

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, December 20th

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



How do I recognize God dwelling with me every day?

First Grade

In today's Gospel we hear how Mary recognized God dwelling in her. How did Mary discover that God was dwelling in her? Who told her that it would happen that way? How did Mary react to finding out that God was going to dwell with her? Who are the people in your life that tell you about God? How is He dwelling in your life? How do you react to his presence in your life?

Second Grade

One reason that we have trouble recognizing God in our life is because we often take credit for all of the good things that He is doing. When was a time you worked really hard for something and it turned out well. Besides your effort, how did God help you to achieve something and make the situation go well? Where can you see God in that situation?

Third and Fourth Grades

Sometimes, it can be difficult to recognize God dwelling in our lives because we take for granted all of the good things we have. List ten good things in your life that you have every day, such as food, clothing, family and friends. What would life be like without them? How is God dwelling with you through these things that He provides every day?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

In today's Gospel we hear that the angel Gabriel greets Mary by saying 'Hail, Mary. The Lord is with you.' What do you think he meant by that? How is God with Mary? Could someone greet you in the same way? How is God dwelling with you? How would people react if you greeted them by saying, "The Lord is with you!" How could you help people to see God in their lives?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel Mary discovers that God will be dwelling in her life when the angel Gabriel announces it to her. Recognizing God dwelling in our life often takes help from someone else. Who are the people in your life that you trust to help you see God in your life? What can you do to ask them for help in seeing God in your life? How can you help them to see God in theirs?

High School and Adults

After Mary recognized the way that God was dwelling in her life, she proclaimed that she is the handmaid of the Lord. That was her saying yes to God's plan for her life. How have you said yes to God's plan for your life? Have there been any times when you fought against God and didn't do the right thing or what you knew you should be doing? How can you follow God more?

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

Merry Christmas!! Today we celebrate and remember when the Son of God was born! It is truly amazing that God choose to dwell with us. It shows the love that He has for each and every one of us. On Christmas we should also remember that Jesus Christ is coming again! Today, each time that you wish someone Merry Christmas, thank Jesus for dwelling in your life.

Tuesday

To help us to see God dwelling in our lives every day, we need to have 'eyes of faith'. This means being able to look beyond what is happening and look for purpose and meaning in why it is happening and how it is happening. Today, throughout your day, take time to stop to think about what you are doing and why it is happening. Look for God in every situation!

Wednesday

As we look for God dwelling with us every day, we want to make sure that we take nothing for granted. Don't assume that you deserve the good things that you have simply because. Today, think about all of the good things that you have in your life every day and, after thanking God for them, think about how each one has come from God as a gift to you.

Thursday

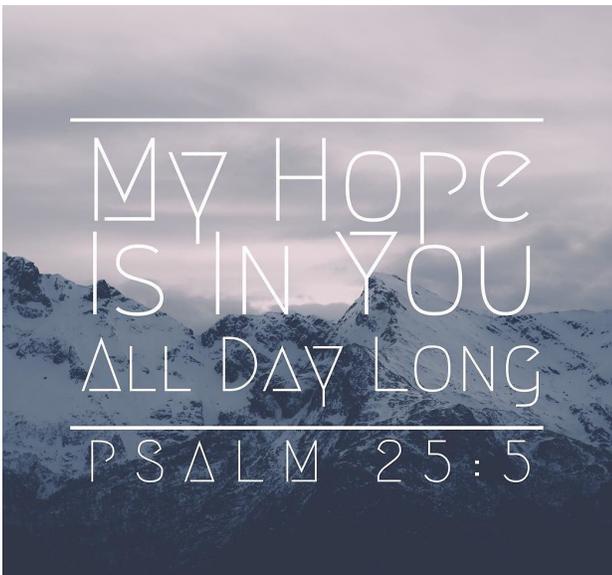
A wonderful way to help recognize God dwelling in your life is to ask someone to help point Him out. It can often be difficult to see God on our own, because we only see a small portion and we often see only what we want to see. Today, spend some time with a friend, and discuss how you see God moving in each other's life. Put out several ways for each other.

Friday

Like Mary said yes to be the Mother of God, we also need to respond to God when we recognize Him dwelling in our lives. God is actively involved in your life. How are you actively responding to Him every day? Today, choose a specific way that you are going to respond with a 'yes' to God. It can with an action but should be with a firm decision of your will.

Saturday

Thankfully, we are not alone. Two of the greatest gifts that God has given us are our family and our faith community. We are not alone! We all feel alone sometimes, but it is important to know that we are not. Today, if you are feeling confident in the love of God and the love of others, share that love with someone who is not as confident of God dwelling with them.



FROM THE CATECHISM...

In the New Covenant, prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with His Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. The grace of the kingdom is 'the union of the entire holy and royal Trinity...with the whole human spirit.' Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with Him. This communion of life is always possible because, through Baptism, we have already been united with Christ. Prayer is Christian insofar as it is communion with Christ and extends throughout the Church, which is His Body. Its dimensions are those of Christ's love.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2565

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.

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3 Psalm 105 1-2,3-4,5-6,8-9 Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19 Luke 2:22-40

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