

REACH OUT!

A Newsletter for St. Thomas More Families Grade PreK - 8th

Announcements

- * **May God bless you, and let this Christmas season bring comfort and joy to you and your family.**
- * **Next REACH:** Jan. 13th
- * **Next Sac. Prep Parent Mtg:** Jan 27th

REACH ReCap

Genesis & Levels 1-5: We learned that Advent is the season in the Church year that focuses on the experience of active waiting as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth and await his coming in glory. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd to share what they have and to make good choices to prepare for Jesus. What are some things we might do during Advent to prepare for the Lord?



“Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.”

Psalm 80

Family Connection

Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child

In the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth described in today's Gospel, we learn that other people can help us recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Mary traveled to see Elizabeth because Elizabeth's pregnancy was a sign that everything the angel told Mary would truly happen. Elizabeth recognized Mary as the mother of her

Kids Korner *December*

For Gospel activities
click:

CatholicMom

Kid's Mass Bulletin *December*

For Mass activities click:

CatholicKidsBulletin

Parent's Resource

Word on Fire

Acension Press Videos

Being Catholic

Dynamic Catholic



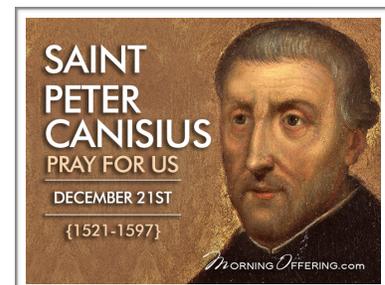
graham cracker manger craft

Lord because her unborn child, John the Baptist, leapt at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth and Mary rejoiced together at the wonderful things God was doing in their lives. We too are blessed when we have people who help us recognize God's action in our lives. We pray that our family can be this for one another.

As you gather as a family, work together on a word search or hidden-picture puzzle. Help one another until everyone has found each of the words or pictures in the puzzle. Talk about this experience, noticing how some people found words or pictures more easily than others and how easy it was to see the word or picture once someone else pointed it out. Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 1:39-45. Ask: What did Elizabeth recognize about Mary? (that she was to be the mother of Jesus, the Lord) How did Elizabeth know this? (Her baby, John the Baptist, leapt with joy at Mary's greeting) Pray together that as we share our faith together as a family, we may help one another recognize God's presence and action in our lives. Pray together the Hail Mary.

Saint of the Week

St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597) was born in Holland to a wealthy family. He was sent to the University of Cologne and met St. Peter Faber who influenced him to join the Jesuits. St. Peter Canisius became famous for his preaching and writing, and was one of the most influential Catholics of his time. He was instrumental in defending Catholicism against the Protestant revolt in Germany and surrounding countries. He famously wrote a popular-level catechism to counter the



spreading heresies. The restoration of the Church in Germany is largely attributed to his catechetical work. He was adamant in promoting charity and courtesy towards Protestants in a time of great hostility. After the Council of Trent, he was chosen by the Vatican to help smuggle the documents of the Council into the hands of European bishops, avoiding the outposts of Protestant aggression, which was a difficult task at the time. For his brilliance in teaching Catholic doctrine, St. Peter Canisius was named a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is December 21st.

Citations

Family Connection:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

<http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/122318.cfm>

Saint of the Week:

http://enews.trinityroad.com/q/h5r5k4IcXOFTHOQ6px5NRzozjOHqQbQVBWBez_R-7DhCcNqQ6M5h2Nbqo

Kids Korner :

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:catholic%20kids%20bulletin%020%202018%20december>

<http://catholicmom.com/kids/catholic-gospel-coloring-worksheets-sunday-mass/>

Parent Resources:

wordonfire.org

ascentionpresents.com

bostoncatholic.org

<https://dynamiccatholic.com>



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