

GOOD SHEPHERD GAZETTE

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Good Shepherd Gazette! I hope you enjoy reading all our news.



Life Is an Advent Season CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

"The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

"May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been busy learning about all the ways God shows His love for us, and how we can show our love and thanks for all he has given us. We talked about how our five senses are gifts from God, and how we use them to learn about God's world. We talked about the Earth that God gave us and identified many ways we can care for the land, air, and water. We named many of the creatures God gave us and discussed ways we can thank Him for all the beautiful plants and animals. The students also identified ways people are different and similar, but how we are all children of God and that God made all people good. Finally, we have been learning about St. Francis and preparing for our skit, which tells the story of St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio.

Coming up, we will be talking about the Bible, God's promise to Noah, and how we have two families, the one into which we are born and our church family. We will continue discussing our many gifts from God and ways we can show our thanks.

-Bill Dunstan and Patricia Mullin

1st Grade

First grade is having fun getting to know each other. We have 14 children enrolled, 4 boys and 10 girls. We took a tour of the church to look at the candles that represent God's light. For the unit on God's creation, we took a walk outside to look at nature. We made a book with magazine pictures about the things God creates. We acted out the Angel Gabrielle coming to Mary. Everyone wanted to wear the angel wings! We are learning prayers, especially the

sign of the cross, the Our Father and Hail Mary. Saint Anthony is our room's saint, and we are working on a presentation about him. -Amy Bowman and Mary Scheuermann

2nd Grade

We are discussing God as our creator and all of our blessings that we have received from Him. We have discussed the Holy Trinity and reinforce this through the sign of the cross. The Holy Trinity is obviously a difficult concept for all of us. Our discussions have been centered on God the Father and what that means to us. Please continue to pray the Our Father with your children. In the next few weeks, we will begin to talk about different types of prayer (songs and psalms) and Jesus the Son of God. We will also begin to learn the Act of Contrition with the children. Copies of this will be sent home so they can practice both at home and in class. - Mary Cullen and Dede Yoko

3rd Grade

This year's third grade class is filled with bright young minds ready to expand their knowledge of the Lord and the Church's teachings. In addition to reviewing the mystery of the Holy Trinity the children have been practicing their Hail Mary so that they know it by heart, and during this time have come to know better the origins of the prayer and how Mary came to know she would be giving birth to Christ. This tied in nicely to the children learning about the classroom's Patron Saint, Saint Joseph. In addition to that the boys and girls now know

Faith Formation of Good Shepherd

the story of Saul of Tarsus and how he came to repent for his persecution of Christians by spreading the word and teachings of Christ. We look forward to continuing to learn much more throughout the rest of the year. Jon Scheuermann and Katrina Zakaras

4th Grade

The fourth grade has been spending the first part of the year on the 10 Commandments, making banners for them and playing the 10 Commandments Cricket game. We've also spent time on Christian Morality and are starting the Beatitudes. Jeopardy is on the way. Rich and Simone Stewart

5th Grade

The Fifth Grade has concentrated on learning the doctrine of the Church. Justin, Patricia and Claire make many insightful comments about their faith. Every meeting starts with a lighting of the candle and the Lord's Prayer. Each child reads a portion of the day's lesson. Hailey, Krysta, Ariana and Will are some of the best readers. We are rehearsing our play about Saint Michael the Archangel and Garrett portrays Saint Michael. We also read faith-based stories while the children concentrate on drawings based on the chapters they have just read. In mid-October we had a ceremony in honor of Mary where we sang songs and decorated her statue. This also gave us a chance to review Mary's role in our Church. Mr. Nagy reviews the lessons with the children at the end of each session, then we close with the room darkened, lit only by a candle as we recite the "Hail Mary", then someone is chosen to blow out the candle. -Jack Harris and Stephen Nagy.

6th and 7th Grade

The Six / Seventh grade classes have been going over our Pflaum Gospel weekly booklets about the Sunday readings along with talks about how we should treat others. We have also started making our Rosaries and learning the prayers that go along with it.

Youth Ministry-

Welcome to our new team members: Denise Baylous and Jennifer Steiger. October started off disappointingly as we had to cancel the VA Catholic Youth Day at Busch

Gardens due to a lack of Safe Environment approved drivers. We had four Sunday evenings of lessons and one for fun. The area Youth Ministers in LPA 4 met once to discuss a Mini-Conference set for March and a Laser Quest overnight for January. St. Mary's youth joined with us to sell fall plants as a fundraiser. The youth donated money and time to Stop Hunger Now. The ever-growing youth band offered Eucharistic Adoration to the parish one evening as the month closed. November will have us raising money with a Pampered Chef show. I would like to donate the hostess items to the parish kitchen. We will have only one lesson this month and one fun night where we will be writing letters to our CFCA sponsored child and preparing for our December activities. YM Team: Claudia Stewart, Wayne Stambaugh, Denise Baylous, Jennifer Steiger, Greg Pierce

Adults

John Paul II wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Catechesi Tradendae* that, "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only He can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity." (CT 5).

Adult faith formation by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer, and study must be the central task in any catechetical enterprise becoming the axis around which revolves the catechesis of childhood and adolescence as well as that of old age. (OHWB 5).

Your newly formed Adult Faith Formation (AFF) team at Good Shepherd is committed to offering different types of formation to help you in this endeavor. We will be conducting an AFF planning survey in January. Please take time to fill it out.

Also, look for our new and upcoming AFF, *Catholicism*. This program, created by Rev. Robert Barron, S.T.D (doctor of sacred theology) explains what Catholics believe and why and also displays the richness of the Church's global culture. Ten DVD sessions present the Church's essential teaching with views of the beliefs and practices from around the globe. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.