

The Catholic Tugboat

A Children's Guide to God



December 8, 2019 Cycle A, Second Sunday of Advent

Volume V, Issue 2



Catholic I.D.

A prophet is someone who delivers God's message to a people. Prophets rarely predicted the future except to let the people know what would happen should they not listen to God's message. Sometimes though, the prophets of old would speak of 'One who would come to save.'

The prophet Zechariah was one of these: "Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt." (Zech. 9:9b) Read Matthew 21:1-11 to see how this prophecy comes true!

But of all the prophets, the last was the greatest: John the Baptist. Announcing Jesus Christ as Savior, John was "more than a prophet." (CCC 719) Because of him, we are certain that Jesus is our Savior.



From Your Lips to God's Ear

It's not too late to find a way to mark the days until Christmas. Some of you might want to use an Advent Calendar. Others may want to light the candles of an Advent Wreath each evening at dinner. Both are good activities to bring the family together and to pray-while-doing.

The following is just one example of a prayer that can be prayed as you light a candle or open yet another



Buried Treasures



Today's Readings point to Jesus Christ as the Messiah. The Gospel does this by naming John the Baptist as the **forerunner** (*one who goes before another*) of the Messiah whom Isaiah had prophesied hundreds of years earlier. This man would "prepare the way of the Lord." (read Isaiah 40:3) In the First Reading, Isaiah tells us the Messiah would come from the family line of Jesse, and then he gives us a list of characteristics this Messiah would have:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

"The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD."
Jesus had all of these, and more!



Today we recognize these characteristics as gifts of the Holy Spirit and signs that the Holy Spirit is present. Can you make a list of these seven gifts?

7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, fear of the Lord, piety (faithful adoration of God)

door of your calendar:

Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Let your light dispel the darkness
And shine brightly in our hearts.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!
(see website for links)



Our Salvation History: A Special Story

The Bible is a certain kind of book. Inspired by God, it tells the story of our journey toward salvation. The truths contained in it tell us where we've been and how to get where we want to go.

Because this book is so special, we need to learn how to read it. Sometimes we will be learning *literal* truths, such as the story of Judah's captivity in Babylon. But the Bible is not considered just a history book or even a science book. So, often we will be learning *spiritual* truths instead.

There are different kinds of spiritual



truths. Some reveal the importance of an event by seeing how it relates to Jesus, like when we compare the Crossing of the Red Sea with Jesus' Baptism. Other truths might look to the future to find meaning in the present, like when we see the Church that Jesus began here as the promise of what will come. Still other spiritual truths teach us how to behave and grow as people, like the Ten Commandments.

Since the Bible is kind of a 'User Guide' given to us by our Father in Heaven, we will be taking time this year to look more closely at the major stories of the bible, and what this most special of books has to teach us.

Tugboat Challenge

Read the following stories from the Bible with an adult this Second Week of Advent. Then, put the letter of the symbols next to the Bible story they best represent. **Now you have more possibilities for ornaments to hang on your Jesse Tree!**

1. *Sunday* – "**Moses**," read: Exodus 3 _____
2. *Monday* – "**The Israelites**," read: Exodus 16:1-36 _____
3. *Tuesday* – "**The Giving of the Law**," read: Exodus 20:1-20 _____
4. *Wednesday* – "**Joshua and the Fall of Jericho**," read Joshua 6:1-27 _____
5. *Thursday* – "**Gideon's Test**," read: Judges 6:36-40 _____
6. *Friday* – "**The Loyalty of Ruth**," read: Ruth 1:13-18 _____
7. *Saturday* – "**Samuel**," read: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 _____

- A. Symbol: the woolen fleece of a sheep
- B. Symbol: ram's horn (*shofar*)
- C. Symbol: crown
- D. Symbol: burning bush
- E. Symbol: tablets
- F. Symbol: wheat grain
- G. Symbol: manna



Answers: 1. D 2. G 3. E 4. B 5. A 6. F 7. C

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