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*The publican went home at rights with God; the Pharisee did not.*



There is a subversive humor in today's Gospel which turns upside down the conventions of everyday life: we see a senior tax official climbing up a tree for a glimpse of Jesus, and the faintly ridiculous scene where Jesus stops, looks into the branches of the sycamore and says, Zacchaeus, come down! Did Zacchaeus worry about what people thought? The rest of the story shows that he did not. It would be easy to laugh at little Zacchaeus and people in the town probably did, in between muttering about his extortionate taxes. And yet he has understood the message of God more clearly than others: he reveals the meaning of the first reading, since he understands that God is gentle, merciful and loving. Jesus corrects him, little by little so that he may abstain from evil and trust in the Lord.

### Fr. Alan's Assembly



Gavin, Mercedes, Rowen and Katie were off to Stewarts for some ice cream this week as they were Fr. Alan's winners of his weekly give-a-way! Congrats!



This week, while Father Alan was visiting each class to hear about what they learned, he found the K & 1st grade students looking in the mirror to find "Where God Lives"! Our 2nd grade students were learning about their baptism and they also have two more students who are coming into the class. In 3rd grade Adam and Eve was the topic, they learned about Cane and Able and the consequences of the emotion "Jealousy". Our 4th grade class with King David were learning about Adam and Eve as well, and they found snakes in the garden. They made snakes in class and put the story on their bulletin board. In 5th & 6th grade the book of Revelation and story of salvation were the topic. Our 7th grade class talked about the parables and the Beatitudes. Fr. Alan told them that he calls them the "Be-happy-Attitudes" In 8th grade, Mr. Eamer taught the students that with Halloween right around the corner, there are also dangers of occults and advised us all to be aware of and dismiss them. We must stay focused on God alone! In Confirmation I, students were concentrating on the Beatitudes, the Apostles Creed and the Seven Sacraments. The CI students are also working on their Letter to the Pastor, Sponsor's Forms and their Saints Report (which will be the name they take for Confirmation). Our Confirmation II class are studying the Holy Trinity: \*Father\* - \*Son\* - and \*Holy Spirit\*. The students made a collage of all the many images of the Holy Trinity. They will be putting this on the bulletin board in the hall for all to see. Be sure to take a walk down our hall to see the bulletin boards!

H	O	S	S	Z	E	S	U	O	H
O	U	S	Y	A	T	E	S	N	E
H	S	E	C	C	E	N	O	D	Y
C	U	N	A	C	A	I	R	N	H
I	E	I	C	H	T	M	O	U	T
R	A	O	O	A	E	D	O	O	L
E	C	R	V	E	Y	E	P	R	A
J	C	L	E	U	O	S	R	G	E
T	A	O	H	S	H	O	R	T	W
S	Z	Y	T	R	E	P	O	R	P

- Jericho
- Zacchaeus
- Senior
- Wealthy
- Short
- Sycamore
- Tree
- House
- Ground
- Property
- Poor
- Salvation



Confirmation I Students... Please be sure you have your draft copy of the Saints Report ready for class this week. The information, web links, and other resources are all included in your folder. Please use that information as your guide. We also want to make sure that you are beginning to think about your sponsor. Sponsors information will be due on December 8th. If you need help, contact Linda Manchester or Janice Morse in the office.

Reconciliation with our 2nd grade students.

Continuing our lesson on 5 ways to prepare your child for First Reconciliation



### 2. Examination of Conscience

#### Week 3.

#### ~Practice~

Practice, practice, practice! Like with any sport, musical instrument, or other skill – continuous practice is essential. The same is true for preparation for all the Sacraments. The [National Catholic Register](http://NationalCatholicRegister.com) has a nice and easy [Confession Guide for Children](http://ConfessionGuideforChildren.com) that goes through a simple Examination of Conscience followed by the steps involved in a confession. As your child's first reconciliation approaches, take time to role play with them what they will do in their real confessions. Except, you can tell them they don't have to really tell you their sins – unless of course they really want to. Maybe you'll finally find out who really took that item you've been searching everywhere for.

Many thanks to the Brelia Family, Charlene Lombard and the soup kitchen for their donations to the Religious Edu. program. We have snacks, juice boxes; and small cups and bowls for crafts. We are very grateful for your continued support of our program and our children are happy to have a nice snack after Mass before they go into their classes. Thank you!!!

### "Vocations"



"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." Will you share in Christ's saving mission as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Alan at 518-643-6759 or

Fr. Christopher Carera at (315) 386-2543/[ccarera@rcdony.org](mailto:ccarera@rcdony.org) or Cathy Russell, the Diocesan Vocation Coordinator at (315)393-2920, ext. 1450/[crussell@rcdony.org](mailto:crussell@rcdony.org). See us also on Facebook or at [www.myvocation.net](http://www.myvocation.net).

#### Creating a Culture of Vocation



**DID YOU KNOW...** that just because a young man goes to the seminary doesn't automatically mean he will become a priest? