

THE CCD FAMILY CONNECTION

Cooperative for Christian Development Grades 1-6

Number 4

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Lynn Meyer (715) 341-1617 x114

lmeyer@togetherinfaith.org

Dear Families,

Last week the Church celebrated All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Our Church family consists of many more than our fellow worshippers at our local parishes. All around the globe, we rejoice in the Communion of Saints which includes not just those living, but those who have gone before us. Did you see the article by senior priest, Monsignor Matthew Malnar, in your November copy of the *Catholic Life* magazine?

Msgr. Malnar describes the bonds among the Church Militant (that's us), the Church Suffering (those in purgatory) and the Church Triumphant (those in heaven.) Together we make up one family and we can communicate with one another and support one another even beyond death.

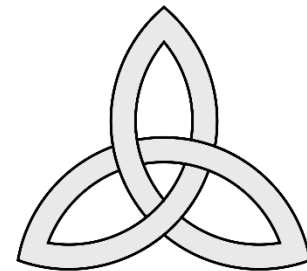
Reading this article, I couldn't help but make a connection to our next CCD unit – Trinity. This week the children began their study of the Trinitarian community - Father, Son and Holy Spirit – that we call *God*. The Trinity is a community of love. Since we are made in God's image and likeness, we are also called to live and love in community, and love doesn't end at death. So talk to your grandparents who have passed on and continue to pray for those who have died. Ask the saints in heaven to intercede on your behalf.

Each family should be receiving the *Catholic Life* magazine from the diocese. Be sure to catch Msgr. Malnar's article.

With faith, hope, and love,
Lynn Meyer

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 15	CCD
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving break – no class
Nov. 29	CCD + Gr. 1 parents will meet with Lynn at each session



Help Needed

Religious Ed. Still has 6 bookcases in the St. Joseph school building. These need to be moved by the middle of this coming week. If you can assist, please contact Lynn.

Reminders

Call in absences: 4:15 session - 715-341-1617
6:30 session - 715-344-6433

Grade 2B students – return the bibles please

Nov. 15 – Last day to bring in items for
Project Bucket Brigade

Next week the 6:30 session could use extra hands in helping the kids with making Christmas cards for homebound parishioners. Assistance from parents and older siblings would be appreciated. Call Lynn.

Free Bibles

In cleaning house, I found a number of bibles that CCD just doesn't use. These are adult bibles, but the kids in grades 3 and up can certainly use them. If your family does not have a regular bible (with chapter and verse), this would be a good resource. They will be on a table when you come to CCD (St. Joe's – in the gathering space, St. Steve's – in the library). Help yourself.

Grace Place for Children & Families

Many of the residents living in Naples, Florida, are quite wealthy. Yet just 4 miles from the wealthiest area is a community called Golden Gate City. In this area of Naples, 85% of the families live at or below the federal poverty level. Grace Place provides support for these families.

Grace Place offers a family literacy program and runs ESL classes since 97% of the residents in Golden Gate City speak a non-English language as their primary language. Grace Place runs an early childhood program as well as a teen outreach program. They offer leadership training and college knowledge workshops.

In addition they tend to the physical needs of the community, including providing packed meals and running a Friday Food Pantry. After the hurricane hit, Grace Place provided food, water, and other essential supplies. They organized the shipment of food, cleaned debris and distributed aid. They also extended their pantry hours. The increased usage runs about \$10,000 monthly.

This is where our donations to Project Bucket Brigade are going. Next week, November 15, is the last week of collection. CCD parent Sarah Jisko has a friend in Mosinee who is organizing a semi-load for hurricane relief and our donations will be on that truck. It will take many months for the people of Golden Gate City to get back on their feet, so let's be as generous as we can. Please pray for this community, and for those in Texas, Puerto Rico, and California who are recovering from hurricane and fire damage.

Looking Ahead

It's not even Thanksgiving yet, but we are already gearing up for Christmas.

As stated earlier, we are already making our Christmas cards for the homebound parishioners of St. Stephen and St. Joseph Parishes. The 4:15 session completed cards this week and the 6:30 session will do so next week. We have to make these early because the parish visitors need all of December to deliver our cards to parishioners who are homebound or in nursing homes and assisted living. The youth will be making gift bags and our cards will be added to those packages.

In a couple of weeks the children will have the opportunity to enter the Knights of Columbus Christmas poster contest. They could start thinking about the true meaning of Christmas now.

Finally, the sign-up sheets for the Kids Noel pageant held annually at St. Joseph church on Christmas Eve will soon be coming home. This year St. Joe's is inviting the kids from St. Steve's to join in the production.