

Catholic Culture Update for the week beginning December 9th, 2018

Quote to carry in your heart this week

“The LORD has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126

December 9th is the Second Sunday of Advent. “Practice of Faith –In today’s Psalm response, we rejoice in all the good things God has done for us. Among those good things is the grace we receive in the Sacrament of Baptism that allows us to share in God’s divine life and to act out of God’s love. When we fail to allow God to work in us for the good, we seek forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and are restored to grace. ♦ Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance during Advent, at a parish communal Penance service or at individual confession. ♦ In the Angelus on December 6th, 2015, Pope Francis asked his audience to question whether they feel as Christ does and accept apologies without retribution. Reflecting on today’s Gospel, he asked them to consider whether they have opened their hearts to receive the salvation God offers. Consider reading the pope’s reflection as your examination of conscience: w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2015/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20151206.html ♦ Set aside time for journaling and quiet prayer, making a list of the great things the Lord is doing for you. Rejoice in the Lord’s goodness.” AT HOME with WORD 2019. LTP, page 21

“Scripture Insights > In today’s First Reading, the author of Baruch addresses personified Jerusalem, who is grieving over her people in exile in Babylon. He attempts to console her, telling her to take off her mourning garments and wrap herself in the robe of God’s justice. The crown of God’s glory that she receives is probably Aaron’s priestly crown with its engraving, “Sacred to the Lord” (Exodus 28:37). In addition, she will receive a new name, “the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship.” In other words, Jerusalem will become the priest of God’s temple, and she will rejoice as her people come back to her in pilgrimage. What an amazing image of God’s care and protection! The Gospel describes a scene in which John the Baptist is called by God in the wilderness and responds by proclaiming a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” This is not the Baptism that those becoming Christian seek. Rather, John is calling the people to commit themselves to an immersive experience of repentance. Yet God is a gracious God, and the reward will be great for those who accept the challenge. Quoting Isaiah, John says that the valleys will be filled and the mountains made low to make straight the way so all may know God’s salvation. The Second Reading echoes many of the same themes, especially joy at the recognition of God’s care and protection and the call to be pure and blameless when at last we stand before God when Christ returns in glory.

- How does the author of the First Reading show God extending consolation?
- When you have needed consolation, how are paths made straight and valleys filled so that you could feel whole again?
- Following the pattern of today’s Responsorial Psalm, write a personal prayer of lament-turned-to-trust.” AT HOME with WORD 2018. LTP, page 21

December 10th is **World Human Rights Day**. “Especially this year, Dec. 10 brings the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This important document was drafted by John Peters Humphrey, late of Hampton, New Brunswick. He was an international human rights lawyer who worked for the first human rights division at the U.N.” <https://www.crc-canada.org/en/a-prayer-for-human-rights-day-2018/>



<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

December 12th is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. “Today the Church throughout America (North, Central, and South) celebrates Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of America. Today is a feast in Canada, but in many Hispanic countries, such as Mexico, it is raised to a solemnity. The story of the origins of the miraculous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is

well known. Juan Diego was a quiet, humble man, a poor peasant. When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to tell the local bishop to build a church in her honour, Juan Diego became a very reluctant messenger. The bishop would not believe him. So Mary filled Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak, with roses in December, and when he emptied out these beautiful flowers at the bishop's feet, there, imprinted on his tilma, was a wonderful image of the Virgin, dressed like a young Aztec woman. Our Lady of Guadalupe, or *La Morenita*, as she is sometimes called – “the little dark one” – said to Juan Diego: “Now and understand that I am the ever virgin Mary, Mother of the true God through whom all things live.... Listen and understand, my humblest son. There is nothing to frighten and distress you. Do not let your heart be troubled, and let nothing upset you. Is it not I, your Mother, who is here? Are you not under my protection? Are you not, fortunately, in my care?” (*Benedictine Daily Prayer*, The Liturgical Press, p. 1698) Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 150 *Our Lady, inspire us to do what we can to have reconciliation in our relationships with our First Nations, Métis and Innu peoples.*

The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council, founded by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) in 1998, proposed that the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe be a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. All are invited to join their indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayer and acts of solidarity. **In Sault Ste. Marie, on December 12th we are invited to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Garden River for 1:30 for the rosary; 2:00 for Mass; followed by a social.**

December 13th is the **Advent Day of Confessions from 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Precious Blood Cathedral.** Various priests will be available all day for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As we prepare for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, take the opportunity to encounter God's mercy through this Sacrament. Prepare your heart, prepare the Way of the Lord.

