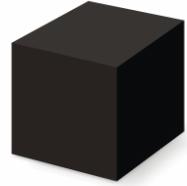




S.M.A.R.T. NEWS

SAINT MARY'S ACTIVE RELIGIOUS TEENS
NOVEMBER 2015

Web Site: <http://youth.icstmary.org>



Dear Friends,

I have in my hands two boxes,
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "*Put all your sorrows in the black box,
And all your joys into the gold.*"

I heeded His words, and in the two boxes
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,
But though the gold became heavier each day,
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity, I opened the black.
I wanted to find out why,
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God and mused,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be?"
He smiled a gentle smile and said,
"My child, they're here with me."

I asked God why He gave me the boxes,
Why the gold and the black with the hole?
*"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings.
The black is for you to let go."*

Author Unknown

Happy Thanksgiving -

Patti McTaggart

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17*

THE CATHOLIC MESSENGER CHRISTMAS CARD AND BISHOP AMOS CONTESTS!!!



We invite youths in grades K-6 attending school or religious education in our diocese to participate in the annual contest to create a 2015 Christmas card for *The Catholic Messenger*. Drawings should be done on white, 8 ½- by 11-inch paper in colored pencil, crayon, marker or paints. Please submit original artwork only; no black and white drawings. The artwork should focus on the religious nature of Christmas. If using yellow, please use a deep yellow or make sure it is surrounded by a dark color. Yellow is hard to reproduce.

The contest, which has a Nov. 18 postmark deadline, is open to youths living or attending school in the Diocese of Davenport. *Messenger* staff members will judge the entries based on originality and the ability to convey what Christmas means to Catholic Christians. Entries must include first and last name, age, grade, home address, school (public, private or home school with the school's location) and parish (name and city) on the back of the drawing. Please do not fold entries.

Any information omitted could be grounds for disqualification. Winning entries will be featured in *The Catholic Messenger's* Christmas edition (Dec. 24). The drawings also will be featured on The Catholic Messenger Web site: www.catholicmessenger.net. All entries should be postmarked by Nov. 18 to *The Catholic Messenger*, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804-1911.



We invite youths in grades 7-12 in our diocese to participate in a new contest to create a Flat (Bishop) Amos for the Year of Mercy.

Drawings should be of Bishop Amos, dressed as a bishop and full size on white, 8 ½- by 11-inch paper in colored pencil, crayon, marker or paints. Please submit original artwork only. The contest, which has a Nov. 11 postmark deadline, is open to youths living in or attending school/religious education in the Diocese of Davenport. *Messenger* staff members will judge the entries based on originality. Entries must

include first and last name, age, grade, home address, school (public, private or home school with the school's location) and parish (name and city) on the back of the drawing. Please do not fold entries. Any information omitted could be grounds for disqualification.

Winning entries will be featured in *The Catholic Messenger* and will be downloadable for people to use during Year of Mercy as designated by Pope Francis. The winning drawing will be featured on *The Catholic Messenger* Web site: www.catholicmessenger.net. All entries should be postmarked by Nov. 11 to *The Catholic Messenger*, 780 W. Central Park Ave., Davenport, IA 52804-1901.

HEARING GOD'S CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE?



Here are some great websites provided by

Fr. Thom Hennen, vocation director for our diocese. Take a look!

www.foryourvocation.org
www.vocationsplacement.org
www.religiouslife.com

www.vocationboom.com
www.vocation-network.org

NOVEMBER

- | | | |
|------------------|--|--|
| 1 st | All Saints Day | <i>(Who is your patron saint?)</i> |
| 1 st | CONFIRMATION SESSION | STOP HUNGER NOW -1:45-3:00PM St. Thomas More |
| 2 nd | All Souls Day | <i>(Pray for all those who have gone before us.)</i> |
| 4 th | Adult/Youth Choir | 6:00-7:00PM in balcony |
| 6 th | Holy Hour for Vocations | 12:45-1:30PM in the church |
| 11 th | Adult/Youth Choir | 6:00-7:00PM in balcony |
| 18 th | Adult/Youth Choir | 6:00-7:00PM in balcony |
| 18 th | Deadline for the Catholic Messenger Christmas Card Contest | |
| 19 th | Youth Casserole-Making Free Lunch | 4:00-5:00PM in hall |
| 26 th | THANKSGIVING DAY | <i>(Thank God for your many blessings!)</i> |



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CALLING ALL CHEFS!!!!



DO YOU LIKE TO COOK? On the third Thursday of every month, join other youth from each high school and junior high as we collaborate together in St. Mary's parish hall and make four casseroles for the Free Lunch program. This month's "cooking class" will take place on Thursday, November 19th from 4:00-5:00PM. The casseroles created will be served the next day, Friday, November 20th, at the Free Lunch program. All youth are invited to participate!!

SHARE THE GIFT OF YOURSELF ON THANKSGIVING DAY!



