

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, December 13th

The Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8,19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



Where will I find true joy in the coming of Christ?

First Grade

Christmas is almost here! What are some of the things that you love about Christmas? List at least ten things! Who are the people that you spend Christmas with? How does spending Christmas with those people make it better? What would Christmas be like if you had to spend it by yourself? We experience more joy when we share love with others.

Second Grade

Christ came the first time to die on the cross and forgive our sins. He will come a second time to bring us all to heaven. How can or does knowing that Jesus was a real person who lived 2000 years ago help you to be a Christian and believe in God? What does it feel like when you are forgiven by God or someone else? How do you think it will feel when you are in heaven?

Third and Fourth Grades

In this week's Gospel we again here that we should 'make straight the path' for God. What do you think that means? Often, when something is repeated, it means that it is important. Since this has been repeated two weeks in a row, what do you think is important about it? How can you make straight God's path? What is He calling you to do this week to love others?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

What are they things in your life that make you pleasure? What are the things that bring you joy? How would you explain to someone the difference between pleasure and joy? Which one leads to happiness? Why? Which one – pleasure or joy – would you rather have more of in your life? How can preparing and hoping for Christ's second coming bring you true joy?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

What do you love about Christmas? What are the traditions that your family has around Christmas time? How do these bring you joy each year? During Advent we are preparing for Christ's second coming! How will Christ's second coming bring you joy and happiness? How do you feel when you think about Jesus coming again? Does that thought bring you joy?

High School and Adults

As we get closer to Christmas we usually find ourselves with a list of things that we need to do. What are some of the items on your to do list? Why do we have this list? If we look at all of the items it is probably all things for other people – items to buy them, food to make for them, and things in the house to clean for their visit. How do others bring us true joy?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

It will be difficult for you to find true joy in the coming of Christ if you are not able to find true joy with Him now. Today, think about how much joy you have in your life now. How much joy do you take from your relationship with Jesus? What would help you to be closer to Him and have more joy in your life? What are the things preventing joy that you can rid yourself of?

Tuesday

While joy is an internal attribute, it is formed and affected by outside circumstances. One of the best ways that we can increase the joy in our life is by finding ways to grow closer to Christ. Two of those ways are through community and prayer. Today, do both of those by finding Christian music to listen to and to help you pray. You can search for it online.

Wednesday

The more we know, the more we can love. And the more that we can love, the more joy that we can and will have in our lives. What do you know about Jesus, His Church, and His second coming? It is difficult to love Jesus when we do not know Him or know Him in only a superficial way. Today, work to know Him more coming reading about Him in the Bible and praying.

Thursday

Joy is often increased by being with the ones that we love, by being part of a family and community. Hopefully we will be spending Christmas with the ones that we love, and our happiness and joy will increase. Today, reach out to the people that you love, but that you do not expect to see on Christmas Day. Take time to talk with and love them!

Friday

Joy is not limited to coming from those that we love. Our joy can also increase and grow when we love those around us that we do not know, those that are difficult to love, and our enemies. Today, go out of your way to love someone new and difficult – forgive someone, say hello to a stranger, buy a random gift. It may seem strange, but joy can come from everywhere.

Saturday

As everything gets busy and then winds down, you will have a lot to do and it may feel like you don't have time to even sit down, but be sure to take some extra time to be with Jesus. While others can bring you happiness and pleasure, it is important to remember that true joy comes only from knowing Him. Today, spend at least 15 minutes in silent prayer.

TRUE JOY DOES NOT
COME FROM
CIRCUMSTANCES.
TRUE JOY COMES
FROM OUR
LORD AND SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST.

HUMBLE & WHOLE

FROM THE CATECHISM...

St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare His way. 'Prophet of the Most High,' John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. He inaugurates the Gospel, already from his mother's womb welcomes the coming of Christ, and rejoices in being 'the friend of the bridegroom,' whom he points out as 'the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.' Going before Jesus 'in the spirit and power of Elijah,' John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 523

Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Psalm 89:2-3,4-5,27,29 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynncatholic.org