



Huron-Superior Catholic

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Catholic Culture Update #13

Quote to carry through the week

“To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.” Psalm 25:1b

November 28th is First Sunday of Advent “Practice of Hope – “The Gospel tells us that “people will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming.” Today’s readings from Luke may bring to mind terrifying images from movies. A doomsday scenario, however, is not the point of the reading. At the start of the Advent season, Luke provides a sense of hope. The awaited Christ child is a gift to us and is our pathway to living forever with God. This Christ child also is the Son of Man, who will be seen “coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

- ✚ If you have not already done so, acquire materials that will help to lead you spiritually through this liturgical season. Consider Liturgy Training Publications’ calendar resources that include seasonal explanations and notations of the saints.
- ✚ Make or purchase an Advent wreath [or an Advent calendar if you have young children] to celebrate the season.
- ✚ Embrace the journey through this season of the liturgical year and try not to allow “the anxieties of daily life” to distract you.” AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 13.

Scripture Insights > “On this First Sunday of Advent, Christians begin preparing for the coming of the messiah. The word *advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means “arrival.” The Advent season allows us to prepare for a dual arrival: the coming of the messiah into the world through the birth of Jesus and the second coming of the risen Christ in glory. Our readings cross both expectations. In a time of suffering for the people of Judah, Jeremiah looks forward with hope to God’s fulfilling the promise of the Davidic covenant. The time is coming, says he, for God to raise up his Anointed One from the line of David to redeem Israel to return justice to the land and its people. The psalmist follows, developing the essence of this covenantal relationship by petitioning God to continue teaching his ways and remember his fidelity, righteousness, and mercy. The hope is for an abiding, life-giving relationship, made manifest in the coming gift of the Christ. The New Testament readings spring from the lived reality of this relationship in history. Paul pleads for help for God’s people to abound in love, manifesting that of God the Father in the gift of Jesus the Son through loving care for creation and one another. How we choose to act and interact with one another should reflect this

relationship. The hope now is for the time to come, as Jesus expounds in Luke's Gospel. Jesus calls disciples of all time to stand strong in the face of fear and distraction. Life in covenant relationship with the One who created us and the One who redeemed us is the longer, possibly harder road, but the journey is worth the effort in hope for a destination in union.

- ✚ Finding hope amid suffering is difficult. How do your relationships with God and your loved ones help you to meet this challenge?
- ✚ How might the seduction of immediate gratification and comfort be the most dangerous threat of all in our question to live in right relationship with God?
- ✚ Reflect on Paul's teaching. How might you better manifest God's love by how you care for others in the coming year?

AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 13.

Month of December – “The word for the last month of the year means, in Latin, “tenth month.” The ancient calendar of the Romans began in March, which made December the tenth month. In ancient times, people of northern Europe stopped counting the days during winter. There wasn't any farm work to do, so there wasn't any reason to keep track of time. They called this free time *Yule*. This word comes from the same root word as the word *wheel*. The days of Yule connected the old year to the new.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 146

“Advent – Advent begins the liturgical year for the Church. The beginnings of things usually need some advance preparation, and the liturgical year is no different. One way to approach the beginnings of the Christian life is to look at Christ himself. Advent prepares the faithful through joyful waiting and hopeful expectation for Christ's coming. Advent begins four Sundays prior to the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas), December 25th. While Advent readies us for this joyful anniversary of Christ Jesus' birth, there is more. Advent contains a double purpose. In addition to the Christmas preparations, it also prepares us for the second coming of Christ at the very end of time. The first part of Advent draws our attention to the end of time. At Mass during the Eucharistic Prayer, the congregation jubilantly sings “We proclaim your Death, O Lord,/and profess your Resurrection/ until you come again.” He will come, as the Nicene Creed says, “to judge the living and the dead.” We sometimes refer to this as the second coming. He will rule over all nations. He will judge with justice tempered by mercy. His coming is to bring about a complete integration of peace among all living things: people, animals, nature, and the whole cosmos. We do not know when this will happen. The Scriptures tell us that we do not know the day (see Luke 12:40), but we are to be on the watch (see Matthew 24:42). This waiting and watching characterizes the spirituality of Advent. The readings, traditions, and rituals of this liturgical time help Catholics practice the art of joyful anticipation and holy patience.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 3

To prepare your classroom for Advent – change the green cloth in your prayer centre to purple. Set up the Advent wreath if you have one for your class. PLEASE do not decorate for Christmas until after the 13th of December. I realize that it is a challenge given that the stores are all decorated for Christmas since Hallowe'en. Advent is a holy season during which we need to practice the art of joyful anticipation and holy patience. It is like the gift of meditation...it is a counter cultural expression of our faith in this secular world.

