

Sunday, November 12, 2017: 1st Week of Advent: St. Matthew (23rd Sunday after Pentecost)

Welcome: Spend some time checking in with the students.

Opening Prayer: “Our Father” – see poster board

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39 – **Read Gospel in class**

Lesson: 1st Week of Advent: St. Matthew

- This week we start St. Philip’s Fast or Pylypivka, the 40 days to prepare for Christmas

- November 15 is the first day of the fast, the day after St. Philip’s feast day

- Today we commemorate St. Matthew

- St. Matthew was one of the writers of the Gospels. Before that he was a tax collector; he worked for the Roman government. Jesus called him to be a disciple, however, so he gave up his job and followed Jesus.

- A lot of the Jewish people in those days did not like that Jesus called Matthew because they said he was a sinner due to his work. Jesus called him anyway.

- St. Matthew’s story teaches us that it doesn’t matter who you are, you can still be a follower of Christ.

Craft: Advent Wreath

- Materials: Paper plate, green construction paper, coloured candle cut outs, yellow flame cut outs, glue stick, staples, scissors, markers,

- How To: Cut centre of paper plate out, leaving about 3 inches around.

Trace child’s hand on green construction paper several times, to make “leaves.”

Glue paper hands on prepared paper plate. Staple each of 7 candles onto the wreath (pink, purple, yellow, red, orange, green, white). Staple a yellow flame onto the first candle (pink).

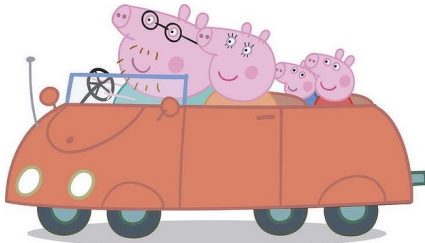
***Keep wreaths in Bozhi Dity classroom and add flames to appropriate candle each week.

End of Class: Hand out “Car Qs” to children, and “Cheat Sheet” to parents.



car QS

Sunday, November 12th



<https://vignette2.wikia.nocookie.net/peppapedia/images/1/18/Shaft.jpg/revision/latest?cb=20141126051557>

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2. True or false: St. Matthew wrote one of the 6 Gospels.
3. Name 3 things we can do to prepare for Christmas.

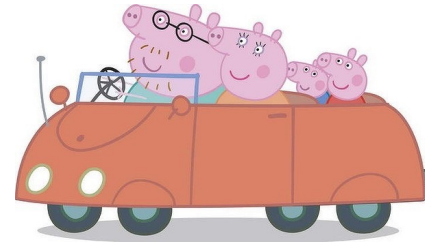
Praying Together:

Lord Jesus,

This week we begin the season of Pylypivka, or St. Philip's Fast. Help us turn our hearts to you like St. Matthew did so we can be ready to welcome your birth on Christmas. Amen.

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Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs
Nov. 12/17, 1st Week of Pylypivka - St. Matthew (22nd Sunday after Pentecost)

1. What is St. Philip's Fast (Pylypivka)?

1. St. Philip's Fast (Pylypivka) is the 40 days leading up to Christmas. In the Roman Catholic Church it's called Advent.
2. Like during Lent, Pylypivka is a time to focus on prayer and fasting to help us get ready for the coming of Jesus on Christmas.
3. Check out Orthodox Mom at <http://www.orthodoxmom.com/orthodox-kitchen/> for recipes to make fasting easy and delicious for the whole family! This month's youth newsletter "The Word" also has a bunch of great ideas to help your family prepare for Christmas. You can pick up a copy in the church foyer or get it online at saintnicksyouth.com.

2. True or false: St. Matthew wrote one of the 6 Gospels.

1. False. There are only 4 Gospels.
2. The Gospels are attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and found in that order in the Bible. This is not the chronological order of the books, however. Most biblical scholars agree that Mark's Gospel was written first, then Matthew and Luke were written around the same time, and finally John's was written last.¹

3. Name 3 things we can do to prepare for Christmas.

1. Find times to pray with your family, find time to be silent, give up certain foods (meat, junk food) during the fast, go to church regularly, find time to volunteer with the Mustard Seed Church or the Marian Centre, donate items/toys you aren't using anymore to those in need, focus on being extra kind to your family and friends, read the Gospels that lead up to Christmas (just check out <http://www.eeparchy.com/calendar/> for the readings of the day), watch movies about Jesus' birth ("The Nativity Story" looks pretty good!)

¹ Check out Boston College's summer here: https://www.bc.edu/schools/stm/crossroads/resources/birthofjesus/intro/the_dating_of_thegospels.html