

Religious Education



CCD Family Newsletter January 8 - January 15, 2024



CCD Continues Next Week

Monday, January 13th

Lesson 13: *How does God teach us to love?*

Tuesday, January 14th

Lesson 11: *How do we know God loves us?*

CCD Calendar



Tuesday

Lesson 11: How do we know God loves us?

Lesson 11 asks the Essential Question: *How do we know God loves us?* God created us in his own image. Out of his total goodness, God has created us to be good, too. The fact that we are made in God's image gives us inherent value and dignity as humans. It is our belief as Catholics that each and every human life is sacred. We share in God's goodness, truth, and beauty, and we give him glory just by existing. Ponder what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God.



Homeschooling Connection

Week of January 12th

Lesson 12: How do we respond to God's love?

Thank you to all those families who worked diligently over the Christmas break to get caught up with their CCD homeschooling assignments. I will be working to grade everything over the coming week. Thanks!



Gospel Reflection Stickers

Ask your children if they can guess why they received a sticker with people building Legos from the small bags inside the box. Answer: as a tie-in to the Epiphany Gospel of last Sunday, we talked about how a great gift says a lot about our understanding of a person. I used a Lego set given to one of my girls as an illustration of a really good gift and pointed out how Legos come in small bags not preassembled or with all the pieces jumbled up together. It reminds us of how God has revealed his story to us slowly over time that when combined reveals the bigger picture. The Epiphany was one of those big "baggie" type stories of salvation history which showed that the Wise Men were actually great gift givers who knew exactly who they were bringing a gift for: a king and God himself who would one day sacrifice his very life for us.



1st Coffee and Donuts of the Year Sunday, January 12th

What's the best and easiest way to make sure that 2025 is a great year? Attend Sunday Mass each week! Hungering for community? Be sure to join your parish family after the 10:00 am Family Mass or the 11:30 Mass for Coffee and Donuts in St. Joseph's Hall. There's even a craft for kids so that you can drink your coffee and have a few minutes of actual adult conversation. Join us!



Looking Forward to Mid-January

Monday, January 20th
NO CCD - Martin Luther King Day

Enjoy your day off.



Youth Free Throw Contest

Sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus Regina Pacis Council #4066

Friday, January 10, 2025

6:30 pm

Our Lady of Sorrows School Gym

- Girls and Boys ages 9-14 may participate in the competition (participants will compete within their age/gender group)
- Registration will take place upon arrival the day of the contest (parent/guardian must be present to fill out registration form)
- *No pre-registration required*
- Any questions please contact Lou Budzyn (kc3on3@gmail.com)

FREE OF CHARGE

This Friday! Youth Free Throw Contest

Does your child play basketball? Looking for something fun to do this Friday? Then come on down to the OLS School gymnasium and have your child participate in the Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw Contest. It's free and fun way to show off those skills.



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK

St. Hilary of Poitiers, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Feast Day: January 13th

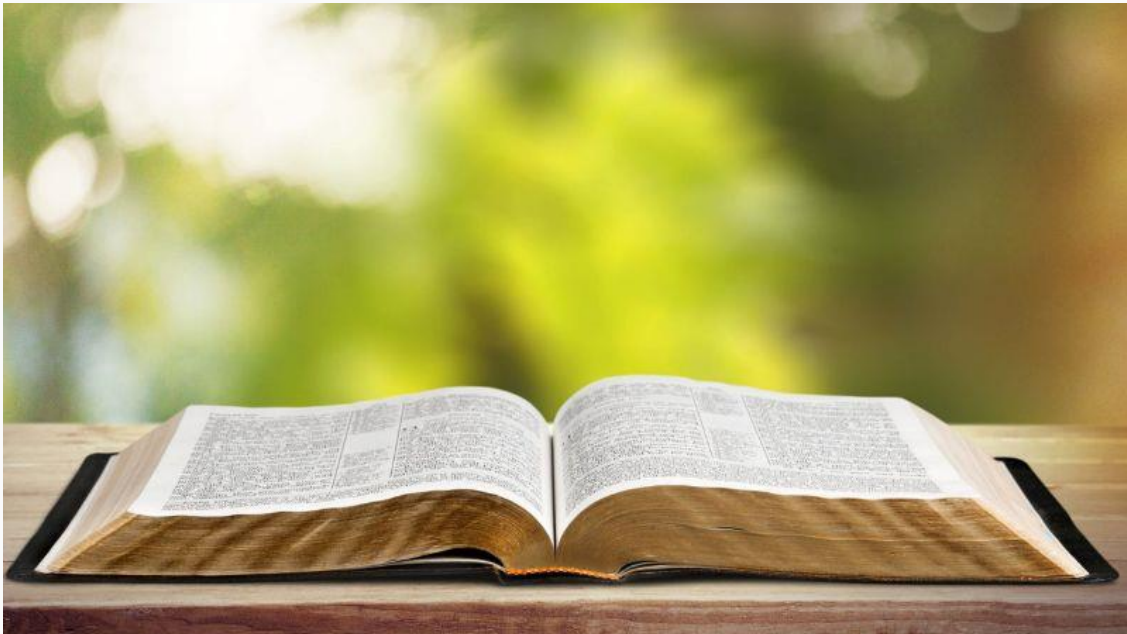
This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his Master in being labeled a “disturber of the peace.” In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy. He was bishop of Poitiers in France.

Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

The heresy spread rapidly. Saint Jerome said “The world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian.” When Emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the West to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the East, Hilary refused and was banished from

France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the “Athanasius of the West.”

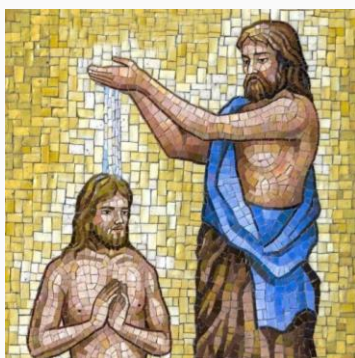
While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the Council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the Church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people.



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass is then a bit like looking over the menu before you get to a restaurant: you have a better idea of what you can expect so that you can enter into the experience more fully prepared. And like a good discussion during a meal, discussing the readings and how they can be applied to your family's daily life helps your family to truly go out and proclaim the gospel after leaving the church.

Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the Liturgy of the Word:

[The Baptism of the Lord](#)
[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)
[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)



Baptism of the Lord for Kids

I wish we had more time with your kids in class to do all of the great projects to help them connect Scripture with their lives. Be sure to stop by the Coffee and Donuts table which is sure to have a great Baptism of the Lord craft tie in. Or, try one of these at home:

[Holy Spirit / Dove Paper Plate Craft](#) (Catholic Icing)

[Holy Spirit Handprint Craft](#) (Catholic Icing)

[Bible Craft for the Letter D \(Dove\)](#) (Catholic Icing)

[Holy Water Bottle Craft](#) (Catholic Icing)

[Baptism Crafts for Kids](#) (eHow)

[Baptism of Our Lord Wreath Craft](#) (Catholic Inspired)

[Baptism of Our Lord Shell Craft](#) (Catholic Inspired)

[3-Minute Video - Baptism of Lord Explained](#)

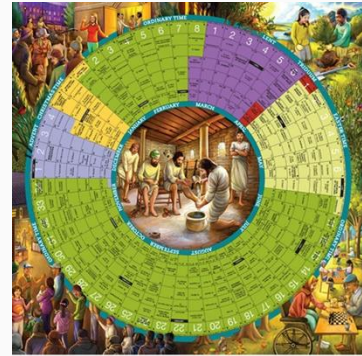
Catholic Trivia

Question: True or False - The Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season.

Answer: True

The Baptism of the Lord concludes the celebration of the Christmas season. This feast celebrates that, before starting his public ministry, Jesus allowed himself to be baptized by St. John the Baptist.

Ordinary Time begins on Monday after the Sunday following 6 January and continues until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday inclusive. It begins again on Monday after Pentecost and ends before evening prayer of the First Sunday of Advent. So, next week your weekly newsletter will be back to Ordinary Time - Green!



Joke of the Week

Question: *What can you catch in winter with your eyes closed?*

Answer: A cold!

Jen Noll
Catechetical Coordinator
jennollols@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x235

Colleen McDonald
Religious Education Assistant
sorrowschurch@gmail.com
973-763-5454 x285

[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)