

Good Shepherd Gazette



Volume: 1 Date: 12-4-11 St. Anthony/All Saints
1530 11th St. SE
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News and Notes

We have entered the holy season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation, in which we prepare our hearts and our homes to receive Jesus, the Prince of Peace, at Christmas. In the church, Advent is a time of quiet and meditation—a time to slow down and reflect on the real meaning of Christmas in our lives. During Advent we pray, “Maranatha—Lord Jesus, Come.” This is an Aramaic phrase praying for the coming of Christ at the Parousia, the Second Coming of Christ. During Advent we pray for the three comings of Christ—*We remember the historical birth of Jesus—We ask Jesus to come into our hearts in a new way this year—We await the coming of Jesus at the end of time.* Advent can be a wonderful time of prayer in the home. It can remind us to set time aside for faith and family. Here are some ideas for celebrating Advent in your home:

- Make an Advent wreath and light the candles together. Have different family members pray. Recite some simple refrains “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” “Maranatha, Lord Jesus Come”
- Read the Infancy Narratives from the Bible together—discuss the people and the events. Have a “question and answer” session each night at the dinner table—using the Infancy Narratives as your source of questions.
- Look-up some of the prophecies from the Old Testament that foretold the coming of Jesus—decorate them and hang around your home. (Isaiah 9:1; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:5; Micah 5:1; Numbers 24:17)



- When setting up your nativity set, discuss the figures and the part each had in the nativity story.
- Spend time together as a family. Turn off the TV and computer one night each week—play board games, do a puzzle, write Christmas cards, create decorations for your home, etc.

Upcoming Events

12-4-11	St. Nicholas Visit Sacramental Prep.
12-11-11	Jr. High Field Trip
12-12-11	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
12-18-11	Bake Sale
12-24-11	Children’s Christmas Mass (4:00pm)
12-25-11	NO CCD



The children sing the “PeaceBuilders Pledge”
Song during the Thanksgiving Liturgy

From the Atriums...

Preschool: The Preschool children have been learning about the altar, the vestments of the priest, and the liturgical colors. They went on a tour of the sanctuary and have been practicing the Sign of the Cross and Genuflection.

Primary I: The Kindergarten and first graders enjoyed a trip to the sanctuary of the church for a special presentation on the History of the Kingdom of God. They unraveled the “Fettuccia”—a visual image of God’s work in creation since the beginning of time—it went all around the church!!!



Primary II: The second and third graders have been reviewing the Maxims and Jesus’ Parables. They enjoyed learning the PeaceBuilders’ Pledge Song with Mr. Wallenfang, as well as studying to be PeaceBuilders and discussing giving praise and giving up put-downs.

Intermediate I: The fourth graders enjoyed studying the Saints of the Church and discussing how we can all be saints in our lives. They have also been preparing for the changes in the Mass. They have a contest to see who can be the first to spot changes in the atrium materials.

Intermediate II: The fifth and sixth grade students enjoyed studying the four Gospel Writers as part of their study of the Bible. They completed shields highlighting each Gospel Writer’s symbol. They will be displayed soon.

Junior High: The Junior High students will be visiting Green Meadows Nursing Home again on December 11th. They are making gifts to present to all the residents. On their visit they will be decorating trees and playing Christmas Bingo.



Liturgy

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.”

The revised Roman Missal has changed many of the words and phrases of the Gloria. The above phrase has changed from “his people on earth.” The change more fully reflects the original Latin prayer. It also connects better with its Scriptural reference in the Gospel of Luke. These words echo the angels’ announcement of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds:

“And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly hosts with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’” (Luke 2:13-14)



Material Feature



The Infant Jesus is a new material to our atriums as of the 2010-2011 year. The material is the same for each of the atriums, but the presentation and reflections vary. The material is designed to help children and adults reflect on the beauty and mystery of the Incarnation—God becoming a human being. By meditating on God as a vulnerable, dependent child, we come to realize the divine nature that we all share as

children of God. God is truly present in each one of us, in our humanity as well as our divinity. During the different meditations, the children use the Infant Jesus as a way to reflect on various Scriptural and Liturgical connections: *The word “Emmanuel”, which means God with us; The Scriptural phrase “Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God; The Gloria of the Mass; The Nicene Creed; The first chapter of the Gospel of John: “The Word became flesh...”*

Peace

“Establishing lasting peace is the work of education.”

-Maria Montessori



Maria Montessori, Italian Physician and Educator, believed strongly that children are the path to world peace

“Education is the best weapon for peace.”

-Maria Montessori