
LONG LIVE THE KING

An Edge Social Night

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

The Edge Night this week began with a funny king skit, rotating kingdom themed games, and an opportunity to create banners for the small groups. The teaching outlined the meaning of the main titles of Jesus, the reality of His existence as fully God and fully man, as well as why Jesus became one of us. The Edge Night ended in a time of prayer for personal intentions where the youth entrusted all their needs to Jesus their King.

Main Ideas:

- Jesus was not a typical king by the standards of the world. He lived His life differently than earthly kings, yet He is given the titles King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and Christ the King.
- What is most remarkable about Jesus, the God who saves — the Anointed One — is that He is fully God and fully man. (CCC 461-464)
- Jesus is our great King who comes to save us and also comes to show us how to live our lives so that we will find the greatest happiness.

Catechism Reference:

“Taking up St. John’s expression, ‘The Word became flesh,’ the Church calls ‘Incarnation’ the fact that the Son of God assumed a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation in it. In a hymn cited by St. Paul, the Church sings the mystery of the Incarnation: ‘Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.’” (CCC 461)

Scripture Reference:

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What title of Christ was your small group assigned?
- What does this title of Christ mean?
- What was your favorite game you played tonight? Why?
- What is one new thing you learned about Jesus tonight?

ROYAL DESCENT

An Edge Night on Jesus' Early and Hidden Life

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

The Edge Night this week began with a funny video and fun game where the youth were challenged to be the first to unwrap a Christmas present that was wrapped many times. The teaching discussed the Annunciation and Jesus' life as a child and had a challenge for the youth to follow Jesus' example as well as Mary's. After the teaching, another video led into a small group discussion about why God chose to become one of us. The Edge Night ended with a reflection on Mary's fiat, which allowed the youth to reflect on trusting in God's will for their lives.

Main Ideas:

- The Annunciation and Mary's "yes" to God's will in her life is an example for all of us.
- Jesus experienced life as a man by entering into the world as a baby through the Incarnation, and He relied on His family to take care of Him.
- It is important for us to look to Jesus and Mary as our examples of how to be obedient to both God and our parents.

Catechism Reference:

"'God sent forth his Son,' but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free co-operation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, 'a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary:' 'The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life.'" (CCC 488)

Scripture Reference:

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What was your favorite part of the Edge Night tonight?
- What did you learn about the birth of Jesus?
- What role does Mary play in the birth of Jesus? Why is it so special that she said, "yes" to God?
- How can Mary help us to say, "yes" to the plans of God in our lives?

BATTLE CRY

An Edge Night on Jesus' Public Ministry

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

This Edge Night this week began with a twist on the classic game of capture the flag. The teaching walked the youth through the events of Jesus' public life and ministry and took a close look at His Proclamation of the Kingdom. Then the youth split off into their small groups to discuss the importance of Jesus' life and ministry for their own lives today. The Edge Night ended with a time of Eucharistic Adoration where the youth were invited to place their prayer intentions at the foot of the altar.

Main Ideas:

- Before beginning His public ministry, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River and then spent 40 days and nights praying and fasting in the desert.
- Throughout His three years of public ministry, Jesus proclaimed the coming of Kingdom of God on earth. He performed many mighty deeds and miracles to show people the truth of His words.
- Jesus called together the 12 apostles from all different walks of life to accompany Him on His mission to proclaim the Kingdom.

Catechism Reference:

“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying: ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe in the gospel.’ ‘To carry out the will of the Father Christ inaugurated the kingdom of heaven on earth.’ Now the Father’s will is ‘to raise up men to share in his own divine life.’ He does this by gathering men around his Son Jesus Christ. This gathering is the Church, ‘on earth the seed and beginning of that kingdom.’” (CCC 541)

Scripture Reference:

“‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’” (Mark 1:15)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What was your favorite part of the Edge Night tonight?
- Are you surprised that Jesus only spent three years preaching and healing? Why?
- Did Jesus accomplish His mission alone? Who helped Him?
- Why is it so important for us to have people with us to journey in our faith?
- Do you have a friend who is this person for you?
- How can we, as a family, support each other in our journey in faith?

