Youth Newsletter

Christ the King University Parish

Advent: 1st Sunday in Advent
Sunday December 3, 2023

Lead Story Headline:
On Hope

"You, O God, are our Creator. You have always been our redeemer, our Saviour"
Isaiah 63:16

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Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Always be ready! Stay awake. You do not know when the special time will come. Think about someone going on a long trip. Before leaving, the owner of the house puts the servants in charge of everything and gives each one a special task. One servant is told to guard the door very carefully. Pay attention! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming back. It may be in the evening, at midnight or early in the morning. Do not let the owner come home suddenly and find you sleep. What I am saying to you, I say to everyone: Pay attention! Be ready!'"

This is the Good News of the Lord.


What Do You Think?

1. Have you ever had the experience of waiting for someone special to come? What was it like?

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2. If Jesus came today, what would he find on earth?

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Brainstorm:

This week is the first week of Advent and it is now that we light the first candle on our Advent wreath! This first candle is one of the purple candles. Can you come up with some reasons for why we light each of these candles every week? And why only one candle each time? What do the four candles represent?

Colouring Advent:
Colour in the shapes below and find something that is burning - it is something that we see during the four weeks of Advent.
Y = Yellow  P = Pink  V = Violet  O = Orange


Food For Thought:
Do you know why the advent wreath is a circle? A circle is never ending so no matter how many times you trace a circle, you will never find its end. The wreath represents God. God is kind of like a circle! God has no beginning and no end, but goes on forever and ever. This also means that God's love for us is never ending - it did not have a beginning and it will not have an end. What do you think that means?


"He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 1:8
First Week of Advent: Hope

With winter coming, the days get shorter and it is darker outside for longer. When it is dark during Advent, we use candles to represent that the light of the world is coming. Do you know who that is? Jesus is the light of the world! Each of the four candles for each week have a different meaning. The first candle of advent represents hope. What does hope mean to you? Where can you find hope? This first candle of advent is also called the Prophet's Candle - a prophet is someone who tells the will of God. This first week of Advent is the week that we focus on the coming of Jesus and preparing for his birth at Christmas! What does preparing for Jesus look like? We can prepare our homes with decorations and good food, but we can also prepare our hearts to be open to Jesus' coming. What do you already do to prepare yourself? What could you do that is different this year? Just as Mary and Joseph were looking everywhere in Bethlehem for an inn so Mary could give birth, we are called to be the innkeeper who makes room for Jesus. Rather than turn Jesus away to the stable, we have to make room for him. What does this look like?


Let's Pray:
Loving God, light in me a desire to prepare for your coming, to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager, and filled with joy!

Amen
Archdiocese of Toronto

"Come and stay with us, O Lord. Holy is your name"
Psalm 79