

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINÉ

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2017

HELPING OUR CHILDREN RESPOND TO GOD'S INVITATION

National Vocation Awareness Week (NVA) is a time set aside for parishes to foster a culture of holy vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and marriage. This year it is *November 5-11* and we have things happening not just that week, but the whole month of November at St. Robert! During the week of N.V.A., *each religious ed. and school family will be receiving a picture of a seminarian or novitiate that will include a prayer for them.* We are asking that you spiritually adopt that person preparing for priesthood or religious life! We ask that you add your person into your family's daily prayer and that throughout the year you send him/her Christmas cards or little notes of affirmation. In this small, but powerful way, our families can help support those preparing for priesthood or religious life!

Also, we are having a *special presentation and discussion in the church on Nov. 27, 5:45-7:15 pm led by Father John Linden and Dawn Hausmann from the Diocese of Lansing for all of our parents, grandparents, and guardians.* It will be a great night!

We are also inviting our entire parish to participate in a spiritual bouquet for our awesome priests, Fr. Gordon and Fr. Anthony. We are so blessed by these two men and their vocations! A spiritual bouquet is an offering of prayer. Cards are in the bulletin and on our website. Please fill out a card and return it to the Parish Office, drop it in the collection basket, or email it to socialmedia.strobert@gmail.com.

Please continue to pray for good and holy vocations for those from St. Robert called to be married, to be priests, and those called to religious life.

LEVEL ONE: GESTURES OF THE MASS

In Level I (ages 3-6 yrs.), the children are presented the gestures of the Mass which are *Epiclesis, Offering, Gesture of Peace, and Lavabo.* The catechist presents the movements that the priest does with each gesture. The children are then invited to do the movements themselves during the work. Children this age love gifts and yearn for joyful celebration. The Mass is presented through the gestures as the "sacrament of gift" where God is continually sending us the gift of the person of His son, Jesus. When we receive the gift, we respond back to God as fully as possible. These gesture let the children have enjoyment in the relationship they have with God (through the aspect of gift) and fulfill that yearning they have for celebration because it gives them a point of reference in the Mass to aide in their active participation.

We also will do some geography work and learn about Israel. Through learning about Israel, we come to know that Jesus is a real, historical person who lived on our earth.



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Search for **myParish** on the App Store or Google Play to download our app today!



LEVEL TWO: THE PROPHETS

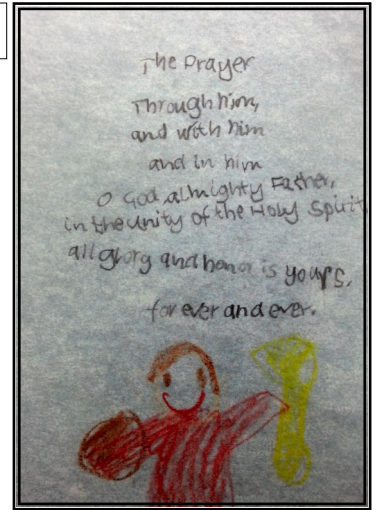
In Level II (ages 6-9 yrs.), we will be entering into the season of preparation, Advent, by looking at the prophets. They shared that God wanted to give them a gift and God was waiting for the right time. To help them in their waiting and to give them special clues, God called the prophets. Since we have been 3 years old, we have learned that the prophets are those deep listeners who heard the Word of God and spoke His message to the people. We will look at those 3-6 year old prophecies (Is. 9:1, Is. 9:6, Is. 7:14, Micah 5:1), that we have learned and see if we can find links between them. We then find connections between them as a whole to those three moments of Salvation History.

