

# Grade 7 and 8 Religious Education

Mr. Rossano

December 12, 2016

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# Start of Class Activity & Opening Prayer

Please see the hand out

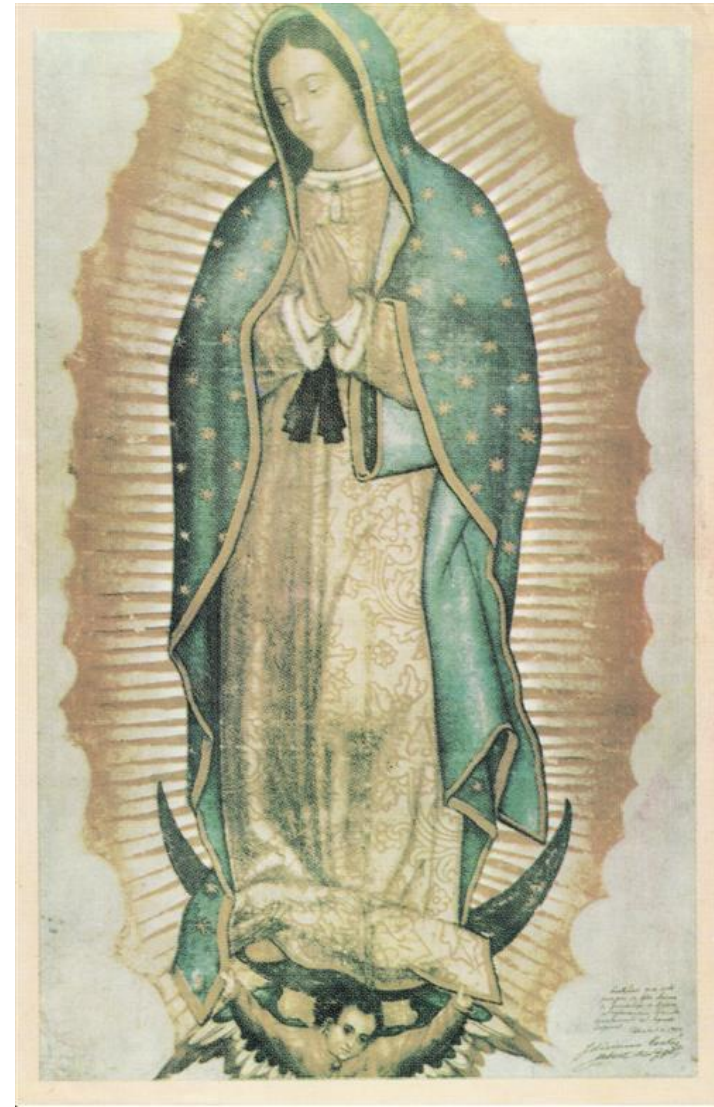
Class today and 12/19, then we are off for  
Christmas break until 1/9.

# Recap Last Week

- Thoughts on reconciliation?
- Things you remember about different parts of the church.

# Our Lady of Guadalupe – Feast Day December 12th.

- Patroness of the Americas
- She came to Juan Diego in a vision in Guadalupe, Mexico.
- He proved the vision was real by collecting roses in his tilma and an image of Mary was found on his tilma .



# Advent Wreath

- It is made out of branches from an evergreen tree, as a symbol of having eternal life in God.
- The wreath is a circle because a circle has neither a beginning nor end. Much like the wedding rings between a man and woman, it symbolizes unending love between God and humans.



- 4 Candles for the 4 weeks of Advent.
  - We use dark blue candles at St. Thomas to symbolize a joyful expectation.
  - You may see some wreaths with 3 purple candles and 1 pink. The pink candle is used to mark Gaudete Sunday.

# Theological Virtues

- Last week we saw the three angels holding an cross (faith), anchor (hope), and heart (love). They are the three Theological Virtues.
- Faith
  - God's gift to help us believe what He has told us
- Hope
  - Hope is more than just wishful thinking.
  - Hope is that "In the end, everything will work out and make sense." For example:
    - I am going through a struggle with my family, but I hope it will bring us closer together.
    - I struggle with this illness, but I hope it will make me stronger and more understanding of others.
- Love
  - An all encompassing love – attempting to love ourselves and others as God loves us.

# Stories of Christmas

## Matthew's Gospel

- Angel Coming to Joseph
  - Matthew 1:18-25
- Visit of the Magi, Following the Star
  - Matthew 2:1-12
- Holy Family's Escape to Egypt
  - Matthew 2:13-15
- Holy Innocents
  - Matthew 2:16
  - Memorial on December 28th

# Stories of Christmas

## Luke's Gospel

- Announcement of Jesus' birth
  - Luke 1:26-38
- Birth of Jesus
  - Luke 2:1-14
- Shepard's Visit
  - Luke 2:15-20



# What is Prayer?

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- Communicating with God.
- A raising of the heart and mind to God.
- A response of the heart longing for God.
- A laying down of our needs before God.

What are some types of prayer?

# What are some types of prayer?

- Adoration
- Blessing
- Thanksgiving
- Petition
- Intercession
- Praise
  
- As Catholics we prayer both privately and as a community:
  - in our rooms alone and
  - in Church or Class.

# God's Presence

- God is always present to us, and becomes more present to us when we focus our attention to him in prayer.
- At Church, Jesus is present to us specifically in four ways:
  - In the Scripture (specifically the Gospel)
  - In the Eucharist (the Body and Blood of Christ)
  - In the priest (through the sacrament of Holy Orders)
  - In the gathered community (Mystical Body of Christ)

## Two things to think about as we approach Christmas

- You should love people more than things, and God above all. (A saying from the Early Church Fathers)
- It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts of the Apostles 20:35)