



HOLY FAMILY MATTERS

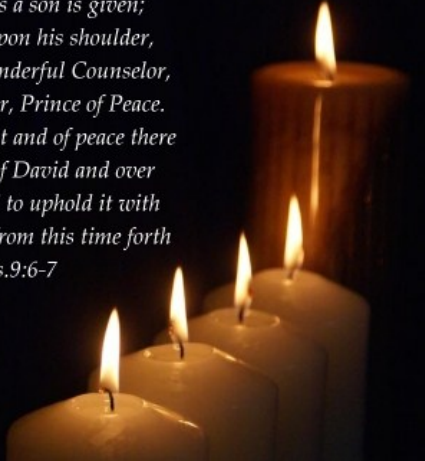
Holy Family Catholic Regional Division #37

Issue 115

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Central Office news and update

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace there
will be no end, on the throne of David and over
his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with
justice and with righteousness from this time forth
and forevermore. Is.9:6-7*



Advent, that time of expectation and preparation, is quickly approaching. How do we as parents help our children prepare, celebrate and understand what the season of Advent is all about? Advent is the four weeks counting down to Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Christmas is not just a marking of a historical event but a celebration of the truth about God—His revelation to us through Christ whereby we are reconciled with God. We anticipate his second coming and celebrate the forgiveness of our sins.

Advent is the one Christian festival that can be celebrated at home as well as at church and school. In order to help our children prepare and understand this, we must slow down our lives. This may not be easy, with work, school, activities and parties. The most obvious start is in decorating, making the home festive and inviting for the coming Lord. You can bake and prepare special treats with the family. Another Advent tradition is the Advent Wreath. The coloured candles, the lights and the scripture readings that combine as a symbolic model to tell the Christmas story can aid in

bringing the family closer, slowing the pace of the family and bringing Christ into the home in a tangible way.

The weeks leading up to Christmas can be very busy and stressful but by taking the time as a family during the Advent season to slow down, spend time together and anticipate the coming of our Lord you can have a wonderful start to a new year.

Happy Advent!

God Bless,
Kelly Whalen - Vice Chair
Trustee Peace River/Nampa

Confirmation update

The confirmation program runs in the fall beginning with an information meeting, six sessions, the NET Team day at the parish, a retreat and a follow up session after the celebration of the sacrament. The sessions are family oriented allowing parents to be directly involved in the preparations with their child, including celebrating rites centered around the symbols of baptism and working in the community. This year there were 12 newly confirmed at the 7:30 Mass on November 26th, with Archbishop Gerard Pettipas in attendance. The candidates served in many of the ministries of the Mass and were welcomed by the Knights of Columbus fourth degree Honor Guard. Archbishop Pettipas reminded them they are now fully initiated members of the church and are to be the hands and feet of Jesus. This was especially significant considering the new Roman Missal was blessed it was the first Sunday of Advent. After the Mass, a reception was held in the church hall.





God steadfastly accompanies us on our Journey

Hold Firm Trust ...the Lord Is Near!

We journey through this season of Advent patiently awaiting the arrival of Jesus through the celebration of hope, faith, joy and love. Our students, staff and families have the opportunity to celebrate the four weeks of Advent through the following:

1 st Wk. Isaiah 9; 2-4, 6-7	The Righteous Reign of the Coming King	Lord is Near...in HOPE
2 nd Wk. Luke 1: 26-38	The Birth of Jesus foretold	Lord is Near... in FAITH
3 rd Wk. Luke 1: 46-55	Mary's Magnificat	Lord is Near ... in JOY
4 th Wk. Luke 1: 39-45	Mary visits Elizabeth	Lord is Near ... in LOVE

Also, our school and division staffs continue to reflect on the key messages presented to us during our Division Faith Day by speaker David Wells through the *focus questions* - *Am I called to a purpose that is bigger than me?; What happens when the dominant focus is not on who we are but on how we perform* (during this Advent Season)? Mr. Wells' key message to us was: *If we lose the why (why is God) underneath the what (what is God), then we are missing the point...Hold Firm Trust in the Lord.*

We invite you to share in the Advent prayer reflections found in their entirety on our website Faith permeation folder titled *God Steadfastly accompanies us on our journey.*

Students of Holy Family Catholic Schools brought energy & enthusiasm to Youth Faith Day 2011

On Monday, November 28th at our Catholic Conference Center fifty-five grades 9 through 12 students brought their youthful spirit, ambitious ideas and challenges to a day of exploring youth faith. Presenter Ken Yasinski led youth, teachers, parish and diocesan representatives through a day of testimony, activity and reflection focusing on a purposeful, joy-filled, prayerful life in faith with Jesus. A following is a *synopsis of Ken's key messages:*

A life lived for Christ takes nothing away from what makes life meaningful, beautiful and exciting.

