



THE WAY

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ST. MICHAEL'S FEAST WEEKEND!

September 29



OUR MINISTERS & MINISTRIES

CYO

New President

Hello there! My name is Jasline Hernandez and I'm proud to have the title of this year's CYO President. While CYO is a place filled with many memorable activities, the most special is undoubtedly our yearly retreat at Camp Lebanon. This year it will be held from November 17th to the 19th, dawning near the conclusion of the thankful season. It fits perfectly in the spirit, providing CYO members, alumni, and adults alike the opportunity to listen and reflect. This year's theme will be "Lost & Found" and I have the honor of giving the theme speech! Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to moving speeches given by this year's senior class, talk amongst others, and immerse themselves in an escape from everyday life. I couldn't be more lucky to share this moment alongside such an amazing speech giving group. I hope the newcomers have the same life changing experience that I have been blessed with throughout my past three retreats. This one will surely be unlike any other, filled with plenty of surprises, as we all hope to end our tenure with a bang!!!

By Jasline Hernandez

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Come, Lord Jesus!

As we head into the season of Advent, we have 269 students enrolled in the Religious Education program Grades 1 through 8, including three Sacrament Prep classes for those children Grades 3 and older who have had no prior religious education. We are once again blessed with devoted catechists, substitute catechists, program coordinators and classroom helpers who diligently share their time and talents in an effort to educate and enrich young minds and hearts to know, love and serve the Lord. In combination with St. Michael School children, we will bring 65 children to the Lord's table for First Holy Communion this spring. We have two retreats planned for them: The Blessing Cup Retreat (the potter) in February and the Communion Bread Retreat in April.

The circle of the Advent wreath represents God's never-ending love for us. The four candles symbolize hope, peace, joy and love for the coming of Christ. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. [Romans 15:13]



By Clare Andriola

SAINT JOSEPH

Actions are greater than words

My high school United States History teacher had an examination question in which the student had to find the relationship among people. Saint Francis of Assisi said "Preach the Gospel at all times, when necessary, use words." Saint Mother Theresa wrote "God does not require that we are successful only that we are faithful." So, what is the common thread with these quotes? **Faithful actions are greater than words.** This description is also about Saint Joseph, the foster father of our Lord Jesus. Saint Joseph never uttered one word in the Sacred Scriptures. In Matthew 1 and 2, he did God's will three times. Elsewhere in the New Testament, such as Matthew 13:55, he is referred indirectly for his occupational identity, and in other Bible verses for his fatherly vocation. **Actions and identity without words!** **First,** Saint Joseph's faithful actions were indicated directly. In Matthew 1:18-25, he acted faithfully by trusting in his Heavenly Father by accepting Mary, our Blessed Mother, as his wife. In Matthew 2:13-18, he responded to a dream and acted courageously by escaping the potential slaying of Jesus by Herod. In Matthew 2:19-23, Joseph listened actively to God by fulfilling his family-protective role by bringing Mary and Jesus with him to settle in Nazareth. **Second,** Saint Joseph's devout actions were implied. In Luke 2:52, Jesus advanced in wisdom and favor before God and mankind. How did Jesus mature? it was partially from the faithful, virtue formation from Saint Joseph. Saint Joseph, pray for us that we would act faithfully!

By Chuck Cababe

YOUNG ADULTS

The Reason for the Season

Gladness is quite contagious during Christmas time. The season of glad tidings and joy brings about exciting and memorable experiences throughout the last month of the year, all over the world. As Catholics and Christians, what brings us even more joy during this season is celebrating the birth of Jesus.

No matter how many Christmas specials of your favorite TV shows resolve their plots with messages about how the meaning of Christmas is gift giving/receiving, Santa, friendship, family, and/or magic, now is an important time for Catholics and Christians to reflect on the blessings and favors Jesus has brought upon us and the whole world for the past 2000+ years.

So, yes, hang up the stockings. Yes, light up the tree. Yes, listen to "All I want for Christmas is You" for the 527th time. But, don't forget to also throw a big and special birthday party for the birthday boy.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!



By Paula Sefia

SAINTS & US TODAY

St. John of the Cross



It is by no accident that Saint John of the Cross’ feast day is during the Season of Advent.

Advent is a liturgical season that invites us to build a closer relationship with Jesus. St John of the Cross served as a model for self-sacrifice, prayer and devotion to “Christ Crucified on the Cross.”

St. John of the Cross’ feast is celebrated on December 14th. John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name:

“of the Cross.” Ordained a Carmelite priest at age 25, John engaged in the work of religious reform to bring back strict adherence to the Gospel for the Carmelite Order. His work of reform unfortunately came with a price including persecution, and imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow prison cell.

By his life’s example, John of the Cross has an important learning for us today. At times, we tend to be soft, comfortable and inconsistent in our faith. We run from the cross. John’s message—like the Gospel—is loud and clear: Don’t ever abandon the teachings of Jesus!

St. John of the Cross, pray for us. Teach us the lessons of self-sacrifice and repentance that will draw us closer to Jesus during this Advent season.

By Deacon Michael Alfano



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Acknowledgement	Indebtedness
Appreciation	Praise
Bless	Recognition
Contentment	Requital
Count Blessings	Respect
Graces	Satisfaction
Gratefulness	Sense of Obligation
Gratitude	Thank God
Heartfelt	Thankfulness
Honor	Thanksgiving