

St. Mary of the Angels PSR Newsletter

December 19, 2021

Thanks to all who attended the PSR Christmas Pizza party and movie night Friday. Thanks to those who helped out in any way. I would like to thank my friend Santa who took time out of his busy schedule to visit us. After Santa left, the Grinch came to steal Christmas, but didn't get away with it. His heart grew three sizes... I'm glad he could come so we could help him.

I would like to thank the Confirmation Students who stayed after Mass to help decorate the church for Christmas. I was glad to see some little brothers who stayed to help too. This was a great service to our parish community!

There will be no class December 26th and January 2nd for Christmas break. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas. Don't forget... Jesus is the reason for, well, everything!

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION PARENTS: If a Candidate misses over 4 classes, they will need to be made up before Confirmation in May. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday May 22nd at 8 am Mass.

December 26th is the next time I will be on the Mustard Seed Radio program on KWIX Moberly.

CONFIRMATION** Those Confirmation students need to be researching Saints. They will need to pick their favorite and that Saint's name will be their Confirmation name.

In today's Gospel from Luke (Lk 1:39-45) We hear how Mary set off on an journey to the hill country of Judah to help her cousin Elizabeth whom the angel told her was with child though thought to be barren. We are told Mary traveled with "haste" Which is defined as "excessive speed or urgency of movement." This trip would have taken her several days on foot and we know she too was with child. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

After God sent Moses to free the Israelites from the Egyptians, He gave Moses the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. The first containing three commandments that help us to love God and the second containing seven commandments that help us to love ourselves and others. This was a covenant between God and his people. The "Ark of the Covenant" was an elaborate gold enclosure or house for this covenant. We hear David danced out of joy in front of the Ark of the Covenant.

Throughout history, people have struggled with keeping our end of this covenant with God. God Loves us so much he wanted to reveal himself to us. The problem being, God is too much for our human brains to even begin to comprehend and when God appeared to Moses, the people were frightened because of God's overpowering appearance. God chose to reveal himself to his people as man... as one of us. Jesus is fully human, but also fully God. This is too much for our comprehension, but anything is possible for God. Where we are finite creatures, God is infinite this is on of the beautiful mysteries of our faith.

God therefore sent his only begotten son as a "new covenant" to save us from our sins so we may one day live with him forever in heaven. Since Jesus is this "new covenant", Mary conceived without the stain of original sin and lived a life free of sin was chosen by God to be the "Ark" of this new covenant.

When Mary entered the house of Zechariah, the temple Priest and his wife Elizabeth, the infant in her womb, who was John the Baptist leaped for Joy at the presence of this new covenant, our Lord and Savior, just as David danced before the original covenant. While they met in the womb, Jesus “baptized” John with the power of the Holy Spirit. As we know, later as adults, John will in turn baptize Jesus in the Jordan as the heavens are opened and God announces this is his son.

As a child, we raised cattle, sheep, hogs, and dogs. Whenever there was a new birth on the farm whether it was a calf, lamb, piglet, or puppy, I was always filled with great excitement and joy. Still to this day, I am filled with Joy at the sight of a new calf for it symbolizes new life. This afternoon, as I was doing chores, I noticed one of my cows was not in the lot eating hay as usual. I went to look in the shed and much to my surprise, she was licking a new baby calf, but there was also another set of front feet out. I finished my chores and went back to make sure things were going ok and she had the second calf on the ground. They were both alive and well. I was so full of joy and excitement, I took a picture and sent a snapchat to several friends. The sight of this new life just made my day.

We live in a sad world that does not respect life... a new creation sent from God. God revealed himself in the form of a helpless baby boy born of simple parents who had to work hard to provide for him in the most humble circumstances. What would we do if Jesus would have been aborted like so many helpless, but precious miracles of creation are today? We would have to carry the weight of our sins forever and Heaven would not be open to us. I wish everyone would know the overshadowing Joy and excitement every time life is created at conception and born as I do every time I see a new baby on the farm. We need to respect human life and give each the dignity deserved for we were all created in the image and likeness of God. We can all make the world a better place one heart at a time starting with our own.

I pray we all have a conversion of heart this Christmas as we see the Christ child carried up to the nativity set, placed in the manger and Blessed. I hope you all are overshadowed with the power of the Holy Spirit and feel the same Joy I do.

St. Mary, Ark of the new covenant, pray for us!