DEFEATED

An Edge Night on the Jesus' Passion and Death

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

The Edge Night this week began with a game that purposefully made the youth uncomfortable to put them in the position of what it would have been like to be in the crowd as they accused Jesus. The teaching broke open why Jesus was persecuted as well as what His death won for us and its connection to the Eucharist. The youth were then challenged to come up with movies that have characters who sacrificed their lives for the good of others to open up a discussion about the sacrifice of Jesus. The Edge Night ended with a reflection on Jesus' words from the cross.

Main Ideas:

- From the beginning of Jesus' public life He was misunderstood, He was different, and a lot of people found His teachings to be difficult and offensive and they sought to destroy Him because of this. (CCC 574-586)
- God loves us so much that He was willing to die for us. He was willing to give the greatest sacrifice of His very life to save us — all of us. There is not a single person who has lived or ever will live for whom Christ did not suffer and die. (CCC 605)
- Jesus was obedient to the will of the Father to the point of being killed. His obedience saves us from our sins. His obedience makes up for all of humanity's disobedience. (CCC 612)

Catechism Reference:

"At the end of the parable of the lost sheep Jesus recalled that God's love excludes no one: 'So it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.' He affirms that he came 'to give his life as a ransom for many;' this last term is not restrictive, but contrasts the whole of humanity with the unique person of the redeemer who hands himself over to save us. The Church, following the apostles, teaches that Christ died for all men without exception: 'There is not, never has been, and never will be a single human being for whom Christ did not suffer.'" (CCC 605)

Scripture Reference:

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?" (Romans 8:32)

Family Reflection Questions:

- Explain the opening activity to me. How did you feel when everyone was accusing the Core Member?
- How does this relate to the story of Jesus?
- What movie or story did you come up with that had a character who sacrificed his or her life for someone else?
- How does this relate to the story of Jesus?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves you so much that He died to free you from your sins?

TRIUMPHANT

An Edge Night on Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

The Edge Night this week began with a game where the youth were challenged to race with balloons. The teaching focused on Jesus' descent into hell, His Resurrection, and His Ascension into heaven. Then the youth had an opportunity to make cookies to enjoy while they discussed the teaching. The Edge Night ended with a time of praise and worship.

Main Ideas:

- Jesus was dead for two days before He rose on the third day, but even during those days Jesus was at work. After His Death and before His Resurrection, He descended into hell.
- The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith, meaning that it changed everything. Jesus proved to us that He is God, that He is all powerful, and that He did, in fact, come to save us from our sins and death. (CCC 638, 651-655)
- After spending forty days with His disciples and appearing to countless people, Jesus ascended into heaven where He remains for all of eternity at the right hand of God. (CCC 651-655)

Catechism Reference:

“We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus.” The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross: ‘Christ is risen from the dead! Dying, he conquered death; To the dead, he has given life.’” (CCC 638)

Scripture Reference:

“Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.’” (John 20:26-29)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What was your favorite part of the Edge Night? Why?
- What does it mean that death was not the end for Jesus?
- What happened for us when Jesus died?
- How do you think you would have reacted to seeing Jesus after the Resurrection?
- What difference does it make for us that Jesus rose from the dead?

A LEGACY

An Edge Night on the Last Things

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

The Edge Night this week began with an activity where the youth created a story that was acted out by their Core Members. The teaching discussed what happens after we die, particularly covering the topics of heaven, hell, and Purgatory. The youth then had an opportunity to learn about the life of a saint and discuss the qualities he or she showed that led him or her to heaven. The Edge Night ended by giving the youth an opportunity to light a candle and pray for people they know who have died and also learn a traditional prayer of the Church for souls in Purgatory by St. Gertrude the Great.

Main Ideas:

- Death is a reality of life. We will all die at some point in time, and none of us know when that will be. Death is the end of our earthly life; it is a natural event, but it is also the consequence of sin. (CCC 1001-1008)
- At the moment of our death, we will be judged by all the actions of our life; this is called particular judgement, and we will go either to heaven, hell, or Purgatory. (CCC 1021-1022)
- We, in the Church, are also given every advantage to help us to get to heaven. Through the sacraments we have all the grace we need to live a life with Christ now and to choose Him in this life.

