



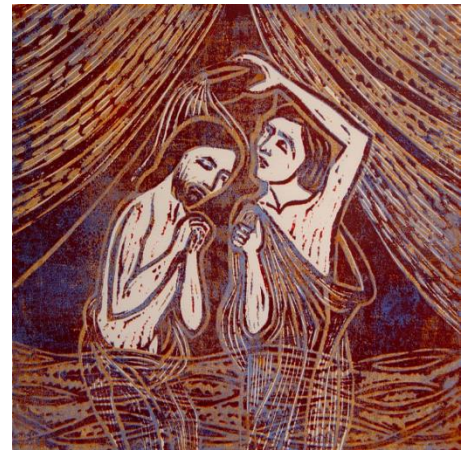
Saint of the Week:

All Saints

Accepting your limitations and God-given talents.

Patron Saint of the Week: St. John the Baptist, Class 1C

When St. John the Baptist was born, many people said he would be very close to God. When Saint John grew up, many people came to him and asked for his help in turning back to God. Saint John would always tell them that someone was coming soon who was much greater than he. When that person came, Saint John saw Him and said: "Behold the Lamb of God!" Jesus told John to baptize Him anyway, which he did, whereupon the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God was seen like a dove. The voice of God spoke, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."



Dear Saint John the Baptist, even though you were good at helping people be sorry for their sins, you stepped aside when Jesus came so that He could have all their attention. Help me to know when to let others have the attention they deserve. Amen.

(Closing Prayer will be on intercom at 6:10 & 7:55) Next week: Our Lady, Class 2C & 2D

For tonight: 2nd grades: Please come up to church immediately after attendance. There will be name labels for the children to wear. Please seat A & E on left; C, D & B on right. There will be worksheets in your box for you to bring, and also please bring pencils for the class to use in church. First, we will have a quick music session in church to practice the songs for Reconciliation. We will do a quick review of reconciliation, and then I would like one teacher from each session to escort the children to the reconciliation rooms, while the other supervises the children in the pews. I will also be asking the aides and parents for some assistance. We will close with a meditational prayer. The Celebration of First Reconciliation will be Thursday, November 29, 2018, at 7PM. The parish is invited to attend and also to pray for these children as they take this next step in their faith lives.

TONIGHT: November 28: Eighth Grade will need to come up to Church to pick up buddies for Dismissal Also, I would like any 8th graders who are available to help on tomorrow, November 29, 6:45-8:30 for First Reconciliation. I will need ushers to help hand out programs, seat parents and guide children to the confessional, and helpers to serve at the reception afterwards. Please let your teacher know, then ask your parents and commit. This would also count as service for Confirmation if the reflection page is completed. We will also need volunteers to sponsor Sunday 5pm Mass.

4th grades will need to continue to complete "Giving Tree" Cards (if not yet done)

Please remember to give out Advent booklets, Grades 1-6 to every student and calendars to "oldest and only" this evening.



December 2 is the First Sunday of Advent. We will do the Sacramental Enrollment at all Masses that weekend, since there was mistake made in October. We will also start sponsoring the 5PM Sunday Mass every other

week with 5-8th graders doing the ministries.



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We also welcome Addilyn Phelps born November 25 to Jackie and Josh Phelps!

Please remind all students to bring items for Stockings for Ronald McDonald House and Deployed Soldiers!

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is Saturday, December 8, and a holy day of obligation. Catholics are OBLIGATED to celebrate at Mass.

PSR Students are expected to attend the vigil Mass with their families on Friday, December 7 at 7pm or the Holy Day Mass Saturday, December 8 at 8 am.



THE JOURNEY By Dr. Barbara Blackburn

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Bethlehem the town of David...” (Luke 2:4)

When I get ready for a journey, be it a visit to relatives or a vacation adventure, the trip actually begins as I make preparations. How long will it take me to reach my destination? How long will I stay there? Will I drive, fly, or take a train or bus? What will I pack in my suitcase?

As we get closer to Christmas, the story of the journey to Bethlehem becomes real to me. What was the journey like for Joseph and Mary? What preparation did they make in the weeks leading up to their journey? What did they pack? Baby clothes for their soon-to-be-born infant? Did they know the baby would be born away from home? I can remember my ride to the hospital for the birth of my sons. I thought every little bump in the road was excruciating. Would I have survived being nine-months pregnant, riding a donkey or walking ninety miles to report for a census? My first thought is “register by mail.” Okay, well maybe that would not have been an option at the time.

What was the reality of this journey for Joseph and Mary? The details might help us understand the theology of “*journey*.” The world of Mary and Joseph was a difficult and dangerous place. It was a five day walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem, or, at least, that’s how long it took if the roads were dry. They had to travel ninety miles to the city of Joseph’s ancestors: south along the flatlands of the Jordan River, then west over the hills surrounding Jerusalem, and on into Bethlehem. It was a fairly grueling trip, very much uphill and downhill. It was not simple. Joseph and Mary might have traveled only 10 miles a day because of Mary’s impending delivery. And the unpaved, hilly trails and harsh weather were not the only hazards Joseph and Mary would have faced on their journey south. Lions and bears lived in the woods, and travelers had to fend off wild boars. Archeologists have unearthed documents warning travelers of the forest’s dangers. Bandits and robbers were also common hazards along the major trade routes like the one Joseph and Mary would have traveled.

And at the end of the journey, upon arrival in Bethlehem, there was no available lodging for them. But the end of this arduous journey to Bethlehem was the beginning of the greatest story ever told—the story of the Incarnation of the Son of God.

To be continued during our season of Advent.