All youth are invited to help with St. Mary's Annual Thanksgiving meal for the homebound and homeless on Thursday, November 26th. Help is needed serving and cleaning up after the meal in St. Mary's parish hall and/or delivering meals in the community. For more information, contact the parish office at 337-4314.

THIS WOULD MAKE A GREAT CONFIRMATION SERVICE PRIVILEGE!

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

By Alyssa Michel

Senior, West High School

St. Robert Bellamine- Born at Montepulciano,

Italy, October 4, 1542, St. Robert Bellarmine was the third of ten children. His mother, Cinzia Cervini, a niece of Pope Marcellus II, was dedicated to almsgiving, prayer, meditation, fasting, and mortification of the body.

Robert entered the newly formed Society of Jesus in 1560 and after his ordination went on to teach at Louvain (1570-1576) where he became famous for his Latin sermons. In

1576, he was appointed to the chair of controversial theology

at the Roman College, becoming Rector in 1592; he went on to become Provincial of Naples in 1594 and Cardinal in 1598.

This outstanding scholar and devoted servant of God defended the Apostolic See against the anti-clericals in Venice and against the political tenets of James I of England. He composed an exhaustive apologetic work against the prevailing heretics of his day. In the field of church-state relations, he took a position based on principles now regarded as fundamentally democratic - authority originates with God, but is vested in the people, who entrust it to fit rulers.

This saint was the spiritual father of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, helped St. Francis de Sales obtain formal approval of the Visitation Order, and in his prudence opposed severe action in the case of Galileo. He has left us a host of important writings, including works of devotion and instruction, as well as controversy. He died in 1621.



PHOTOS FROM THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE PRIVILEGE "STOP HUNGER NOW"





NOVEMBER 1, 2015
**SOLEMNITY OF
 ALL SAINTS**



REVELATION 7:2–4, 9–14

PSALM 24:1BC–2, 3–4AB, 5–6

1 JOHN 3:1–3

MATTHEW 5:1–12A

REFLECTION

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go to heaven and what you might see when you got there? How you would act? What do you think God would look like? These questions go beyond the amazing stories you might read about in books like *Heaven Is for Real* and *Proof of Heaven*. The vision St. John offers in today's First Reading is a reality that seems close to today's Solemnity of All Saints. All those present in heaven—saints and angels alike—cry out in a loud voice: "Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving" (Revelation 7:12). There is such happiness and awe for being in the presence of God that the only option is to give praise. Can you imagine wanting to praise God as much as today's Scripture reading proclaims?



"THE SAINT THAT IS
 JUST ME"

DANIELLE ROSE

[www.youtube.com/
 watch?v=fh_fSNz6NvQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fh_fSNz6NvQ)

ACTION

If you have been confirmed and chose a new saint's name, look up this saint and read again how his or her life may be of help to you. If you haven't been confirmed, check out lots of saints! Do a search on line for patron saint of—fill in the blank of something you love—and discover a new way to ask for help while you are on this earth.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Who in your life is a living saint to you? How can you better follow their example?
- Which beatitude most speaks to your heart at this moment in time and why?

NOVEMBER 8, 2015



THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



1 KINGS 17:10 – 16

PSALM 146:7, 8 – 9, 9 – 10

HEBREWS 9:24 – 28

MARK 12:38 – 44 OR 12:41 – 44

REFLECTION

The link in the media section today is the song “All That We Have.” It is an older Catholic liturgical song that perfectly sums up today’s readings! That is, “all that we have and all that we offer” is enough in God’s sight as long as it comes from a place of goodness.

Another aspect about today’s reading causes us to question the value of our devotion, or to put a pricetag on our devotion to God. The poor widow gives two small coins (think twenty-five cents). This is more valuable than the wealthy person who might give ten dollars. Does that make sense to you?

For those of you females who have a sister, this scenario may be familiar. “Can I borrow that dress/skirt/shirt of yours? I have nothing to wear.” And, if your response is typical, it is probably “no, that’s mine. Wear something of your own!” For guys, it may not be as much about clothes as it is about a game or gaming system. By nature, we are semiterritorial creatures; we want to protect what is our own. God is asking of us to be open with what we have—even if it is a little. The widow in the First Reading had very little to give, but because she trusted God she did what was asked—even if it was difficult. Her trust was greatly rewarded. The same is true of all of us; although our rewards will each look different.



“ALL THAT WE HAVE”

Instrumental version with lyrics

GARY AULT

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgoeCGnEpVk

ACTION

Do a survey of what is in your closet or favorite stash of games. What is necessary? What can you choose to give away to someone who has nothing? The season of giving is upon us and now is a great time to figure out how you can care for someone else!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What is your most important possession and why? What would happen if you had to consider living without this item of value?
- Do you have the ability to tithe (put money in the collection basket) at Church? What are your reasons for not giving “all that you have” back to God? What do you truly have to offer God and others?

