

FOCUS ON FAITH by SHARON LAWRENCE

CHRISTMAS

Advent – A Time of Waiting

Advent marks the start of the Christmas season. It began on November 28th, the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, and lasts four Sundays. The word advent, from Latin, means “the coming.” It is a time of spiritual reflection as well as cheer and anticipation.

Make an Advent Wreath

http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/kids/artsncrafts/12_adventwreath.asp



The Advent wreath represents God’s love. The ever-green and the circle (wreath) symbolize that God is eternal and always with us. An Advent wreath is made from greens to symbolize continuous life and contains four candles— three purple and one rose. Often a fifth candle (white) is added to the center

of the wreath for lighting on Christmas Eve, in celebration of the birth of Jesus. Make a classroom Advent wreath for your classroom!

Level: Grades K-8

Advent Wreath Prayer

God, our Father,
Pour forth Thy blessing upon this Advent wreath,
and grant that we who use it, may prepare our hearts for the
coming of Jesus our Savior,
and thus, may receive from Thee, abundant graces.
Amen.

Advent Meditations

<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/adx/admedit.html>

Use these Advent meditations during Advent to call your students to focus on the true meaning of Jesus’ birth. Each week, the meditations include an introductory prayer, a simple story, and a Bible verse.

Level: Grades K-8

December 6th – St. Nicholas Day



<http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/adx/adnick.html>

Saint Nicholas gave the little ones he met small gifts for example, some candy or a toy. His kindness, which always managed to surprise them, touched their hearts, and they learned from this holy man what a beautiful thing giving is. This simple story is a great way to introduce students to this important saint at this time of the year.

Level: Grades K-4

Happy Birthday Jesus WebQuest

<http://www.catholicteacherresources.com/page-1/page-1a/catholic-webquest-happy-birthday-jesus/>

Students will explore the real Christmas story of the birth of Jesus. From the Annunciation of Mary to the visiting of the Wise Men in Bethlehem, students will grow in their understanding of why His birth is important in our lives. The WebQuest is filled with interesting and intriguing websites, and finishes with students planning a “Happy Birthday” party for Jesus.

Level: Grades K-3

Mass Plans for Children’s Christmas Liturgy

PDF Available

<http://www.catholicteacherresources.com/mass-plans/>

This downloadable Mass Plan for a School or Parish Liturgy celebrates the “Gift” of Christmas with an art activity, prayers and a dramatic reading of the Gospel of Luke.

Level: Grades K-8



December 8th – The Immaculate Conception

On December 8, we honor Mary, our Mother on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - a Holy Day of Obligation.



The Immaculate Conception Liturgy

http://www.catholicteacherresources.com/media/mass_plans/Immaculate_Conception_Mass.pdf

Mass Plans for a School Liturgy celebrating Mary’s “Yes” to God. The Liturgy also includes an in-class activity and a Dramatic Reading of the Gospel of Luke for all grade levels.

Level: Hosting Class
Grades 3-8

Marian Titles

<http://www.memorare.com/puzzles/crossloreto.html>

This online interactive crossword will engage your students in learning about the many titles of Mary.

Level: Grades 3-8



Video Highlights from CTN's Library

Grades K-2

Getting Along:

Don't Make Me Stop This Car

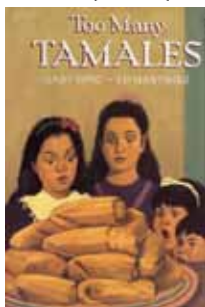
For Broadcast or Loan
GET-004 (15:00)

Two vignettes demonstrate what it feels like to be "bugged" by someone. A story helps children learn to be more assertive in identifying annoying behavior and asking that it stop.

Tues., 12/1 8:45-9:00 Ch. 10
Thur., 12/3 10:15-10:30 Ch. 10
Fri., 1/15 10:25-10:40 Ch. 10

Story Circle: Too Many Tamales

For Broadcast or Loan
SF-058 (13:00)



Everyone is coming for Christmas dinner and Maria and her mother are kneading the "masa" to make tamales. When her mother takes off her ring, Maria tries it on - and loses it. Is it kneaded into the tamales?

