



# Sunday School News



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O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!



## CHECK OUT WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR

For Stewardship Sunday in October, when Bishop Mary Came we did an illustration for the congregation called "Stewardship Popcorn" I brought in a popcorn maker, salt butter and popcorn seeds (and some pre popped



popcorn (wasn't sure about plugging in the popcorn maker!) A seed is hard and insignificant and unappealing by itself. But what is in the shell is white and fluffy, but it needs heat to get out. **The Corn = us**, we are potentially beautiful, with just the right talents, when we "go-it" with God. We are hard and



unappetizing without Him. **The POPPER = CHURCH** into which Jesus invites us all **The HEAT = GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT** Who brings out of us the person we should be and the talents we need. Together, with other kernels, we become God's sweet smelling community.

### The SALT and BUTTER or SPREAD = SACRAMENTS

The Sacraments make us more flavorful and appealing, more Christ-like. They give us the strength to continue sharing ourselves with others

Notice how some of the kernels, like people, respond more quickly and that, when they are filled with the heat (the Holy Spirit), all dance around, even flowing the popper (Church).

The lesson is not over. Some of the kernels do not pop. They were in the same heat for the same length of time. That is like the people who come to Church but don't let it make any difference in their everyday lives.

Taken from A guide to introduce Stewardship to Children, THE OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



For Halloween, we were a small group but we had good food, a scavenger hunt and a story called "The Big Hairy Toe!" Delicious, Muahahaha



For Remembrance Sunday we did another illustration at the end of the service using props brought in.

### The 'Missing Man' Place Setting (Set the Table with Symbols of Remembrance)

A round table could symbolize your everlasting thanks to Veterans and those who died for our country.

A white tablecloth may symbolize peace, or the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

A single red flower on each table may remind you of the lives lost in times of war or conflict.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate may remind you of the bitter fate of those who will never return.



CONTINUED





A pinch of salt on the table can symbolize the tears endured by the families of those who have sacrificed all.

One empty chair at the table with the glass at that seat inverted, will remind you of those no longer with us, and the fact that they cannot make a toast.

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/information>



### DID YOU KNOW

● Boxing Day or Dec 26<sup>th</sup> is followed in Canada, England and Australia. It was originally a day set for the less fortunate and charitable organisations in giving money and gifts and doing volunteer work. It's called Boxing Day because, in earlier times, tradesman would collect their *boxes (gifts)* for their year of good work.

<http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Christmas/>

- M&M candies, the little coated chocolate treats, were originally designed as a method of shipping chocolate to U.S. soldiers without the risk of larger bars melting.
- Crickets, grasshoppers, and locusts have tiny ears located on their knees.
- A man named Ben-hur was a deputy over Israel (1 Kin 4:7-8). *FYI there was a movie made in 1959 called Ben Hur starring Charlton Heston your parents or grandparents would recognize this movie*
- The first question God asked in the Bible was "Where are you?" to Adam (Gen 3:9)
- The word "hate" is used 87 times in the Bible, but the word "love" is used 310 times.

Last three facts taken from:

<http://jesusalive.cc/didyouknow.htm>



### JOKES AND RIDDLES

Q In the song "Frosty the Snowman," what made Frosty come to life?

A: An old silk hat

Q: In Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," what was Mr. Scrooge's first name?

A: Ebenezer

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted flakes!

Q: Which Christmas carol do parents like the most?

A: Silent Night



### QUESTION

Share a memorable gift-opening moment from your childhood.

Here are some of the answers people gave, enjoy... **Thanks everyone for sharing.**

**Debbie** – Opening my "Baby First Step" (my dad's last Christmas) one of the first walking dolls. I think I was 6 or 7, and I still have it!

**Darlene**-I was about ten years old and desperately thought I needed a watch. Mum and Dad did not have much money so it was a stretch for them. Lo and behold on Christmas morning there was my million dollar (to me) watch in a corn flake box.

**Sylvia** -Santa left me with an easy-bake oven when I was eight years old. I have been baking ever since.

**Bev**- I remember receiving a Barbara Ann Scott doll. It had a beautiful blue outfit on with fur trim. It also had a small pair of skates on. The same Christmas I received a Maggie Muggins doll with a cute dress with a print. She had freckles and red hair.

**Bill**-One year I received a set of plastic blocks





## BIBLE CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT



**The Shepherd** – We especially hear about them at this time of the year visiting Baby Jesus in the manger, but let us take a moment and step into their life. *‘My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ‘(John 10:27)* Shepherds are mentioned a lot in the bible. Do you remember who the first shepherd was in the bible? It was Abel (Genesis 4:3-4) now; the shepherd’s life was not an easy one, they really did not have a permanent home, they had to get their sheep to the towns because the people needed the sheep for all sorts of things. Shepherds were outside no matter what the weather, and would have to face all kinds of danger, like weather conditions, other animals or even robbers! The tools that they carried with them were a wallet of sorts that would carry whatever bit of food that they had, a piece of fleece that they would put over themselves to stay warm and dry, a staff (or crook) and a sling to use as a weapon. The shepherd would train the sheep to his voice, so when the shepherd got up in early in the morning and called to his sheep they would follow him. He would count all of them. He had to find his flock water, to search for any sheep that had gone astray. Then at night had to gather them up again making sure they were all there. The shepherd would find a place called “sheepfolds”- which they either made out of stone walls (more permanent) or make use of a cave, or build a temporary one when traveling. Then the shepherd would stay by the opening to keep watch. Then in the morning head out for fresh pastures once again.