NOVEMBER 15, 2015



THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



DANIEL 12:1–3

PSALM 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11

HEBREWS 10:11–14, 18

MARK 13:24–32

REFLECTION

In the Bible, apocalyptic writings and images of end times and tribulations are not intended as verbatim accounts of the future. Rather, they are symbolic accounts that tell us that, even when everything is going nuts around us, Jesus will take care of those who put their trust in him. Trouble? Fear? Conflict? Crisis? All-out despair and confusion? Jesus has been there and done that. Walk with him. Stay close to him. Don't fall into the vortex of becoming a blamer or victim. Our source is the ever-flowing and growing love of God. Yes, we fall, fail, and sin. When you do, cling to hope. Ask for help. Offer help. Forgive and receive forgiveness. Be the man or woman that God wants you to be! Live from a Christ-centered place rather than from a crisis-centered place. Jesus is always there.



"THERE WILL COME
A DAY"

FAITH HILL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoJyZW6O3I8>

ACTION

Take inventory of this year in terms of successes and failures, or good times and tough times. Don't write to relive these things or retraumatize yourself. Simply write as if you were putting events you experienced on a shelf to see what was there. Write down three or four lessons you've learned. Make a list of things that will remind you what you have learned and what you can do differently as you walk with God and become the person God wants you to become.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to walk with God?
- Think about your most significant friendships. What basic things do you do to nurture and grow those friendships? How can you apply that to your relationship with God, in Jesus?

NOVEMBER 22, 2015



SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



DANIEL 7:13–14

PSALM 93:1, 1–2, 5

REVELATION 1:5–8

JOHN 18:33B–37

REFLECTION

One of the biggest questions Jesus asked his disciples was “Who do you say that I am?” He wanted to see if they, without being told, could figure him out. Today, Pilate questions Jesus’ identity. Jesus is smart, creative, and curiously evasive when answering Pilate. Sometimes we avoid answering questions when we aren’t sure what the other person wants to hear or what they will do with the answer we give. Jesus knew exactly what was going on, yet he still plays this apparent game of words with Pilate. Jesus never comes right out to say his is a king, but lets Pilate use his own words to say he is king.

So, what does it mean to be a king, to have a kingdom with followers and attendants? In our world, and in Pilate’s, it meant power. If Jesus were king in Pilate’s terms, this would not be good for the Roman empire. No one could usurp the power of the government. Pilate misunderstood Jesus’ identity. In God’s realm, kingship means something very different. The Kingdom of God is that of peace, of praise, and a willingness to offer our hearts and souls to our God simply because we want to, not because God is “lording it over us.”

Today’s solemnity is about Jesus as King of all Creation. He is the King of our hearts, and his entire Kingdom “belongs to the truth [and] listens to [his] voice” (John 18:37). Sometimes the advice of someone in authority over us feels as though they are trying to control us. If we listen and are open to Jesus’ voice, we will realize that he isn’t trying to control us. Instead he is trying to help us come to our own decisions and to respond in love—to use the gifts he gives us in this world.



“KING OF MY HEART”

LOVE & THE OUTCOME

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=G3OTNMoe26g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3OTNMoe26g)

ACTION

Spend some time in conversation with your parent(s). Ask for their advice on something you may be struggling with in your life right now. Seeking advice from people who love you allows trust to grow and a relationship to strengthen. As you do this with people on earth, it will help with our God in heaven.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Whom do you trust to have control over your life? Parents? Friends? Society? What would it be like to allow Jesus to have full control over your life?
- What do you need to change to allow your heart to be more open to accept Christ as your King?

First Annual iSPY Food Drive and Co-ed Volleyball Tournament

Do you want to do something for your community while having some fun? Then the First Annual iSPY Food Drive and co-ed volleyball tournament is where you want to be. The St. Patrick sponsored youth group, iSPY, is sponsoring a food drive and volleyball tournament on Wednesday, November 18 at St. Patrick's gym. Times to be determined based on the number of teams wanting to participate.

What do you need to do?

- 1) Find a team of six of your friends; teams must have at least 3 girls on it.
- 2) Email Rachel Scholze at rachel@stpatsic.com with team players' names and contact information; email or phone number. Please designate at least one team captain. This information needs to be to Rachel by next Wednesday, November 11.
- 3) Come ready to play on the 18th. Make sure you bring some nonperishable food items as your "ticket" into the games.
- 4) Come to St. Pat's and watch if you cannot get a team together.



November iSPY Nights

November 4: Pizza with the Saints: Come for pizza and learn about the Saints.



Remember that iSPY is open to all area high school students. Meetings start at 7:30, and are held at St. Patrick's, but volleyball games may start earlier.

November 11: Vocations Night and Stump the Priest

Father Rudy Juarez, Father Corey Close, and Father Thom Hennen will be there and will try to answer your questions.

November 18: First Annual iSPY Food Drive and Co-ed Volleyball Tournament

Bring food to donate, play volleyball on a six-person co-ed team, and try to win prizes.

To sign up, send an email to Rachel Scholze at rachel@stpatsic.com. Include names and contact information for each member, and designate one person as captain. Teams will consist of 6 members and must have at least 3 girls on the team.

Team information should be to Rachel by November 11.

