



# Huron-Superior Catholic

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Catholic Culture Update #15

#### Quote to carry through the week

“Cry out with joy and gladness.” Isaiah 12:6a

**December 12<sup>th</sup> is Third Sunday of Advent “Practice of Faith** – “John the Baptist gave sage advice in today’s Gospel to the crowds surrounding him. As a result, even the tax collectors – considered to be ruthless and dishonest – were willing to be baptized and reformed. Luke tells us that the people considered John as a possible messiah because of his strong message of change and charity.

- ✚ For this Advent Season, think about an organization to which your family can contribute items or time to help.
- ✚ Find your baptismal certificate or photographs and video of the event (and perhaps those of family members). Talk about that day and the meaning of this membership in the Body of Christ.
- ✚ If you don’t already have one, consider placing a bowl of blessed holy water in your home as a reminder to bless yourself and others. This visual reminder can serve as a symbol of your commitment to living with faith and hope for the next kingdom.” AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 17.

**Scripture Insights** > “Entering the third week of Advent, we remain in expectant preparation for the coming of the messiah. Yet, our focus shifts to joy. Indeed, this is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of joy! As John the Baptist continues his ministry of the good news in Luke’s Gospel, Paul expounds on his manifesto of rejoicing in the Lord in his letter to the Philippians, and the prophet Zephaniah exhorts all God’s people to shout for joy. Today’s readings exemplify how looking inside to God for guidance and outside to one another for our mission grounds us in authentic joy in this life. Writing in the seventh century BCE in Jerusalem during the reign of King Josiah, Zephaniah look ahead to the day of the Lord and living in the kingdom of God. Once God’s people are purged of their wrongdoings and shortsighted turning away from God, they will be restored to right relationship with God, who will live in their midst as a mighty savior. Here we can find true joy, relieved of the burdens of this life, living in unmediated relationship with God. Writing to Christians in first-century Philippi, the apostle Paul reinforces “the peace of God that surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) found in laying ourselves bare before our God in relationship with Christ Jesus. This is how we can live in the joy of our innermost selves. The missional activity of John the Baptist

teaches us to turn this profoundly personal relationship to those we encounter in the world. Giving from our excess and holding ourselves to a strict integrity are required, even if others do not manifest this joy that radiates from our grounded center. Thus, we await in hope and, indeed, bring near the kingdom of God.

- ✚ How can looking inside for God's guidance ground you to turn outside of yourself in relationship to others?
- ✚ All are called to some type of ministry. How do you see your mission manifesting itself?
- ✚ Consider ways to find joy in the mundane, everyday experiences of your life to help you find the surpassing peace of God." AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 17.

**December 13<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of St. Lucia, Virgin and Martyr.** "St. Lucia (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 sexually violate 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 removed 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 a festival of light with a sacred procession 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 Light a candle and turn down the lights and enjoy some quiet.

**December 14<sup>th</sup> is the memorial of St. John of the Cross, Priest and Mystical 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.

### **Advent Traditions ~ The "O" Antiphons – December 17-23**

"An antiphon is a short passage or verse, usually from Scripture, which is prayed before and after the Psalms and canticles in the Liturgy of the Hours. In the last days of Advent, from December 17 through December 23, the antiphons for the Magnificat at Evening Prayer call upon Christ under the many names used by the prophets in the Old Testament, and ask him to hasten his return. Each of these antiphons begins with "O"

(hence their name). The first “O” Antiphon begins, *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom). Then comes *Adonai* (Sacred Lord), *Radix Jesse* (Root of Jesse), *Clavis David* (Key of David), *Oriens* (Dawn), *Rex gentium* (King of peoples), and finally *Emmanuel* (God-is-with-us). The favourite Advent carol, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, is actually John M. Neale’s translation of these ancient antiphons. Medieval poets loved intricacies of language and the first letters of the titles by which Christ is addressed in the “O” antiphons – *Sapientia, Adonai, Radix*, and so on – form a verse acrostic, spelling the Latin words that mean “I will be there tomorrow.” Companion to the Calendar – A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, Second Edition, page 4

### **Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together**

“The real heroes are those who rebuild their lives using adversity as a stepping stone to greatness in the midst of the chaos life has thrown at them.” – **Nikki Rowe**

### **December Virtue of the Month – Hope – l’espoir, bagosendan, pakoseyimowin**

A quote to inspire us to strive to be people of hope.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope *Romans 15:13*

### **Our Mission Statement – We strive to create sacred learning environments.**

When classrooms are places where children feel safe and loved there is no doubt that we have created a sacred learning space.