They were red and looked like bricks. There were extra pieces for doors, windows and pieces to make roofs.

**Carol** -When I was about 6 my parents gave me a big doll at Christmas that walked when you held her hand and I thought it was the best thing that ever happened to me. At that time those dolls were the in thing.

**Ven. Pamela**- My parents gave me a dog for my 10th birthday—a black standard poodle I named Buttons. A few years later, my brother completely surprised me at Christmas: he took Buttons to a professional photographer to have a formal picture taken, then he had that picture enlarged & framed. I treasure that picture to this day.

**Jacques** -Is that all I get?

**Diana**: My most memorable gift when I was a child was my first bicycle. When I opened my door on Christmas morning there was the bicycle with a big bow on it. I took it out and rode it around the parking lot. It was a foggy morning as I lived in England. Hope all our gifts are as wonderful.

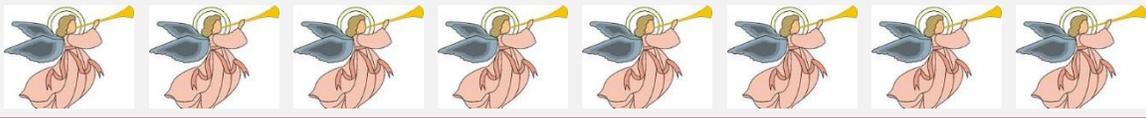
### FAMILY WORSHIP IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Gather everyone around; maybe this lovely idea will become a new family tradition in your home.



●Light A Candle. ●Read Luke 2:4-20. ●Sing one verse of “Away in the Manger”.● Say the Following prayer” “Dear Lord, on this day that we celebrate your birthday, help us remember that you came to be our Saviour. Thank you for loving us. Help us live to please you. In your name we pray. Amen.” ●End with the following; together, sing, “O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come





### SO YOU HAVE A REAL TREE

Has it been up for a while? Remember to keep a lot of water in the tree stand, fresh trees consume a lot, I heard that **they can drink up to 4 liters a day!**

### CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



1. To make Christmas party crackers, take an old paper towel roll and cut it in half or thirds.

- 2. Put small favors such as erasers, tiny toys, stickers, or small wrapped candy inside.
- 3. Roll the filled paper towel roll in Christmas wrapping paper allowing extra paper at both ends. Twist the excess wrapping paper at each end and tie with ribbon or yarn.

Christmas Party crackers!!!



<http://www.kidactivities.net/category/Holidays-Christmas>



### ENTERTAINING GOT YOU STRESSED

Here are some tips to get ready for the Holidays, ●Plan & write down what you are going to serve.

From appetizers to drinks, (don't forget about any Kids) main dish, desert, tea/coffee ●Figure out your space. ●Remember you don't have to make everything yourself from scratch – nowadays you get pre-cooked/frozen items.

- Anything you can make ahead of time do it, that way you are not tired the day of the event.
- pick recipes you know that work – it is not the time to experiment on your guests!
- Make a detailed shopping list including any decorations, napkins etc. not just food.

- If it is a dinner, I like to try to serve it 30-45mins after my guests arrive. I also set the table(s) the day before.
- Don't be shy about asking for help.
- Try to be as ready as possible about hour before everyone arrives, that way you can get ready and chill. It's all good!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec.24<sup>th</sup>** Crèche Service 4:00pm

Holy Communion 10:00pm

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Holy Communion 11:00am

**Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>** "Beat the Winter Blues "At the Beach" doors open at 7:30pm

**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>** Ash Wednesday

*Merry Christmas*



### CONNECTING WITH OUR CHILDREN



**Good old Sibling Rivalry** –So those

of us who have brothers and sisters are familiar with this! ahhh the good old days. I was the youngest with three older brothers we're four years apart; fun times, anyways... ● Don't be so quick to jump in unless you have to, remember it takes two to squabble let them figure it out.

- Try not to compare kids.
- The old saying" kids learn what they see and hear", so parents, we should be role models.
- Your kids don't have to be together all the time, give them space, if they can't have their own room at least give them separate toy boxes or desks.
- Remember sibling rivalry has been around **for ever**, there are examples in the bible (Cain & Abel) in nature (baby birds fight over food) in history (Mary & Ann Boleyn) fiction (Bart & Lisa Simpson).

Check out St. Barnabas Church on 

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