

Saint Mary Youth Ministry

The Gospel of John

December 2010

Believing...

Not Believing



JOHN 10

Believing...not Believing

The story of the sheep and the shepherd

- The sheep follow the Shepherd's voice
 - The sheep will only follow their own Shepherd
 - The sheep will run from strangers
 - Jesus told the people He was the gate for the sheep
 - There are thieves who want to destroy the sheep.
1. Who are the sheep?
 2. Who is the shepherd?
 3. Who are the strangers?
 4. What does Jesus mean that He was the gate?
 5. Who are the thieves?

Jesus is truly the real Good Shepherd who will lay down His life for His sheep.
The Shepherd will protect the sheep against the wolves.

Jesus says He has other sheep besides the Jews.
Those following him do not understand this.
In time they will come to know His other sheep are the Gentiles.

One flock and One Shepherd is what Jesus wants.
The Jews pressed Jesus to tell them clearly if He was the Messiah. I have told says
Jesus, but you will not believe.

- The Father and I are one.
- Some of you can't hear nor believe what I say...so you cannot follow me. Those who hear and believe...follow me. Some picked up stones to hit Him. We are going to stone you for blasphemy.

Read together Jesus' reply John 10: 34-39.

Why would someone choose to believe?

Why would someone choose to NOT believe?

JOHN 11

Coming near the time when Jesus was to be arrested...

- Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary died and Jesus was not with them when his death occurred.
- Jesus had been given a warning of His pending death. He did not go to him. It was not the right time.
- He finally did go to Bethany a few days after the death of Lazarus.

Martha went to greet Him. Martha said to Jesus that her brother would not have died if He had been there. She also said that she left it up to Him now. She went home and Mary went to greet Jesus.

Mary wept over her brother's death as they came to the tomb (it was like a cave). Jesus wept over the loss of his good friend Lazarus.

Mary and Martha blamed Jesus for the death of their brother. Have you or someone you know ever blamed God for letting a loved one die?

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

- Martha said there was a stench (bad smell) because Lazarus had been dead for 4 days.
- Jesus said, I thank you Father for having heard me...all that I have said is for the crowd, so that they may come to believe.
- Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!" His face and hands were bound.
- Jesus said to unbind him and they did.
- Jesus said to let him go.

Many now believe...because Lazarus brought back to life. Others went to the Pharisees to complain.

The Pharisees were afraid of Jesus more than ever... Jesus could no more walk freely. He knew He would be arrested and it was not quite the time.

Jesus and His apostles went to Ephraim for awhile.

The chief priest and Pharisees put the word out to find Jesus so they could arrest Him.

JOHN 12

Six days before the Passover, Jesus goes to Bethany again. Martha prepared a dinner for Jesus, her family and the apostles who were with Him.

Mary took perfume and wiped his feet...a gift of gratitude...to Jesus. Judas complained this money should have been given to the poor. Jesus stopped him and said, "The poor you will always have...but I will not always be with you."

The next day, Jesus went up to Jerusalem...the time of His arrest drew close. He went into the city on a donkey and palms were placed at His feet.

It was the time of festival and the Jewish Passover.

Jesus said that the hour has come for Jesus to be glorified.

Jesus then departed.

Read together John 12:44-50

SACRAMENTS

Sacraments help us grow into full believers...

Ask for an increase of Faith, hope and love daily.

Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion often...you will receive the graces you need.

In remembrance...

Just in the month of November, several people died from our parish. The oldest person, Agnes Hanauska, lived to be 99 years old. You probably know or are related to some of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren from school.

The youngest, baby Joseph, was born about 4 months pre-mature. His mom, dad and big sisters (ages 3 and 5) are believers. Through the Sacraments and Faith, they can find comfort knowing that they be reunited with Joseph again one day.

Jesus came to earth as a baby...just like you and me...and changed our world forever... Believe it or not.

Take a minute to share with each other the names of loved ones you have lost in the last year...

LITURGY

We need to be with the community of believers...

We need to be with the community of believers on a regular basis.

We do this at weekend Liturgy.

Liturgy is God's great gift to us.

January is the Freshman Youth Mass.

Each faith group provides:

1 reader: _____

1 greeter: _____

1 usher: _____

1 server: _____

Unlimited singers and musicians...

Let Sabrina know if there is special music you'd like to sing.

MORALITY

We must ask the Spirit to open our minds and hearts to make us strong in our decisions, so that we will do the Will of the Father.

As children/youth, we don't really take much time to think about the impact of current events in our world...that's kind of the beauty of being a kid.

Possible current topics for discussion...Wikileaks (confidentiality...putting our country and other countries at risk), Sam from Marinette (How well do you know your friends?), new texting while driving law (Is this law just for the kids that are not coordinated enough to do it? You could probably do it with your eyes closed!), potential war in Korea (What are your plans in the next 1-6 years? Could the draft be reinstated?), national debt (If China lives on the interest we pay on our loans to them, will your generation be better at not accruing debt?).

Versions of the Golden Rule:

“Do unto others as you would have done unto you”

“Treat others as you would want to be treated.”

In this unsettled world we live in...where do you most find peace and joy?

ACTIONS

December Actions

- Faith Formation:** Aides/subs needed.
- Justice & Peace:** *Community Action Christmas Baskets.*
Dec. 17 @ 5:00 p.m. **or** Dec. 18 at 9:45 a.m.
- Pastoral Care:** *Camillus.* Dec. 11/12 after Masses;
Gathering Place bags.
- Liturgy & Worship:** Regular and Christmas Masses
- Special Projects:** Christmas Caroling Dec. 12 @ 4:00 p.m.
at Saint Mary... *Your choice of hat or antlers...*

REMEMBER:
JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

