

Religious Education News

January

January 7, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope your families had a wonderful Christmas and have had a good start to the new year. Even though we are still in the midst of the pandemic, God continues to bless us in so many ways. Sometimes we may have to look a little harder for the blessings, but they are there!

The celebration of First Reconciliation is quickly approaching for our second graders and their families. Because we have had to adapt/adjust our sacrament programs due to the pandemic, we will be conducting the first ever First Reconciliation Rehearsal on Wednesday, January 13 in church at 6:30 PM during PSR for both the second graders and their parents. Second grade parents need to bring their child's completed First Reconciliation lessons, the Home Guide, and the letter to their child that evening if they have not dropped it off already. The First Reconciliation celebration is Monday, January 18 at 6:30 PM in church.

The Blessing of our eighth Confirmation candidates and the Candidate/Sponsor gathering/meeting that was cancelled in November due to the pandemic has been rescheduled on Sunday, January 17 at the 11:00 AM Mass. Eighth grade families need to sign up to attend Mass on Sign Up Genius. The Mass sign up link is on the parish website (marymother.org). When entering the number of family members who will be attending, do not forget to include the candidate's sponsor. After Mass, the candidates and their sponsors will proceed to the parish hall for a short gathering/meeting. Light snacks will be provided. Mary Mother of the Church follows CDC and Archdiocesan guidelines regarding wearing masks and social distancing.

Since we are in the midst of winter, (even though we have had a mild winter so far) it is important that the policy regarding in-person PSR cancellation for inclement weather is reviewed. When the Mehlville School District cancels classes due to winter weather, PSR will be cancelled that evening, even if the evening weather were to improve.

I look forward to continuing to work with you in sharing and discovering the Catholic faith with your children in 2021. God bless you and your families.

May you have peace and joy in this new year.
Cheryl Degenhart
Director of Faith Formation

FAITH Family Newsletter

January, 2020

Mary, Mother of God Feast Day – January 1

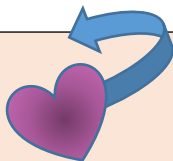


The Catechism teaches that "Mary is truly 'Mother of God' since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself." According to Catholic teaching, however, sourced in John 1:1-14, Mary did not create the divine person of Jesus, who

existed with the Father from all eternity.

"We believe that the Holy Mother of God, the new Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of the members of Christ" (Pope Paul VI, CPG § 15).

New Year Resolutions call for Conversion of Heart



Reflect on the Conversion of St. Paul

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance/reformation/baroque-art1/baroque-italy/v/caravaggio-saul>

Learn about one women's change of heart:
Read Cassidy Blencke's January Blog

"Brought to Life, Becoming Catholic"

www.https://faithalivethehome.org

Discover American Saints in January

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

<https://teachingcatholickids.com/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-playing-with-the-saints/>

St. John Neumann

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholicresources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-john-neumann/>
<https://www.catechist.com/celebrating-saintjohn-neumann>

St. Andre Bessette – Canadian Saint born in USA!

<https://www.catechist.com/celebrating-saint-andr-bessette/>

Video of St. Andre : Bessette:

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=18

Celebrate the Name of JESUS

The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, January 10 this year, provides a perfect time to celebrate the extraordinary grace of our Baptism.



An easy way for children to grasp adoption as God's child at Baptism is to honor the name of Jesus. At the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Mary and Joseph presented their son Jesus, as parents do in Baptism. The Feast of Christ's Baptism reveals the Spirit of God descending on Him, again, a likeness to our adoption as God's children, sharing His own life through grace. Learn ways to celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus at this site:

<https://aleteia.org/2020/01/01/8-ways-to-honor-the-holy-name-of-jesus-this-january/>

40 Names of God

Free Printable Chart & Matching Game

Have fun with your kids learning the names of God! Print the first two pages (of the link below) to hang on your refrigerator, or print all four pages and cut apart the squares on the last two to make a fun matching game!

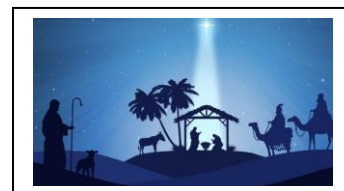
www.DianneStortz.com/ www.TommyNelson.com

<https://buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BFLA-Daily-Guide-to-12-Days-of-Christmas-Joy.2020.LowRes.pdf>



Delve into the meaning of Epiphany in this beautiful article:

<https://buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Epiphany-at-Home-2021.pdf>



www.https://faithalivethehome.org

Archdiocese of St. Louis