December 13th is **Taize Prayer** at St. Jerome's parish from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Come and rest awhile.

December 13th is the **memorial of St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr.** “St. Lucy (c. +304), even from a young age, had a burning desire to serve God and an infinite love for the poor. Living in Syracuse, a city in Sicily, she fell prey to the Diocletian persecutions, which eventually resulted in her martyrdom. She resisted a man, believed to be a Roman soldier, who tried to rape her. He, in turn, denounced her as a Christian and had her tortured and killed. Numerous legends revolve around her death, but one that has gained popularity is that she tore out her eyes in an act to resist her attacker. Her name comes from the Latin *lux* / Lucia, meaning light; therefore, many northern countries honour her at this time of year when darkness is pervasive. Sweden celebrates the virginity and martyrdom of St. Lucy during the festival of light with a sacred process of young girls clothed in white dresses with red sashes, and crowned with lit candles. She is the patron saint of those with eye troubles and those needing awareness.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 150-151 *St. Lucy we pray for your intercession for all who cannot see and for those who will not see. Sit in a room without the lights on for a few minutes and pray for those who have trouble seeing.*

December 14th is the **memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church.** “John of the Cross (1542-1591) grew up near Avila in poverty. His father died when he was young, and his widowed mother struggled to support the family. Shortly after his ordination in 1567, he met Teresa of Avila and was drawn into her reform of the Carmelites. The reform set Carmelite brothers against brother, and John was even imprisoned but used the time to write the *Spiritual Canticle*. For this, and for his other great work, *Dark Night of the Soul*, he is considered one of the greatest poets to write in Spanish.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 151 *St. John when we are feeling misunderstood, give us the courage to stand by our convictions. Write a verse of poetry to celebrate St. John's day.*

Doing Justice and Creating Hope – a quote for the week

On December 10, 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in the United Nations. Today peoples of the world know that they have rights under the law that give them hope. Let us do justice by ensuring that our actions are just and kind toward all we meet.

Ontario Catholic Student Graduate Expectations – A discerning believer formed in the Catholic faith community – “In a society marked by personality cults, we are called to bear witness to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, and to reverence Him in the poor, the lowly, and the marginalized.” This Moment of Promise

Catholic Character Education and the Virtue of Hope

Hope is a theological virtue, God knows that we need it to live so God gives it to us as a gift along with faith and love. “Hope means expecting that the future is open, that change is possible, and that we can make a difference.” Growing in Christian Morality page 41.

Living Our Mission Statement

We strive to create sacred learning environments. It is the liturgical season of Advent. We wait consciously to decorate for Christmas in order to teach our students that the season of Advent helps us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus’ birthday celebration at Christmas. The classroom prayer centre ought to have a purple cloth on it.

Staff Self-Care Tip of the Week – Do something for the Kid in you every day. Keeps the joy alive within.

Christian Meditation Insight – “Daily Wisdom – I was talking to somebody once some time ago who had been meditating for some time and the penny had only just dropped, that you don’t have to think about the meaning of the word. I was surprised, and they were surprised, in the way that it had taken them so long to hear what they had heard a hundred times. Every time they heard a talk, or read something about meditation, they would have come across that – ‘Meditation is not what you think’. But it doesn’t register. It has to happen in us. We have to see that the linguistic meaning of the word is not the meaning, is not what matters, and that what matters is the experience. And in silence, experience and the meaning are one.” The Experience of Being, Laurence Freeman OSB 2018 C

Governance – Strategic Direction of the Multi Year Strategic Plan

January 16th will be the Inaugural mass and the Chair’s message for the new Board of Trustees. Plan to attend.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada 2012 Calls to Action

“In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission makes the following calls to action.

Education for Reconciliation

63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:

iv. Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.

Twenty-first Century Learning

<https://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=11191CNU> > Hillsong Worship sings ‘The Lord’s Prayer’ – Christian Music Video – 4.43 min

<https://www.catholicbrain.com/> > Catholic Religious Education platform > Brother Francis presents The Days of Advent > a daily seasonal celebration of the Lord, sign up

www.gratefulness.org > subscribe to this daily email to provide yourself with messages of gratefulness

https://ingeniumcanada.org/aviation/education/legacy-series.php?utm_source - The [Canada Aviation and Space Museum](#) is pleased to present *The Legacy Series*, a collection of free teaching tools to engage your students in powerful stories of the Second World War during Remembrance Week, Nov. 3-11, 2018. [particularly useful for Grade 10-12 social science classes]

<http://wccm.org/> > World Community for Christian Meditation > This is a site for Christian Meditation for teachers and students alike.