### **Strategic Directions – Equitable Stewardship of our Resources**

**Our system decisions and policies are rooted in Catholic Social Teachings and the belief that resources take many forms and must be allocated in ways that benefit our students, school communities, and earth.**

### **Twenty-first Century Learning**

<https://catholic-link.org/> > a website organized to support evangelization

<https://advent.bustedhalo.com/> > Use the Busted Halo Advent calendar for your intermediate and senior students. It is a great resource to make the season relevant to youth.

<https://www.google.com/earth/education/> > “This groundbreaking 3D-viewing platform offers explorers a chance to go on a global adventure. Search filters make it easy to find an ideal lesson, whether it’s geographic sleuthing with Carmen Sandiego or biodiversity on the high seas following marine biologists off the coast of Costa Rica. Good for use with Grades K-12 and it is free. Also available in French.” December 2021, Professionally Speaking, page 17

### **[http://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2017/08/11-tips-for-catechists/?utm\\_source](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](http://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. Peter Canisius, December 21,** - Peter was born in Holland. Peter’s father intended him to marry and be a lawyer. After making a retreat directed by Peter Faber, one of the first Jesuits, Peter Canisius decided that God was calling him to be a Jesuit. Peter entered the Society of Jesus and began studying for the priesthood. He was a brilliant student with gifts for preaching and teaching. His first appointment was rector of a college. Peter also had amazing energy. He was often seen visiting the sick or prisoners in his free time. Bigger tasks awaited Peter when the Reformation was splitting the Church. By 1552 parishes in Vienna were without priests. There had been no ordinations for twenty years, and monasteries were empty. Peter was sent to Germany where his work for the Church earned him the name “the second apostle of Germany.” (Boniface was the first.) Peter worked tirelessly, teaching, handling Church problems, and bringing back Catholics who had stopped practicing their faith. He cared for the sick during the great plague. People loved him so much that he was offered the position of archbishop. Peter refused, but he administered the diocese for one year. Peter did much writing to defend the faith. He became the advisor to Popes Pius IV, Pius V, and Gregory XIII. He attended the Council of Trent. To help the middle-class and the poor understand the Gospel and Church teachings, he wrote a catechism that included a calendar of saints and feast days. This book was translated into fifteen different languages. Peter valued Catholic education and the Catholic press as important means of spreading the faith. Peter inspired many vocations to the Jesuits. He saw the need for strong, faithful priests and worked hard so that they received a better education and were carefully selected. Some of his letters to Catholic leaders who showed little interest in the Church were stern and critical, but positive. Peter lived in an age of confusion in the Church, yet he never became discouraged, because he was always united with Christ. After suffering a paralytic seizure he continued to write religious books for six more years with the aid of a secretary. For his contribution to catechesis, he was made a Doctor of the Church. St. Peter, pray that we give our all for our faith!”

Card 178

**A Blog for Eclectic Readers** - by Pat Carter csj

**Where the Crowdad Sing** by Delia Owens, 2018. I think I might be peculiar but when a book gets rave reviews I wait for things to quiet down before I begin to read it. I don’t want to be influenced as I read. I am sorry grateful I did this with this book. I could not put it down. Every moment that was not scheduled with work related activity, I had the book open. For some readers, a Kleenex box will be required. I can imagine that some would be skeptical about the possibility of the storyline. I so did not want the story to

end. I hope that Delia Owens will write another novel soon. This book is about a young woman who is abandoned at a young age and she learns to survive through her cunning and resiliency, despite the prejudice that she experiences from those who live on the other side of the tracks. I give this book 😊😊😊😊😊/5 happy faces

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

**Fatherhood, 2021**, Kevin Hart plays the main character of this movie. Sometimes I really enjoy him and sometimes I don't. This movie was directed by Paul Weitz. This movie tells the story of a man whose wife dies the day after she gives birth to their daughter. The father decides to raise the daughter alone. It is funny and it is emotional. It is in stark contrast to the book reviewed above. I give this movie ❤️❤️❤️❤️/5

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

**“Versicle** – The first part of a pair of phrases or sentences commonly taken from the Psalter, joined together and sung or said antiphonally at the liturgy. The classic opening versicle and response to Morning and Evening Prayer are: “God, come to my assistance,” “Lord, make haste to help me,” the versicle sung by the leader and the response sung by all. A series of versicles and responses follow the Te Deum when this is included in the Office of Readings. In the revised *Caeremoniale Episcoporum, Ceremonial for Bishops*, the “Second Form” of episcopal blessing offered is introduced by two versicles with responses: “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” “Now and for ever.” “Our help is in the name of the Lord,” “who made heaven and earth.” Our Sunday Visitor’s

CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, page 956