



Christian Education

Dear All Saints' Families,

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...” (Matthew 1: 23-25)

As we approach the New Year of the church (**Advent**) we are reminded of stories of the **prophetic voice** in our faith history: faithful imperfect children of God, just like us, who were miraculously able to receive messages from God that changed history as we know it. Prophets are not psychics or soothsayers, prophets are people who come so close to God and to whom God comes so close... that they just know what needs to be done.

In the Baines Hall Adult Forum, we have been learning about coming close to God through Contemplative Prayer. **Step one** is learning to empty ourselves of our own desires, preconceived notions and ego so that we can get out of the way and let God in. We have been practicing sitting in silence for 20 minutes, allowing a focal word or phrase to be our “prayer anchor” as we attempt to come close to the presence of God that is in and around us --all the time. A life grounded in prayer is capable of awesome things!

This Advent, I challenge you to carve out a “prayer niche” to hold you close-- to the meaning of the season that is beyond tinsel and packages.

Blessings, Anne Zobel

MANGER ON THE SHELF

Daily Advent Activities for Families

Move the manger to a different location each day. Children will find a new slip of paper each day with a suggested Advent activity aimed at bringing the real meaning of the season home. ★Make cards for children who will be in the hospital at Christmas. ★Take cookies to your local fire or police station. This Advent, let us grow in faith as we draw near to the birth of our Lord. If you did not get a chance to get a kit at the Advent Wreath Making Breakfast, you can find extras in the Christian Education Office. Help yourself!

BAINES HALL ADULT FORUM

Beginning in January, the **Baines Hall Adult Forum** will be spending two weeks exploring the **Enneagram: a Spiritual Personality Inventory** with Kim Nielsen. You may find it helpful to have explored your own “type” prior to the first class.

To do this, you can take a survey by logging onto the website: **enneagramquiz.com** You will be able to continue to assess your “type” with suggested readings and class discussions. Come explore this wonderful tool for personal spiritual growth.

If you do NOT have access to a computer, please see Linda Lilley or Anne Zobel so that we can arrange to have someone assist you with this.

Ahead in Baines Hall Adult Forum:

- Dec. 7th A Year in the Life of All Saints' w/ Caryl Felty
- Dec. 14th Christmas Pageant Vesting (no Adult Ed)
- Dec. 21st Bible Challenge Open Discussion
(newcomers welcome!)
- Dec. 28th No Sunday School
- Jan. 4th Enneagram: Listening to the Shadow
with Kim Nielsen
- Jan. 11th Enneagram Part II: Listening to the Shadow
with Kim Nielsen
- Jan. 18th Toxic Charity Part I
- Jan. 25th Toxic Charity Part II

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Please remember in your prayers-- members of our parish and world family --for whom the holidays are a painful time:

“Lord comfort and heal those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.”

(from the Prayers of the People form IV)

Our Monday evening 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing Service may be helpful for you or someone you know during the holidays.