



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

4B News

Mr. Nguyen's Classroom Newsletter



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

1021 Baker Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

December 12, 2009

Advent Dayby-Day: A Season of Surprises
By: Kathy Coffey

Third Week of Advent

Sunday: Clarity

John the Baptist knows exactly who he is: a witness who can't even do the servant's work, unfastening a sandal strap. Such conviction about one's self is a quality all need in Advent. When we're tempted to be the extravagant Santa, the perfect hostess or the wise guru, we feel frazzled and torn, our energies pulled a hundred ways. Just as John knew who he was, so do we: God's child; God's messenger.



Monday: An unsettling faith

At times we honestly do see Jesus; at other times we're not so sure. So we can sympathize with the chief priests and elders who approach him. Jesus deflects their question with another question. They realize that either answer they give will lead into a quagmire. We can admire their answer, "we do not know." Often "we don't know" is the best response, showing the dilemma of being human: already here, not yet arrived.

Tuesday: First or second son?

God's promise to remove braggarts from our midst is exhilarating. God will send instead faithful, humble people who don't lie about what they'll do; they simply, quietly get the job done. In gospel terms, they are the first son. Maybe they don't collect awards or trumpet achievements, but eventually they do the father's work. When have we been more like the second son than the first?

Wednesday: A bright torch in jail

One intriguing thing about today's Gospel isn't recorded—John's response to Jesus' description of his work. Jesus' answer doesn't mention glorious trumpets, excessive wealth or triumphant armies. But the word he sends corresponds to the core of Scripture, directly attuned to the prophets. We can imagine John receiving this word and retreating to a dark corner. There, perhaps, he grinned broadly and treasured Jesus' message for the rest of his life.

Continued on back...

SAINTS FUN FACTS by mario d. macari

SAINTE GENEVIEVE ONCE STOPPED ATILA THE HUN FROM INVADING PARIS BY PERSUADING THE PEOPLE TO REPENT, FAST AND PRAY RATHER THAN FLEE THE CITY! WHEN THE PRAYING STARTED, THE BARBARIAN SUDDENLY CHANGED COURSE AND THE CITY WAS SAVED!



Upcoming Events

- Tue. 12/15: Christmas Sweatshirt and Jeans
- Thu. 12/17: Jan. lunch orders due
- Dec. 19 - Jan 10: Christmas break
- Sat. & Sun. Jan. 1-2, '10 & Jan. 9-10, '10
Mater Dei Tournament
- Mon. 1/11: School resumes
- Fri. 1/15: NOON dismissal
- Mon. 1/18: MLK Jr. holiday
- Fri. 1/22: Feb. lunch orders due
- Mon. 1/25: Spirit Attire Monday
- Jan. 25 - 29: Catholic Schools Week

Late Advent

is a time when we intensify our desire for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

Thursday - December 17: A feminine viewpoint
One diversion during the long string of “begats” in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus is to listen for the names of his great-great-grandmothers. Tamar’s story, found in Genesis 38, is summarized: Widowed twice, she becomes pregnant by her father-in-law, Judah. Rahab runs a brothel; Boaz must negotiate for Ruth at the city gates; King David has Bathsheba’s husband murdered so he can marry her. They are sad stories because the women are faceless; with Jesus’ coming, women finally start being recognized as persons with full rights.

Friday - Dec. 18: Not the scene on Hallmark cards
Much as we enjoy the coziness of our decorated homes, approaching this special feast, it’s important to remember that the first Christmas was chaotic, unplanned, uncomfortable. Life for refugees isn’t easy, and Jesus chose to come in the hardest possible circumstances, showing from the beginning his solidarity with those who suffer. Joseph’s fidelity to Mary, despite the public shame, is the anchor that holds the small family together.

Saturday - December 19: The symphony begins
Today’s readings sound like a musical overture, touching themes which climax on Christmas Day. The first theme is that God’s work happens without fanfare in remote regions. The second is the surprising group of people God chooses: barren women who have profound hope. The third is the initial response of people who meet God’s heralds: terror.

We know from our experience that God often comes through what we dread: change, insecurity, disease or death. Then we must sit with our fears long enough to become confident of transformation.



... to the following students who earned an A+ on the following tests.

<i>Religion - Liturgical Year</i>			
Michael	Kelsey	Hope	Emily
Julia			
<i>Little House in the Big Woods Ch. 11</i>			
Michael	Josh	Aubrey	Katherine
Jeremy	Hope	Marissa G	Emily
Julia	Lia	Kayla	Maile
Trinity	John-Adrian	Daniel	
<i>Pronoun Test (90% or better)</i>			
Andrew	Maile	Trinity	Charlie
Tiffeny	Daniel		
<i>Math Ch. 3, Section C</i>			
Josh	Kelsey	Marisa G	Alex
Zachary	Julia	Trinity	
<i>Spelling 15</i>			
Aubrey	Kelsey	Katherine	Marissa G
Daniel	Zachary	Andrew	Emily
Julia	Kayla	Tommy	Maile

<i>Upcoming Tests</i>		
<i>Religion</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>next year</i>
<i>Reading</i>	<i>Little House 12+13</i>	<i>Wed 12/16</i>
<i>Spelling</i>		<i>Friday 12/18</i>
<i>Math</i>	<i>Ch. 4, Section A</i>	<i>Friday 12/18</i>
<i>Language</i>	<i>Adjectives</i>	<i>TBA</i>
<i>Science</i>	<i>Unit A, Ch. 4</i>	<i>Thu 12/17</i>
<i>Social Studies</i>		<i>Check Planner</i>
<i>Spanish, Music, Computer</i>		<i>Check Planner</i>

Weekly Giggle

One early September the Native American tribal elders asked the chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he too had lost touch with reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had idea about how to predict the coming winter. The chief decided to take a modern approach; he called the National Weather Service.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

Two weeks later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?'

'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him. As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked. The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'