Mon., 12/14 9:50-10:03 Ch. 12
Mon., 12/14 1:45-1:58 Ch. 10
Tues., 12/15 8:45-8:58 Ch. 12
Wed., 12/16 8:40-8:53 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/17 9:35-9:48 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/17 12:45-12:58 Ch. 10
Thurs., 12/17 1:30-1:43 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/17 2:00-2:13 Ch. 12
Fri., 12/18 9:20-9:33 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/18 11:05-11:18 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/18 1:30-1:43 Ch. 10

Story Circle: Clown of God



For Broadcast or Loan
SF-036 (10:00)
Giovanni, a once-famous juggler, is now old and penniless. But he gives one last, unforgettable performance on Christmas Eve for Mary and the Christ Child.

Tues., 12/1 1:25-1:35 Ch. 10
Wed., 12/2 8:50-9:00 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/3 9:05-9:15 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/4 11:05-11:15 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/4 11:30-11:40 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/4 2:15-2:25 Ch. 10
Mon., 12/14 11:05-11:15 Ch. 10
Tues., 12/15 11:25-11:35 Ch. 10
Wed., 12/16 9:45-9:55 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/18 9:55-10:05 Ch. 12
Wed., 1/13 11:00-11:13 Ch. 12
Fri., 1/15 9:35-9:48 Ch. 10

Grades 3-5

Saints Alive: St. Dominic Savio



For Broadcast or Loan
SAL-003 (15:00)
At the age of twelve, Dominic went to a school for boys, where he organized a student group that volunteered to help others.
Wed., 12/2 8:20-8:35 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/3 2:00-2:15 Ch. 10

Fri., 12/4 8:50-9:05 Ch. 12
Fri., 12/4 1:00-1:15 Ch. 10

Colonial Williamsburg: Jamestown Unearthed

Electronic Field Trip
(60:00)

Take a look at how history is written and reevaluated as new methods of study are introduced. Using the example of Jamestown in 1607, explore the myths and misconceptions of that era: revisit the documents, artifacts, and other evidence through archaeology. Learn how every generation sees the evidence in new ways, and how this affects our understanding of the past.

Thurs., 12/10 10:00-11:00 Ch. 8
Thurs., 12/10 1:10-2:10 Ch. 8

The Gospel According To St. Bernard: The Christmas Gift

For Broadcast or Loan
SB-012 (19:00)

Daniel and Jennifer resign themselves to having the worst Christmas ever when Mr. Sullivan announces that he's not going shopping again, but instead will be making his Christmas gifts by hand. Everyone knows that he is not especially talented with his hands. Will his homemade gifts be as bad as everyone thinks? Well, yes, but an unexpected surprise awaits when Bernie decides to become Santa's little helper. Daniel and Jennifer learn a great deal about the true meaning of Christmas as Bernie helps them realize that a gift is just a gift, but a gift of love is precious.

Mon., 12/14 8:55-9:14 Ch. 12
Mon., 12/14 12:15-12:30 Ch. 12
Tues., 12/15 8:20-8:39 Ch. 12
Wed., 12/16 8:45-9:04 Ch. 10
Wed., 12/16 10:00-10:19 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/17 8:40-8:59 Ch. 10
Thurs., 12/17, & Fri., 12/18 11:35-11:54 Ch. 12
Fri., 12/18 8:30-8:49 Ch. 12
Fri., 12/18 1:35-1:50 Ch. 12

Saints Alive: Christmas Story

For Broadcast or Loan



SAL-002 (15:00)
Program host is Mary Lu Walker, using original art and music, tells the bible story of the birth of Jesus.
Mon., 12/14 9:05-9:20 Ch. 10

Mon., 12/14 12:00-12:15 Ch. 12
Mon., 12/14 1:55-2:10 Ch. 12
Tues., 12/15 1:40-1:55 Ch. 10
Wed., 12/16 8:20-8:35 Ch. 12
Wed., 12/16 9:40-9:55 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/17 10:50-11:05 Ch. 12
Thurs., 12/17 2:00-2:15 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/18 8:50-9:05 Ch. 12

BROADCAST AND VIDEO LOAN REQUESTS

- Broadcast videos may be scheduled at alternate times by calling CTN at 650-326-7850, ext. 12 or by email to request@ctnba.org.
- Loan videos and kits may be borrowed for 2 weeks and should be returned to CTN.
- Videos may be duplicated unless noted otherwise.
- CTN staff are available to assist you from 7:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
- UPS return label included with each video at no cost to you.

Sacraments Kit

Multimedia Kit
Level: Grades 1-3

Includes:

- Video: A Tour of Our Parish Church (12:00)
- Candle
- Book: Receiving Holy Communion
- Book: The Seven Sacraments
- Book: Going to Confession
- Book: The Mass for Children
- Book: My Picture Missals



Grades 6-8

Holy Land, Holy People: The Holy City

For Broadcast or Loan
HOL-002 (30:00)

An overview of Jerusalem's history explains its critical place in all three faiths. Religious leaders and activists explain why they are dedicated to achieving peace and social justice for everyone who calls Jerusalem a holy city.