We are created to be in a relationship with God. The life God offers us is a full and meaningful life when it takes on His purpose for us. The question is not if we believe in God, but do we trust in Him.

Our yes to Christ, must lead us to serving others. One cannot find authentic happiness/peace in life while intentionally living a Godless life or living a self-centered life. Love seeks the highest good for one another.

Prayer makes a difference in the world. We will not discover God's plans for our lives without a life of prayer. Prayer is not about accomplishing something; it is about being with others and Jesus.

Ken led the Faith Day participants through three different practical methods of prayer that everyone can do. He also hosted a question - answer period to delve deeper into ultimate challenges of faith in our secular world. Young and old experienced an action packed; fun-filled penny-lending group game that brought much energy and key messages about building our relationship with Jesus. Part of the day focused on visioning with youth, exploring direction of Youth faith with our schools and diocese on the following big ideas: youth retreat experiences, youth to youth communication, faith interest & curiosity.

Congratulations to: the youth participants who brought awesome energy and sharing to the day, and to the inspiring nine member music group led by Mrs. Nicola Quigley. **Thank you to:** our Superintendent Mrs. Betty Turpin and Father Stanley Maduechesi for attending and sharing with the youth; Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator Ms. Marie Cailliau for her leadership; Parishioner Mrs. Vivien Mandelin for her good deeds; Deacon Gerald Mendoza and Pastoral Associate Mrs. Helly Lacombe for leading the closing liturgy; and to the supportive school teachers and support staff of Holy Family Catholic in giving their energies to the day.



MESSAGE 1

Faith speakers that are young and relatable.

MESSAGE 2
Energetic Christian music with inspirational messages.

MESSAGE 3
More sharing time, more talk about our lives.

The tradition of the **Jesse Tree** comes to us from Europe. The "tree" is usually a branch or sapling which is decorated with various symbols that remind us of the purpose and promises of God from Creation to the Birth of Jesus Christ. Jesse was the father of King David. God promised David that his Kingdom would last forever - and that through him and his seed God would save his people and bless the world. The Jesse Tree incorporates references to these promises through special ornaments that are placed on the branches when the faithful gather to worship God - one ornament for each day of the Advent Season. On Christmas Eve the final symbol will be added to the tree - usually a "Star of David". That symbol reminds us that all the promises of God come to us in the birth of Jesus - the promised one of God who has risen from the root of Jesse and taken the throne of David.

At the Youth Faith Day, students participated in the **Jesse Tree** closing celebration by pouring colored sand around the base of the tree branch to symbolize their talents, gifts and abilities that will move their Youth Faith ideas forward. The Youth Faith ideas recorded on colored slips of paper were placed on the branches of the tree limb to symbolize their direction and growth to this end.

Youth Faith Day
Jesse Tree



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2011 Christmas Concerts & Celebrations

<i>School</i>	<i>Mass</i>	<i>Concert</i>
Glenmary	Dec. 15th - Sr. @ 10:00 am & Jr @ 1:30 pm	Dec. 16th @ 7:00 pm Band Concert
Good Shepherd	Dec. 6th @ 10:00 am	Dec. 19 & 20th @ 7:00 pm
Holy Family	Dec. 6th @ 9:30 am	Dec. 14th @ 7:00 pm
Rosary	Dec. 16th @ 2:00 pm	Dec. 20th @ 1:00 pm
St. Andrew's	Dec. 20th Jr/Sr Mass @ 9:00 am - Elem. @ 10:30 am	ECS/Gr. 1-Dec. 6th @ 10:30 am. & Dec. 7th @ 7:00 pm
St. Stephen's	Dec. 16th @ 10:30 am	Dec. 20th - Choir 6:15 pm and Concert 7:00 pm