November 30th is the feast of **St. Andrew, Apostle**. “St. Andrew (first century) was the first of the Twelve to meet Jesus. He was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist who saw John point out Jesus and say, “Here is the Lamb of God” (John 1:36). Andrew told his brother, Peter, “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:41) and brought him to Jesus. St. Andrew is venerated as the *protoclete*, or first-called, by the Eastern Churches. Tradition says that he may have preached in parts of Asia Minor and Greece before being crucified on an x-shaped cross. The Scots claim Andrew as their patron saint, and his cross is on their flag.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 145 *St. Andrew remind us that Advent is a time of waiting for the Messiah to come again. Every time you draw or make an x today, think about St. Andrew.*

December 1st is **World Aids Day** – “Those simple loops of red ribbon that people wear on their lapels today are recognized around the world – because people everywhere have encountered AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that leads to AIDS if left untreated. Unknown in 1980, HIV and AIDS have by now created a genuine pandemic. Those who suffer with these illnesses live mostly in middle- and low-income areas such as sub-Saharan Africa. Most of those who are ill have no access to the life-giving retroviral drugs that can stop HIV, ease the suffering of those with full-blown AIDS, and prevent the spread of the illness. World AIDS Day began in 1988 to call for greater awareness of their plight. Only universal access to prevention, treatment, and care can stop the disease.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 147

December 3rd is the Memorial of **St. Francis Xavier, Priest**. “St. Francis Xavier came from a noble family in the Basque region of Spain. He went to study at the University of Paris. There he met Ignatius Loyola, who invited him to become one of the first Jesuits. After Ordination, Francis became a missionary to Asia, first in India and then in Japan. He yearned to bring the Gospel to the Chinese and had made arrangements to enter the country, but worn out from his work, he died on the island of Sancian within sight of the coast of China. Pope Pius X named him patron saints for foreign mission.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 147

December 6th is the memorial of **St. Nicholas, Bishop**. “Little is known about this saint, the “wonderworker,” other than the fact that he lived sometime during the fourth century and was bishop of the city of Myra in Asia Minor. There is some evidence that he was imprisoned during the Diocletian persecutions and later condemned Arianism, a heresy that denied the Son was co-eternal with the Father. Many stories exist about St. Nicholas, but one most frequently passed down speaks of a poor man who could not feed or clothe his three daughters. Upon hearing of this man’s dire situation, St. Nicholas tossed three bags of gold through his window one evening so the man could tend to his daughter’s needs. Modern folklore about Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, and Father Christmas are based in the stories of St. Nicholas and his great love for and generosity toward children. Whatever is known or not known about this great saint, it can be said, to quote an anonymous Greek from the tenth century, “All Christians, young and old, men and women, boys and girls, reverence his memory and call upon his protection” (as quoted in *Butler’s Lives of the Saints: December, New Full Edition*, p. 60).” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 147-148 *St. Nicholas*

inspire us to generously give good things to the children in our schools. Share a treat with someone today in St. Nick's memory.

Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together – Restore Together

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Psalm 80:3

December Virtue of the Month – Hope – l'espoir, bagosendan, pakoseyimowin

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. "Hope drives our optimism about tomorrow, our own future and that of our families." Indigenous youth leader

Our Mission Statement – We strive to proclaim Christ's message throughout the curriculum. Christ's message is one of mercy and love. We need to be merciful and loving as we deliver the curriculum in Catholic schools. As we enter the season of Advent, we remember that Jesus' love was so great that he chose to become one of us, so he could walk the earth and give us an example of how to live mercy and love.

Strategic Directions – Engagement with our Employees and Partners

We will increase our system's cultural competency, understanding of special needs, and respect for the viewpoints of diverse populations.

Twenty-first Century Learning

http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2017/08/11-tips-for-catechists/?utm_source > a great website for new religion teachers or those who

need a little inspiration

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

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

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. John of Damascus, December 4, - John Damascene grew up in the rich, luxurious court of the Moslem ruler of Damascus. His father was a Christian court official. To make sure John had a good Christian foundation, he had Cosmos, a monk who was a war captive, train John. Cosmos taught John science and theology, Greek and Arabic, as well as the culture of Islam.

John assumed a high place in the government. When the Moslem rulers began turning against Christians, John left his post, became a monk in Jerusalem, and was ordained. Some think he lived to be 104 years old. St. John Damascene wrote much for the Church. He wrote about the Greek Father of the Church and the mysteries of the Christian faith. He wrote religious poems and hymns. St. John had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and his sermons on her feasts were memorable. St. John Damascene is most famous for opposing the heresy of the Iconoclasts. This was a group who was against religious images and destroyed them. It was

supported by the Eastern Christian Emperor Leo III. St. John wrote three defenses of the use of sacred images, explaining that the respect given them is really given to the persons they represent. St. John Damascene was made a Doctor of the Church in 1890, the last of the Greek Fathers. St. John, may the faith you taught always be our light and strength!" Card 171

A Blog for Eclectic Readers – by Pat Carter csj

One More Step by Sheree Fitch, Orca Soundings, 2002. Julian's parents separated when he was a year old. Both parents have new partners. Dad is an alcoholic and Mom tries really hard to be cool. Her new husband is a French Canadian and a keeper. I give this book 😊😊😊.5/5 happy faces

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

Kiss the Ground – is a Netflix environmental documentary advocating for anti-plowing. It shows how much carbon is released when the earth is disturbed. I give this movie ♥♥♥/5

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

“Sacrifice of the Mass – It is a dogma of the Catholic Faith that the Mass or Eucharist is a true sacrifice and a representation in an unbloody manner of the sacrifice of Christ. According to traditional theology, the features constituting the nature of a true sacrifice are verified in the Mass: a sense-perceptible gift is offered and in some sense destroyed by an authorized minister for the purpose of worship of God. The Eucharist is a genuine sacramental sacrifice in that the Body and Blood of Christ, offered at His crucifixion and death, is now constituted the sacrifice of the Church by virtue of Christ's joining the liturgical offering to His own.” Our Sunday Visitor's CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, page 854