Wed., 12/2 1:45-2:15 Ch. 10
Thurs., 12/3 11:05-11:35 Ch. 10

Operation Algebra: Transforming Formulas

For Broadcast or Loan
ALG-008 (34:00)

This episode deals with the topic of transforming formulas. The episode begins with an inquiry about the length of NBA players' feet. Given a player's shoe size, how long are his feet in inches? The formula: $s = 3L + 22$, works well to find someone's shoe size, s , given their foot length in inches, L , but is not so easy to use if you want to find the length of someone's feet given their shoe size. We need to rewrite the formula for the length of someone's feet in terms of his shoe size.

Fri., 12/4 8:50-9:24 Ch. 10
Tues., 12/8 9:45-10:19 Ch. 12
Wed., 12/9 10:05-10:39 Ch. 10
Mon., 12/14 2:00-2:34 Ch. 10

The Gift of the Magi

For Broadcast or Loan
SEA-024 (16:00)

A poor husband and wife who sacrifice to give each other a special Christmas gift. (O. Henry).

Mon., 12/14 10:00-10:16 Ch. 10
Tues., 12/15 9:00-9:16 Ch. 12
Wed., 12/16 11:00-11:16 Ch. 10
Thurs., 12/17 9:35-9:51 Ch. 10
Fri., 12/18 9:35-9:51 Ch. 12



The Festival Of Lights

For Broadcast or Loan
SEA-043 (24:00)



Two children receive the gift of lights in this animated special tell-

ing the dramatic story of Hanukkah, the great festival of lights.

Mon., 12/14 11:15-11:39 Ch. 12
Tues., 12/15 1:15-1:39 Ch. 12
Fri., 12/18 10:35-10:59 Ch. 10

Guidance and Health: Don't Even Try It

For Broadcast or Loan
DRU-001 (11:00)

Realistic vignettes of teenagers refusing to smoke or drink alcohol show viewers how to stay in control and avoid trouble without losing friends.

Wed., 1/20 9:15-9:26 Ch. 10
Thurs., 1/21 11:35-11:46 Ch. 10
Fri., 1/22 1:25-1:36 Ch. 10



California History: Juan Cabrillo & Mission San Diego



For Broadcast or Loan
AF 056 (12:00)

Two vignettes from the American Frontier series give background on the founding of San Diego and its Mission.

Fri., 1/22 11:25-11:37
Ch. 12

Egypt

Multimedia Kit
Level: Grades 6-8

Includes:

- Video: Time, Tombs, & Treasure (29:00)
- Video: Balancing the Budget (29:00)
- Video: Reading Egyptian Hieroglyphs (22:00)
- 2 National Geographic Maps of Egypt
- Book: Tutankhamun, the Life & Death of a Pharaoh, by David Murdoch
- Book: The Daily Life of the Ancient Egyptians, by Nora Scott
- Book: Science in Ancient Egypt, by Geraldine Woods
- Magazine: SchoolArts, Out of Egypt



Professional Development

RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD SERIES

Buddhism WR-001 (28:00)

Shot on location in India, Nepal, Thailand, and Japan, this program explores the history, development, art, and influence of Buddhism in the world. Topics include the Noble Eightfold Way, the teachings of the Buddha, the concept of karma, the importance of compassion, and the relationship between Buddhism and Hinduism.

Christianity WR-002 (28:00)

A general overview explores the life of Christ and the development of the early church. Topics include the split between East and West, the reformation, the New Testament, the rituals that are part of Christian tradition.

Islam WR-003 (28:00)

Islam is the world's fastest growing, and perhaps most misunderstood religion. This program gives an introduction to the Muslim faith, its foundations, and its past and present influences on the world. Islam is a faith that, although the world's youngest, has attracted more than one billion followers. The video highlights Islamic practices in India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

Hinduism WR-004 (28:00)

Hinduism, born nearly 5,000 years ago in the Indus valley of India, is believed to be the world's most ancient living religion. Unlike other religions, Hinduism has no single founder and no defined organization, but it has contributed the concept of non-violent resistance as a means of political change. Shot at numerous locations in India this program visits many Hindu sacred places, and emphasizes the development of Hinduism.