www.CARFLEO.com > best kept secret for religious education teachers of every grade

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources> > Resources for teaching difficult topics in history

Saints Kit – All the saints of the Roman Calendar and More by Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich, S.N.D., and other Sisters of Notre Dame, Chardon

“St. Damasus I – December 11th – Being a leader is not easy. Damasus I was elected pope at a crisis-filled time in the Church. In addition there were divisions between the East and West in the Roman Empire. Damasus tried to make decisions that showed progress yet held onto tradition. Damasus encouraged Christian missionaries, had architects restore and build churches and restore and decorate the tombs in the catacombs. He searched for relics of forgotten martyrs. He reformed the liturgy, making Latin the official language for worship instead of Greek. He had St. Jerome revise a Latin translation of Scripture, and he fought various

heresies. Because of Damasus, the emperor Theodosius made Christianity the state religion. After Damasus was elected, a small group elected another man, Ursinus, to be pope. Finally Ursinus was exiled, but a few years later he returned with his followers and carried out a plot to get Damasus accused of a serious crime. Damasus defended himself both in civil court and in front of forty-four bishops at a Church synod. He proved himself innocent. The struggle of Damasus reminds us that Jesus promised his followers the same treatment that he received and the same victory. Damasus' faith in the risen Jesus shines out from the epitaph that he wrote for his tomb: "He who walking on the sea could calm the bitter waves, who gives life to the dying seeds of the earth; he who was able to loose the mortal chains of death, and after three days' darkness could bring again to the upper world the brother for sister Martha: he, I believe, will make Damasus rise again from the dust." *St. Damasus, pray for us!*" Card 175

CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning by David O'Brien – Catechist October 2018 page 18-19

Sacramental Celebrations – Test your knowledge of the Christian mysteries

1. At Mass, the _____ begins when the priest asks the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood.

- A. **consecration** B. homily C. Gospel D. Sign of Peace

2. If you commit a mortal sin, you should _____.

- A. blame someone else C. avoid getting caught
B. go to Confession D. pretend you didn't do it

3. If God calls you to a vocation, you will know and respond _____.

- A. **when you are open and ready** C. when you are old enough
 B. at birth D. next Christmas

4. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of _____."

- A. a galaxy far, far away **C. hosts**
 B. the Milky Way D. Hogwarts

5. The priests always wear the same clothes with the same colours at Mass all year. **T or F**

CATHOLIC I.Q. – Quizzes for Fun and Learning by David O'Brien – Catechist October 2018 page 18-19

1. During Year C of the Church's liturgical cycle of readings, the Gospel readings are drawn primarily from

- A. Matthew B. Mark C. Luke D. John

2. What did John the Baptist call the Pharisees and Sadducees?

- A. whitened sepulchers B. righteous C. big bad bullies D. brood of vipers

3. Which of the following is *not* part of the Mass?

- A. general intercessions B. Penitential Rite C. preface D. ciborium


4. "The glory of God is a human being fully alive." This quote is attributed to which saint?

- A. St. Irenaeus B. St. Francis C. St. Nicholas D. St. Margaret of Scotland

5. The Church uses this word to describe the fact that "the Son of God assumed a human nature to accomplish our salvation in it."

- A. Annunciation B. Incantation C. Intinction D. Incarnation

Taking Jesus to the Movies ...A blog by Pat Carter

Cheaper by the Dozen – This movie was released in 2003 starring Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt. It is a zany movie about a family with of 14 who get into trouble at every turn. Coach Baker gets his dream job coaching football at his alma mater and Mrs. Baker has her book published and must go to sell it on the circuit. The antics the children do to entertain themselves are crazy. I have seen this movie more than once but it is still entertaining. I give this movie /5 hearts.

A Blog for Eclectic Readers – by Pat Carter csj

Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewel – a family in London have their brilliant daughter kidnapped by the daughter's math tutor who holds her captive for eighteen months. There are so many twists in the plot, the reader is hooked immediately and cannot put the book down until the end. I give this book 😊😊😊😊/5 happy faces

Catholic WORD of the Week – For Those Who Read to the end...Just like the credits at the movies

“Hagiography – a term derived from two Greek words (*hagios* meaning “holy,” and *graphein* meaning “to write”), signifying the writing of the lives of the saints or books about the saints. Sources for investigation include martyrologies, liturgical texts, calendars, legends and biographies. From the seventeenth century, the Bollandists have been responsible for this investigation.” Our Sunday's Visitor Catholic Encyclopedia, page 460