We will also look at a new prophecy of the *Mountains and Valleys* (Is. 40:3-5), *“A voice cried out: in the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

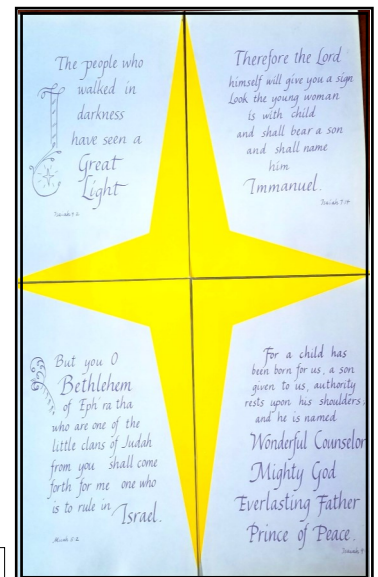
We ponder preparing-is it physical geography that we are preparing or is it our hearts? How are we to prepare? We know that we have gathered in the time of Advent to prepare for Christmas. It says when all this is done, all people will be able to see God’s light. We often think of the Parousia, when God’s light will reach all people and God will be all in all. Are we preparing for the Parousia as well? During this season of Advent, we will continue to ponder these words of the prophets and wait in joyful anticipation.

LEVEL THREE: CREATION & SIN TYPOLOGY

In Level III (ages 9-12), we will start our *Creation Typology Study* followed by our *Sin Typology Study*, both of which are Bible studies. In Level II, we studied the three moments in the History of the Kingdom of God - *Creation, Redemption, and Parousia*— by working with the Fettuccia and Blue Strip. In Level III, as we read and ponder the Genesis account of creation, we make connections to these three moments. We’ll read and ponder the Genesis account of sin, its origins, and consequences for humankind and make those same connections to the three moments. We see how gift after gift is given in Creation and how God created us in His image. We possess dignity which includes free will and the ability to sin. Sin separates us from being in an intimate relationship with our Creator. God gave us Jesus and through His life, death, and resurrection, He has overcome evil and death and makes us new in Baptism (Redemption). We await the day when Christ’s victory over sin and death will become universal at the Parousia. Doing these Bible studies not only help us to continue to ponder the History of the Kingdom of God, but also helps us to gain an understanding of sin, to see God’s great and loving mercy for us, and also leads us to hope!



Level I: 5 yr. old child's artwork after working with Gestures



Level II: 3-6 Prophecies Synthesis material



Level III: Journaling and further pondering after a presentation

Important NEWS & EVENTS

- **FAMILY HOLY HOUR & CHILDREN'S ROSARY:** Our Family Holy Hour for Vocations and a Children's Rosary will be **November 9th at 7pm**. **We invited all children ages 3 yrs. thru 8th grade to come!** This is a unique opportunity for the children of our parish to come together to pray. No prior knowledge of the Rosary is needed and rosaries and prayer books will be provided! Please join us!
- **MASS OF ENROLLEMNT FOR 2ND GRADE:** The Mass of Enrollment for all children receiving 1st Eucharist and Reconciliation will be Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 6:45 pm. Children should arrive by 6:30 pm so they can write their names down. They will receive their Bibles at this Mass. Godparents are also invited to attend if possible.
- **THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE DRIVE, NOV. 12-17:** We will be helping the Flushing Outreach Center in their ministry to provide for people in our Flushing community who are having a difficult time. November 12-17, we are asking that everyone bring an item(s) to class that your grade has been assigned:
 - 3 years & Pre-K:** Spaghetti/Pasta Noodles
 - K, 1st, 2nd:** Chunky Soups
 - 3rd, 4th, 5th:** Jam/Jelly
 - 6th & 7th:** Canned Vegetables
 - 8th:** Juice (any kind)
- **SAVE THE DATE - NOVEMBER 27, 5:45-7:15 PM:** Fr. John Linden and Dawn Hausmann from the Diocese of Lansing will answer two important questions: What is a vocation and how to foster vocations. This talk is scheduled during Monday Religious Ed for convenience but **all parents, grandparents, and guardians should attend this presentation**. If we want healthy marriages, priests and religious, then let's create a culture that will help our children to hear God's call! **Childcare is provided during this presentation**. If you need childcare for your children during the presentation, please call us at 659-8556.
- **SEND US YOUR PICTURES!** Do you have pictures of parish events? Send them to us at socialmedia.strobert@gmail.com!