

DUE: Tuesday, January 31, 2011

Confirmation Mass Assignment

January 8, 2012

The Baptism of Our Lord, First Sunday after the Epiphany

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Instructions: Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection:

John the Baptist says in this gospel, “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. A voice came from heaven saying to Jesus, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Gospel Questions:

1. Baptism frees us from sin. Jesus had *no sin*; he is the Son of God! Why was Jesus baptized? What was he trying to show us here?
2. In this Gospel reading, Jesus saw heaven being open and the Holy Spirit descended upon him. Why is the Holy Spirit represented as a dove? What other symbols come to your mind when you think of the Holy Spirit?
3. God the Father says to Jesus, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Why was the Father pleased with Jesus? How have you lived your life in ways that are pleasing to God?

DUE: Tuesday, January 31, 2011

Confirmation Mass Assignment

January 15, 2012

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Instructions: Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection:

Jesus begins to call his disciples in this gospel passage. Two of John the Baptist's disciples were standing with him when Jesus approached them. John pointed out to his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God. The disciples may have left John to follow Jesus at first out of curiosity, but soon they knew there was something compelling about his invitation. While they didn't clearly understand all this meant, they allowed themselves to be led by Jesus. Try to imagine the excitement these first disciples felt when they heard Jesus' words. There must have been something very compelling in what Jesus said and the hope he gave these men in order for them to drop everything and not only follow him, but to go to others with the exciting news. That's how our enthusiasm should reach others. It would be good to check our own level of enthusiasm for Jesus' call to us so that whenever others hear our words and stories about Jesus, they will immediately recognize our passion.

Gospel Questions:

1. You can understand how the disciples may have felt when they first met Jesus. Once you weren't sure about how something would work out, but you followed your instincts and it was a great experience when...
2. Who are the people you recognize in our own time to be disciples of Jesus?
3. What is the most rewarding thing about following Jesus?

DUE: Tuesday, January 31, 2011

Confirmation Mass Assignment

January 22, 2012

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel, Mark 1:14-20

Instructions: Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection:

Jesus called two sets of brothers to be his disciples. First he called Andrew and his brother Simon. He then came upon James and John who left their father and their boat to follow Jesus. The summon of Jesus had to have been inviting beyond doubt, because these four men immediately left their means of livelihood and families to follow a dynamic, but unknown leader. The faith and trust of these early disciples is hard to imagine. Everything Andrew, Peter, James, and John had known disappeared as they began a new way of living found in their company with Jesus. We often see these dramatic conversions among candidates in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and the Children's Catechumenate. Something may have happened recently in a person's life that brought them to the point of conversion.

Gospel Questions:

1. A life-changing call for me that came from Jesus happened when...
2. Like the first fishermen, when are you a gatherer of people for Jesus?
3. Jesus called more than one disciple at time. It also helps me to be called with others because...

DUE: Tuesday, January 31, 2011

Confirmation Mass Assignment

January 29, 2012

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel, Mark 1:21-28

Instructions: Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection:

Much of Jesus' teaching took place in a synagogue and specifically in today's reading, the synagogue at Capernaum was filled with Jewish people from Galilee. Jesus' listeners were surprised by his knowledge and authority. He especially surprised them when he cast out an evil spirit from one of the men. The evil spirit recognized who Jesus was and called him "the Holy One of God." The people didn't understand this meaning. Only the evil spirit recognized Jesus. The people, however, were impressed by Jesus' deeds and brought others to him for healing. It is a great responsibility to have authority over another person. Our very use of that authority has the potential of lifting people up or tearing them down. It's often interesting to think back on what kind of witness we've been for Jesus.

Gospel Questions:

1. Just like Jesus sent the evil spirit from the man, when did someone help you get over something troubling?
2. People were looking to Jesus to perform healings and miracles. A miracle I witnessed was when...
3. Who is one person of great authority who you think is most like Jesus?