Catechism Reference:

“Because of Christ, Christian death has a positive meaning: ‘For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.’ ‘The saying is sure: if we have died with him, we will also live with him.’ What is essentially new about Christian death is this: through Baptism, the Christian has already ‘died with Christ’ sacramentally, in order to live a new life; and if we die in Christ’s grace, physical death completes this ‘dying with Christ’ and so completes our incorporation into him in his redeeming act: ‘It is better for me to die in (eis) Christ Jesus than to reign over the ends of the earth. Him it is I seek - who died for us. Him it is I desire - who rose for us. I am on the point of giving birth. . . . Let me receive pure light; when I shall have arrived there, then shall I be a man.’” (CCC 1010)

Scripture Reference:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What was your favorite part of the Edge Night this week? Why?
- What saint did you learn about?
- What good qualities did this saint have that led him or her to heaven?
- What did you learn about death tonight?
- Who did you pray for at the end of the night who has passed away?
- How can we overcome any fear of death by knowing the truth and hope for heaven?

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

The Edge Night this week began with a Gather where the youth reflected on the story of the death of Jesus' friend, Lazarus. This led into the teaching where the youth learned more about the nature of suffering and death, that Jesus understands their grief, and ways that they can deal with grief and loss. The youth then had an opportunity to reflect on and pray for their loved ones who have passed away. The Edge Night ended with an upbeat celebration in commemoration of the beautiful lives of all those who have passed away, complete with ice cream sundaes and treats.

Main Ideas:

- God alone can heal the brokenness that is created by grief.
- While we experience many emotions during grief, including anger, denial, bargaining, depression, and acceptance, God Himself loves us where we are at and in the midst of our grief.
- Jesus Himself experienced these emotions when John the Baptist and Lazarus died. He understands us and walks with us through our experience.

Catechism Reference:

"The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God - it is not 'produced' by the parents - and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection." (CCC 366)

Scripture Reference:

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." (Revelations 21:4)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What stood out to you the most from the Edge Night this week?
- Was Jesus ever sad about the loss of a friend? Explain the Scripture verse you learned about.
- Is there someone in particular who we know who has passed away that you still really miss?
- What did you learn about in regards to those who have passed away? How can we pray for these people?
- What can we do this week to remember and celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have passed away?

ETERNAL KINGDOM

An Edge Issue Night on the Second Coming and Last Judgement

Parent Letter

Dear Parents and Family,

The Edge Night this week began with a game where the youth were setup to be waiting for a Core Member to bring them a treat. The teaching led the youth through what will happen at the end of the world, the Last Judgement, and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The youth then had a chance to discuss the teaching. At the end of the Edge Night, they prayed a decade of the rosary, focusing on the Ascension of Jesus. Finally the Core Member they were waiting for all night came with their treat as a symbol of waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus.

Main Ideas:

- Jesus dwells always with us through the Church, but He will come again at the end of time and will overcome suffering and evil, once and for all. We do not know the hour that He will come — but when He does we will know that it is Him. (CCC 673)
- At the Last Judgement, our bodies will be resurrected, the truth of every single human's relationship will be laid bare before all as well as all the consequences of his or her good and bad actions, and everyone will go to either heaven or hell for all eternity. (CCC 1038-1039)
- The universe will be redeemed and God will dwell with men, and there will be complete unity of the human race with God. They will all live with Christ in a holy city where there is no longer division, suffering, and all experience complete and utter happiness, peace, and love with everyone. (CCC 1045)

Catechism Reference:

“When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts and will render to each man according to his works, and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace.” (CCC 682)

Scripture Reference:

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21: 25-28)

Family Reflection Questions:

- What stood out to you the most from the Edge Night this week?
- What did you learn about the end of the world? Is it like the movies depict it to be?
- What do you think your glorified body will be like?
- How will our actions affect what happens to us at our own death and the end of the world?
- How can we live in hope and expectation for Jesus to come again?