

St. Mary of the Angels PSR Newsletter

December 5, 2021

The PSR Christmas Party will be Friday December 17th at 6pm in the Hall. We will have pizza, a Christmas Movie, and I am making arrangements for a special guest... maybe two. If your family is coming, I need you to RSVP by December 10th to get an estimate for pizza. Thanks!

SECOND GRADERS: Need to return their completed purple Reconciliation books this coming Sunday, December 12.

This Wednesday, December 8th will be a 4 pm Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please see the bulletin for other Mass times in local churches if you are not able to attend this Mass.

Wednesday, December 15th will be our Advent Reconciliation Service here at St. Mary of the Angels at 6 pm. It would be good to attend this as a family to recognize this healing Sacrament.

The Confirmation Class will be decorating the Church for Christmas after Mass December 19th.

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.

There will be no class December 19th, 26th, and January 2nd for Christmas break.

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 3:1-6) we hear John the son of Zechariah received the word of God. He went throughout the region of the Jordan, "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths, Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." John the Baptist was sent by God as an "advent" to Jesus. The word advent means "coming", and John was very clear that one would come greater than he. Today we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent which means we are just a few weeks away from the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. We need to heed the voice of John the Baptist and repent from our sins. We should take advantage of the great healing Sacrament of Reconciliation to make room for Jesus to more powerfully enter our hearts and be Lord of our lives.

The passing of an old neighbor was cause for some reflection in my own life. I grew up about a mile away from this Lady and her husband. They owned the farm right across the road from our house and every Sunday growing up her husband would stop in to visit after he finished chores. They were both very nice and hard workers. She loved to tell stories from years past and they were always interesting. As I was reading her obituary, I noticed her most important accomplishments and what she will be remembered by is the legacy she leaves with her children, grandchildren... and the good she did for her parish and the broader community.

I think this is a good conversation for the season of Advent to help us sort out what is important in our lives and what we need to change in order to grow closer to God. When we leave this life and go to particular judgement, our legacy will be how we treated our neighbors and what we did or did not do to help those in need. The excitement of awards and recognition we received through the years will fade away, but everyone will remember what we did for them. Sometimes it is the simplest gesture that makes the most difference in the lives of others. We might not feel like we did much, but to the other person it might feel as though we changed their life. The best obituary can be summed up as he/she was a simple man/woman who lived a simple life with a heart full of Love. We can all make the world a better place one heart at a time, starting with our own.

St. John the Baptist, pray for us!