

Monday, December 4th

8:00am	Holy Mass (Bob & Elmira Leister)
6:30pm	Family of Faith
6:30pm	Scouts
7:00pm	Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 5th

7:00pm	Holy Mass (Thomas Fredrick Beck)
7:30pm	Confessions

Wednesday, December 6th		
0.00		-

9:00am Holy Mass (Emma Petrosky)

Thursday, December 7th

Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church		
8:00am	Holy Mass (Deceased Members of Gallen Family)	
9:30am	Little Saints	
3:15pm	Courageous Daughters of the Eucharist	
5:30pm	Squires of St. Catharine	
7:00pm	ADORE Revival Night (Confession & Adoration)	

Friday, December 8th

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		
8:00am	Holy Mass (Margaret Petrosky)	
9:00am	Holy Mass	
7:00pm	Holy Mass (Bill Diehl Sr. and Jr.)	
8:00pm	Cookie Exchange and Family Rosary	

Saturday, December 9th

7:15am	That Man Is You!
8:30am	Holy Mass (Dunstan & Machock Families)
9:00am	Confessions
9:00am	First Reconciliation Retreat

Offering (Sunday, No	vember 12th)	
Total Offering	\$12,381.00	
Diocesan Tax (8%)	-\$990.48	
Net	\$11,390.52	
Offering (Sunday, November 19th)		
Total Offering	\$15,810.00	
Diocesan Tax (8%)	-\$1,264.80	
Net	\$14,545.20	
Offering (Sunday, November 26th)		
Total Offering	\$13,736.00	
Diocesan Tax (8%)	-\$1,098.88	
Net	\$12,637.12	

Securely Give Online

To quickly give online, simply scan this QR Code. This will take you to our secure online giving platform at Our Sunday Visitor.



Week of December 10th Second Week of Advent

Sunday, December 10th

Second Sunday of Advent		
8:30am	Holy Mass (People of the Parish)	
9:30am	Confirmation Preparation	
11:00am	Holy Mass (Mike Gallen)	
5:00pm	Holy Mass (Elizabeth & Charles Sahr)	
6:00pm	High School Youth Group Jesus Night	

Monday, December 11th

8:00am	Holy Mass (Stan Kebe)
6:30pm	Scouts
7:00pm	Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 12th

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe7:00pmHoly Mass (Charles Arter)7:30pmConfessions

Wednesday, December 13th

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr 9:00am Holy Mass (Hermine P. Muellerleile)

Thursday, December 14th

Memorial of Sain	t John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
8:00am	Holy Mass (William Manierre Sr.)
3:15pm	Virtues & Arrows Advent Party
7:00pm	ADORE Night (Confession & Adoration)
7:30pm	Knights of Columbus

Friday, December 15th

8:00am Holy Mass (William Manierre Jr.)

Saturday, December 16th

8:30am	Holy Mass (Ellswoth & Alma Kegelmeyer)
9:00am	Confessions
9:00am	Breakfast With Santa
10:00am	First Reconciliation

St. Vincent De Paul Society December Food Pantry Need

Canned F<u>ruit</u>

Please leave donations at wooden boxes near Church entrances. Thank you for your generosity!

Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

Sunday-Friday 6:00am-12:00am Saturday 6:00am-4:00pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Fridays at 3:00pm Confession Times

Tuesday7:30pmThursday7:00pmSaturday9:00am

By appointment info@stcatharine.com 614-231-4509

> 614-231-4509 500 S Gould Rd Columbus, OH 43209

www.stcatharine.com info@stcatharine.com Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS AT ST. CATHARINE

ADVENT

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH HOLY MASS: 8:00AM • 9:00AM • 7:00PM COOKIE EXCHANGE & FAMILY ROSARY: 8:00PM

ADVENT ADORE NIGHTS

ADORE is a candle-lit evening of Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

7:00PM • ADORE REVIVAL NIGHT A guided evening of Healing and Ministry centered around the Holy Eucharist, with an opportunity for additional prayer ministry after Adoration. Childcare provided.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH 7:00PM • ADORE NIGHT WITH ENSEMBLE UNA VOCE Gregorian Chant and Sacred Polyphony by Ensemble una Voce, under the direction of William Heyer.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:00PM • ADORE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In it we listen to Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or song that reflects on the lesson's message.

CHRISTMAS • THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Day, December 25th, falls on a Monday this year, which means that Masses on Sunday, December 24th present the special situation of being two different feasts: the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Vigil of Christmas. Both feasts remain obligatory. Please carefully read the schedule below.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS 8:30AM 11:00AM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 4:00PM 6:30PM 10:00PM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 11:00AM





AN IMMACULATE Pookie Exchange

Friday, December 8th The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

6:30pm: Family Rosary **7:00pm: Holy Mass** Cookie Exchange after Mass

BRING 1-3 DOZEN OF YOUR FAVORITE COOKIE TO SHARE, AND A COPY OF YOUR RECIPE! VISIT THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY PAGE TO LEARN MORE

Bring your best cookies

