



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XVII No. 4 Issue #196

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

December 2015

This past month we celebrated many feasts and, hopefully, on All Soul's Day we freed many souls. As we know, the souls delivered from purgatory are now enjoying the beatific vision and will remember those who helped them.

Last week we had our first snowfall. Although not a lot of snow, it reminds us of the work that has to be done which this new season never fails to supply. Whether it be shoveling snow or deicing the roads, we seminarians continue to stay busy. Let us not forget, however, the meaning of this Advent season. While the secular world is absorbed in the festivities and decorating of their homes, we Catholics must be preparing spiritually by doing penance and extra prayer.

So let us resolve to prepare well this Advent and strive to keep our attention on God throughout this joyful season. We must remember never to sulk or whine because of our penances; rather, we should be happy and glowing with the love of God! May God bless you and your families during this wonderful season!

A Babe is Born

by *Benedict Pulliam, gr. 9*

Conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, was born to suffer and die for us on Calvary. This Man that died for our sins, is the same Infant that was born on Christmas night. This little Infant is the King of heaven and earth. This was the

prophecy that all of mankind was waiting for, the prophecy of the Infant, Jesus Christ.

The time when Christmas is just around the corner is when many, if not all, kids are excited for this wonderful season. Many of them are super-excited for this season because they think about giving and receiving presents, but it's mostly about preparing and giving our hearts as little presents for the Infant Jesus. All through Advent we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ into our souls. The best way to do this is by prayer and sacrifice.

When Our Lord was born, He wasn't born in a nice hospital—He was born in a stable. Imagine this, dear reader, a King, born in a stable! This isn't how a king should be born, but nevertheless this is where He wished to be born. This is a perfect example of how humble Our Lord was. We should imitate Our Lord in all He did while on earth. When He was born, all of the angels in heaven, the souls in Limbo, and the souls in purgatory rejoiced at the birth of the Messiah. This gave hope of redemption for all men, a hope that we can fulfill, by keeping His laws and commandments. Let us thank Him for all that He has done for us, and make our hearts welcoming for the Infant.

Sursum Corda ad Sanctam Familiam

by *Clayton Wright, gr. 12*

The Holy Family—ah... just the thought of them is enough to make

December calendar

- 2 — Mid-quarter
- 8 — Feast of the Immaculate Conception; Holyday; no classes
- 16 — Begin Novena for Christmas
- 20 — Annual Christmas program
- 22 — Half-day of school; Christmas Vacation begins after classes

me want to have lived in those times. Who would have known such a holy family walked the very earth that we live upon. God the Father planned this wonderful miracle from eternity.

It's wondrous how Mary trusted the Archangel Gabriel, when God sent him to announce the birth of our Savior. He said to our Blessed Mother "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." Mary did not understand the reason for the heavenly messenger to come to her but after Gabriel left she understood. Saint Matthew (1:18) tells us "Now the origin of Christ was in this wise. When Mary His mother had been betrothed to Joseph, she was found, before they came together, to be with child by the Holy Spirit."

Joseph was worried, but during a dream he had one night, an angel appeared to him saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David." So Joseph trusted his words and took Mary for his spouse. After the birth of Our Lord, Herod gave orders for all

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Sursum Corda ad Sanctam Familiam

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baby boys in Bethlehem to be slain. The Holy Family, led by Joseph, fled into Egypt to escape the nefarious crime which Herod committed. Mary trusted Joseph in his decision to flee. When all was done, the Holy Family returned to Nazareth where Jesus grew up loving His mother and foster father.

Scripture tells us that, as a child, Jesus was obedient to Joseph and His mother Mary. He was known as the carpenter's son because He learned the trade Joseph taught Him. This should be an example for ALL – to be like our Lord by being humble in doing the duties given us each day.

This year we will be celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday the 10th of January. Let us remember to express our love for them, when we celebrate this magnificent feast of the Holy Family.

Appreciation of Our Benefactors

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 10

The benefactors of the seminary are really, I say again, really appreciated. We give thanks to all who donate, for your help to supply all of our needs, such as food, educational supplies and the expense of maintaining the seminary. With all the financial support given by each benefactor, even a little helps.

Not only does the temporal support help, but more so do the prayers of our benefactors. Prayers for our perseverance help us succeed in our spiritual life and in our vocations. Your prayers will help those of us who have a vocation to the priesthood. Continue to pray for us to become good priests and persevere in our calling.

In return for your charity and prayers we remember to keep you in our prayers. In our daily Rosary, our daily office, in morning, noon and night prayers, the benefactors of the seminary are included, along with our families and the faculty. These prayers are for the support and the needs of the benefactors in gratitude for your generosity.

I would like to mention how it makes me feel to receive letters from benefactors. They are a source of enjoyment and of inspiration for continuing my seminary life. I do appreciate letters. Please continue to write them, if you wish. I do not always have time to write you back, but please know they are very edifying to my spirit.

It is by the help and the grace of God that I am at Saint Joseph Seminary, but it is also your prayers and donations that help maintain the needs of the seminary. I will continue to keep you in my prayers, as I hope you keep me in yours. May God bless you and Mary keep you.

