

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 2020

THE GIFT EXCHANGE

A weekly newsletter for GIFT households.

WHAT'S INSIDE

WELCOME TO
THE GIFT EXCHANGE - 2

MAGNIFYING
THE MASS - 3

WHAT'S COMING UP

OCTOBER

9: OKTOBERFEST ARTISAN FAIR
10: OKTOBERFEST ARTISAN FAIR
11: OKTOBERFEST ARTISAN FAIR
13: TAG @ 7 PM
18: GIFT SESSION 3

NOVEMBER

1: ALL SAINTS DAY
3: ELECTION DAY
8: GIFT SESSION 3



GATHERED AS COMMUNITY

FAITH AND FAMILY

As a part of GIFT, each family receives their very own copy of The Catholic Faith & Family Bible. Some of you clever sausages (Forgive me, I've been watching copious amounts of The Great British Bake Off recently) have noticed that the Text Articles of this Bible feature heavily in Magnifying the Mass each week. These Text Articles are short articles that are woven through each book to aid in family discussion and to highlight key passages in the Bible. And let me tell you, they are brilliant! I don't always get to feature each one week because there is just so much information. When I do, I will outline it with a box just as it is in your Bible. I encourage you to take advantage of these even when they are not included in Magnifying the Mass. They are a wonderful resource for illuminating scripture!



WELCOME TO THE GIFT EXCHANGE!

Hello friends!

I am kind of kicking myself for not starting these newsletters with this explanation. Better late than never I suppose! I hope this adds clarity to your weekly reflections.

What's Inside

This is a little sneaky peek at what that week's newsletter includes.

What's Coming Up

This is a snapshot of upcoming events at Our Lady of Lourdes that should be on your radar!

Gathered As Community

This will always be a short snippet from me about a relevant topic for the week. Perhaps an update on TAG, an introduction to our GIFT presenter that week, or other things happening at Our Lady of Lourdes!

Magnifying the Mass

This is the bread and butter of the GIFT Exchange. Even as a devoted reader and aspiring author, Scripture is tricky for me. If I show up to liturgy on Sunday and expect to fully grasp the readings well the joke is on me. Each week we ask that as an extension of our GIFT program you reflect on at least one of the readings so that you have a better understanding of them come Sunday. However, we strongly encourage you to look at all three! Because our sessions are significantly shorter this year to accommodate for our virtual program, it is important we all continue our formation in different ways and this is one of them!

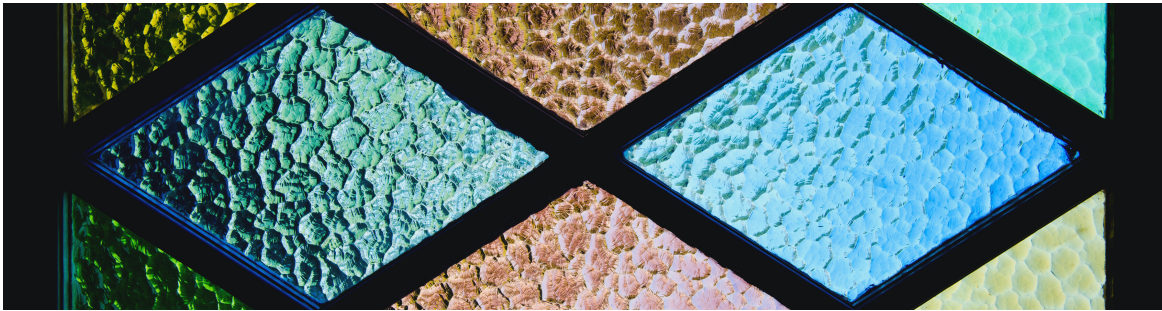
Take It Home

This portion will only appear during weeks where there is a GIFT Session. This is designed as a household extension activity for those of you who have young people participating in 7th - Confirmation. For everyone else, this portion is optional.

If you have any questions about The GIFT Exchange, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Brightest Blessings,

Maggie Russell
Director of Formation Ministries



MAGNIFYING THE MASS

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Reading 1 Isaiah 25:6-10a

Reading 2 Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Reading 1: We Are Well Fed

"God will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food." What a reason to celebrate! The trick is deciding to take a seat at His table. Deciding to climb to that mountain top. Are you ready to make that choice? If not, what do you need to do to get ready? If yes, how can you help others make that choice?

Reading 2: We Are Hungry

Kind of contradiction, right? How can you be both well fed and hungry? The answer lies in how Jesus lived his life. It's not really about your belly being full. It's about your spiritual cup being filled. We are reminding in the first reading that God will provide everything we need. At His table we are invited to share in our distresses and in our blessings. In this reading Saint Paul says, "I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry?" What do you think that secret is?

Gospel: Act On It

Whenever there is an occasion, there is reason to celebrate. And when there is no occasion to celebrate, invent one! This ancient, wise counsel reverberates throughout many cultures. One's lifetime is dotted with celebrations - personal, familial, national, traditional, and ecclesial. At each celebration, food abounds, drinks are poured, and often there is singing and dancing. Central in such celebration is the wholeness of one's relationships - with God, family, others, and self. Gather as a family and community. Thank God for making your family an image of God's kingdom. If there are broken relationships, mend them. Doing so creates an occasion to celebrate!

This week's readings remind me that we all have the ability to choose. I can choose what is good. I can choose to take in the light. I can choose to celebrate. Or I can choose only absorb the distress and hate that also exist in our world. However, when I do that it becomes so difficult to see the invitation before me. My invitation to sit at God's table where the celebration is constant. When this happens I lose sight of my path of discipleship. How can I invite others when I have not accepted the invitation? This week's readings are my reminder to send in my RSVP. I will celebrate and invite others to as well because God has already given me everything I need. And that is the light I will welcome into my life.