Judaism WR-005 (28:00)

Driven from their ancestral land, persecuted for their faith, and killed by the millions in the Holocaust, the Jews have courageously maintained their traditions and their community. This video, set in Israel, Egypt, and the United States follows the history, the development, and the practice of Judaism from its beginnings to the present day. Topics include the Torah, the rituals, the Holocaust, the state of Israel, and the Jewish Renewal Movement.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday 18th of January 2010

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15th, 1929 in Atlanta, Georgia. After receiving a doctorate he became pastor of a Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. King first achieved national renown when he helped mobilize the black boycott of the Montgomery bus system in 1955. This was organized after Rosa Parks, a black woman, refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white man - in the segregated south, black people could only sit at the back of the bus. The 382-day boycott led the bus company to change its regulations, and the Supreme Court declared such segregation unconstitutional. King continued to lead protests in a nonviolent manner throughout his life. He was assassinated on 4 April 1968 during a visit to Memphis, Tennessee. Read more about him here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/king_martin_luther.shtml



Martin Luther King Jr. WebQuest

<http://www.catholicteacherresources.com/page-1/6-8-webquests/catholic-webquest-martin-luther-king.phpMyAdmin=ei%2Cv-xYcDhOVSM-eZkL76uKoMRd>

Students will examine the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and explore how he applied the Gospel values in the pursuit of social justice. Students will plan, write, and present a short TV show explaining how respect is the key to overcoming injustices, and how we can respond to unjust situations in our own lives.

Level: Grades 6-8

American Heroes: Martin Luther King Jr.

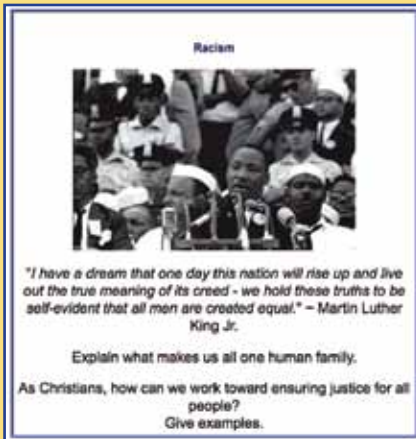
<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=33633B68-718D-41D9-ADC4-D6582CD45632&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US>

A combination of costumed re-enactments and archival footage of the civil rights movement

shows how our country's foremost civil rights leader transformed race relations in America. The program first shows young Martin as a child in Atlanta, where he experiences racial discrimination. He is also seen working to convince Congress to pass fair housing laws. The program ends as Dr. King gives his "I Have a Dream" speech and as he receives the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize.

(14:00)

Level: Grades 6-8



Citizen King

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/mlk/>

This great resource is an American Experience PBS companion site. It includes a transcript of the program, primary sources, special features, timeline, maps and more.

Level: Grades 6-8

Catholic Writing Prompts

<http://www.catholicteacherresources.com/writing-prompts/>

Students will focus on the image presented and then be challenged by a series of questions which cause them to reflect on how their faith can be expressed in daily life. Themes include: Racism, Injustice, Violence, Peace, Poverty, and Compassion.

Level: Grades K-8

Martin Luther King Jr. Timeline for Kids

<http://www.pocanticohills.org/taverna/98/1.htm>

Students at Pocantico Hills Central School have created their own Kid Pix drawings and text to explain the life and major events of Martin Luther King Jr. Use it as a springboard for students to create their own presentations about his life.

Level: Grades K-2

Martin Luther King Day Special

For Broadcast or Loan

SEA-128 (13:00)

This video highlights the career of America's foremost civil rights leader. The program explains Dr. King's contributions to the people of the United States and elsewhere throughout the world.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, first experience with prejudice is discussed, as are his early years in school. His unwavering belief in nonviolence as the best way to solve human problems is also given special attention. Also featured is the "I Have A Dream speech."

Wed., 1/6 10:35-10:48 Ch.10

Thurs., 1/7 8:40-8:53 Ch.10

Thurs., 1/7 10:25-10:38 Ch.12

Thurs., 1/7 2:00-2:13 Ch.8

Fri., 1/8 2:00-2:13 Ch.12

Mon., 1/11 10:05-10:18 Ch.10

Tues., 1/12 1:40-1:53 Ch.10



Christmas in Catholic Schools ~ Web & Video Resources



Encourage the spirit of giving this season in your classroom with some of these 'Give to others' ideas:

- Give of yourself. Provide babysitting coupons for new parents, raking leaves coupons for seniors and free housecleaning coupons or a ready-made meal for busy friends.
- Give the gift of an indoor herb garden. Seeds planted now will be sprouted by Christmas.
- Make hand-made soap or candles.
- If you are skilled in a particular area, offer the gift of a lesson or class.
- Collect quotes that make you think of someone. Make a small booklet out of recycled paper and write them out in your best handwriting.
- Fill a basket with homemade goodies.
- Ask your parents about their childhood memories record them and burn onto a CD.
- Record younger family members singing Christmas carols for grandparents.
- Create a memory quilt for parents.