Actus Amoris

by Joseph Vines, gr. 10

Through the clouds and ashes,
The lonely soul watches and cries,
Receiving cruel and bitter lashes,
Waiting for another to see his eyes.

Burning in the most intense pain,
Asking the people of earth to supply,
Help to remove the smallest sin or stain,
On our pious prayers they rely.

We are here in our comfortable life,
While those deceased are in terrible need.
They are constantly stabbed by the burning knife,
To help them escape must be our creed.

They long for their true place,
Patiently suffering for the Master,
Waiting for the chance to see His face.
Can we get them to happiness faster?

Let us resolve this coming year
To get on our knees and ask our God
For those poor souls and ones near
That they will rejoice with the saints in laud.

I pray, that you send help
By praying to Him, our God
To free those souls
And from punishments, spare them. Amen

Are You Ready?

by Mark Vincent, gr. 11

The morning of November 9 dawned with a cloudy atmosphere and a fifty percent chance of rain. Hasty but thorough preparations were made to be followed by a twenty minute drive to the nearby chapel of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Coeur d'Alene. The ceremonies began with a short procession in the small chapel, immediately followed by the casket of our deceased parishioner, Thadius Navikas, from Lithuania, who just happens to be the uncle of Fr. Casimir Puskorius. A Requiem High Mass and a profound fifteen minute eulogy followed the introductory ceremony with Fr. Casimir as the celebrant. After the eulogy, came the Absolution of the Body with the singing of the *Libera Me*. It is to be hoped that his soul

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The seminarians worked diligently in preparing the parish Sunday breakfast.



Ben likes to start fires.



Saturday chores include raking the pine needles and leaves.



Prayers at the cemetery on All Souls Day.



The pigs eagerly look to Mark for their daily rations.



The funeral at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel.



The procession returns to the church on All Souls Day.



Everyone enjoyed the football games of the past couple months.

Are You Ready?

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went to meet the Beatific Vision for which all souls were made.

Part two of the day's adventures began when Fr. Casimir and two of the seminarians went on to nearby St. Thomas Cemetery. Fr. Benedict kept the remaining three of us at the chapel, to pack away the things used for the funeral, for their return to the church. Then we went on a short trip down the road to the Corner Store, which is a convenience store/restaurant, where we were to eat our lunch. It is staffed by two hospitable waiters who, I must say, kept the plates full as often as they could. The chef hid himself in the kitchen, keeping busy with the meal preparations throughout our stay. Colorful Lithuanian music served as the refined entertainment of the house, which kept us cheerful and content during our meal.

Our surroundings were German, but the food was partly Italian. The meal consisted of Lithuanian clam chowder, lasagna, salad, garlic bread and chocolate cake. Large paintings, wine bottles and other classic furnishings lined the walls. Ornate dishes sat upon stained glass tables, to please the consumer while eating the scrumptious delicacies. And to make everything better, there was a fair-sized group gathered for the reception. We all had a wonderful afternoon, enjoying the settings and eating the delicious bounty.

The entire day reminded us of the concept of death and called to mind the knowledge that we must all die one day. Death can be sorrowful or it can be happy. Depending on the life of the departed, it can be elating and happy, but only if the person has lived a good life. If the deceased has become a saint, why should sorrow mingle in the event? This is the season of Advent and we prepare for the coming of the Author of Life, Jesus Christ. Death is a rebirth of the life of the soul and we must pray that we might not be numbered among the wicked. May death find all of us ready to meet God's judgment, for it is the resplendent unleashing of His majesty that will fill the just with happiness and the unjust with sorrow and remorse.

Come Lord Jesus!

Although we are no longer children, we still eagerly anticipate the beautiful feast of Christmas, with the

Do You Have a Vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Latin, theology, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

joyful singing, the midnight Mass, the lovely manger scene, etc. We could even say that a proper spiritual celebration of Our Lord's birth is a foretaste of heaven. The shepherds and the Magi, upon finding and adoring the Infant King were enraptured with joy, for they were, however briefly, united with the Divine Child. So too, in heaven we shall be united with our Savior and King.

But while the possession of the One we love will be bliss, the longing for that union is also a joy. Similarly, the anticipation of Advent is a joyful, yet penitential preparation. The celebration of Christmas is preceded by the important season of Advent, a time of quiet, prayerful and penitential preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. And if Christmas symbolizes the eternal joy of heaven, then Advent symbolizes the yearning of the soul on earth, as it longs for heaven.

So let us be joyful as we carry our crosses and fulfill our daily duties. It has been said that there is no such thing as a sad saint, and that is true, for the saints experienced the joy of serving God, even amidst their sorrows and trials. May we, likewise, serve God with a joyful heart, not only during Advent, but throughout our lives. Only then, will we rejoice eternally in the possession of our Redeemer, who came onto this earth to show us how to love and serve God.

Be assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones at this blessed season. Please continue to pray for our seminary and for many holy priests!

— *Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

The Guardian is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This newsletter is free upon request.

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