

# December

This month we celebrate Advent, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary & Christmas.



Be sure to join us each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm via Zoom for a brief (15-20 minute) but important Advent gathering. We look forward to seeing you!

Peace and all God's blessings.

## 7th Grade

**Week of December 2nd:** we begin with a review of Mark's Gospel. Turn to pg. 43 in your workbook and complete the Recall & Reflect Sections. Email your response to your teacher via the Tri Parishes Office (cmcaine@triparishwi.com). In your Bible, find and read Matthew 5:44. Now turn to pg. 45 in your workbook. Matthew's Gospel portrays Jesus as inviting us to make changes—changes in the way we relate to God and to others. Take note of the timeline at the bottom of the pg. We will refer to it in this chapter. Read pgs. 46-47 and learn about Cardinal Bernardin. When done, go back and underline or highlight the evidence in the text that Cardinal Bernardin held a consistent life ethic, as symbolized in the image of the "seamless garment." The "seamless garment" phrase describes a wholistic reverence for all of life. Refer back to pg. 34 & recall the bishops letter "The Challenge of Peace." The virtue of peacemaking. Now read about the virtue of humility in the Disciple Power box on pg. 47. Think about how Cardinal Bernardin's life exemplified both of these virtues. Complete the Faith Journal activity at the bottom of the pg. This week complete 2 choice board activities.

**Week of December 9th:** On a piece of paper write the heading "Old Testament." Underneath describe what you know about the Old Testament—words, phrases, concepts, stories. Now open your workbook to pg. 48 and read "The How-To Book." What does the word Torah mean? The first five books of the Old Testament are the core of Jewish beliefs and religious practices. Turn to pg. 49 and let's compare Matthew's Gospel to the Torah. Read the pg and look up & read each of the 5 discourses in your Bible to familiarize yourself and write on a piece of paper the similarities and differences from the Torah. Now read the Did You Know box at the top of the page. Answer the faith connection at the bottom of the page and share with your adult/parent. On pg. 50 we will begin to look at the first discourse in Matthew's Gospel. Read the pg. and think about/discuss what you think the reaction of the people listening to Jesus might have been. Complete 2 more choice board activities this week.

## 7th Grade (continued)

**Week of December 16th:** Reread the New Built on The Old (pg. 50). Consider your response form last week, then read pg. 51. Jesus challenges us to go beyond the letter of the law. Discuss with your parent/adult what it means to have a change of heart. What kind of change of heart does Jesus require of us? Write a reflection on the faith connection question at the bottom of. Share your response with your adult. In Jesus time, the title "Rabbi" meant teacher & was a title of honor, not an official appointment. In Matthew 23:7-8 it's applied to teachers of the law in general. In all other cases, it's used to address Jesus directly. Read pg. 52 and write your response in the workbook to the Faith Connection. Turn to pg. 53 and think about peer pressure as you read. Matthew knew full well when the "peer pressure" his audience was experiencing. We have evidence of this in the conclusion to the Beatitudes. Read Matthew 5:11-12 in your Bible. Jesus indicates that he understands the pressures his disciples may be facing. He urges them: Be steadfast! Hang in there! Your reward will be great in heaven. Review pg. 54 and finish the statement My faith Choice. Do 2 new choice board activities this week.

**Week of December 23rd:** Discuss with your child the traditions in your family that help us to remember Jesus' birth. Write them down in a journal or special notebook to keep. This year, will your family go to Mass in person or watch online? Be sure to dress up even if you aren't going to Mass in person. Read together the story of the Nativity from your family Bible (Luke 2:1-20) If you have a nativity set in your home, consider having your children place the baby Jesus in the creche on Christmas day. Perhaps this can be a new tradition for your family. What are the gifts of love your family gives to each other? How do we show our love for God at this special time of year?

**Week of December 30th:** Complete 2 more choice board activities.

*Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year to your family!*