Streaming Video Resources

Holiday Story Fun for Kids: Christmas Stories

<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=FFAA8F3B-8A1E-46A0-8CC3-54DD46101DFC&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US>

Experience the joys of the season with this program, which highlights Santa and other heartwarming tales.

Running Time (26:51)

Level: Grades K-3



Holiday Facts and Fun: Christmas

<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=62EC5B68-3120-4D79-AD9F-48D032CAE2FC&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US>

The spirit of a favorite holiday's underlying message - love and joy - is enhanced by the unique presentation featuring celebrations of families from Scandinavia, Native America, South Korea, Mexico, and Ethiopia, each in its American home, explaining family and ethnic customs associated with their celebrations. This presentation is a perfect way to help children

understand that ethnic expressions are wonderful ways for individuals and groups to celebrate Christmas and other holidays.

Running Time (22:00)

Level: Grades 3-5

Web Resources

Christmas Printables

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas/index.html>

Check out these great resources that include printable activities, Art and Craft ideas, Poems, Songs, and Word Searches. Why not try using one of the Christmas Plays, Poems or Prayers to present to parents during this Christmas season. Level: Grades K-3



Level: Grades K-5

The Arrival

http://kids4truth.com/the-arrival_eng.html

Students can follow the events of the Christmas story with this engaging online animation. 'The Arrival' includes music, text and images. It will capture the imagination of your students and encourage them to learn more about the true Christmas story.

Christmas Around the World WebQuest

<http://www.klynych2000.com/ChristmasWebquest.html>

How do you say Merry Christmas in other countries? How are Christmas traditions around the world different to ours? Students will research how children in other countries celebrate Christmas and complete a Christmas craft for each country they explore.

Level: Grades 1-5



Videos

Story Circle: The Night Before Christmas

Broadcast or Loan SEA-124 (6:00)



Clement C. Moore's classic poem The Night Before Christmas is undeniably the most widely recognized Christmas poem of all time. Moore's words evoke images of warm, fuzzy Christmases and are a springboard for creative writing in your classroom.

Level: Grades K-3

Celebrating the Season: Advent

Loan Video (12:00)

During the preparation time of Advent we are invited to change as we prepare for Jesus' coming in our daily lives. This program explains the custom of the Advent Wreath and includes other traditions: the Jesse Tree, and an Advent House.

Level: Grades 3-8





ONSCREEN

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650-326-7850 www.ctnba.org 324 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Merry Christmas from CTN

May the Gift of His love bring you joy this Christmas season
and throughout the New Year



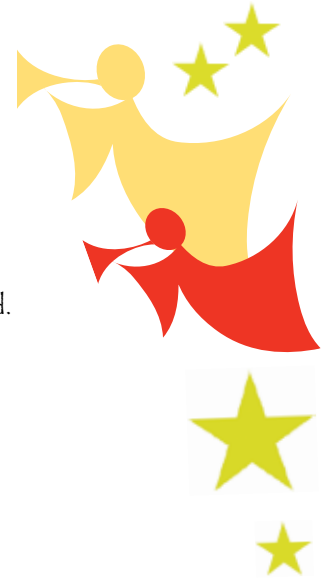
Christmas Prayer
by Robert Louis Stevenson

"Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be Thy children,
and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake, Amen!"



Catholic Schools Week 2010 Essay Contest for Students

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



DIVIDENDS FOR LIFE

The 2010 theme for Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools - Dividends for Life".

Encourage your students to share their thoughts, experiences, and ideas on how their Catholic School prepares them for life. Catholic schools provide good things for students and families - high expectations and daily experience of faith.

Assign this contest to your students as a way to focus on Catholic Schools Week in your school community! Why? Because when the student wins you win. **For every winning entry, the teacher will receive an ELMO Document Camera for their classroom and the student wins an iPod Nano.**

The contest is for students in the following grades: 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8. For more details on the essay contest, please see the insert in the newsletter. Good luck and we look forward to receiving your entries!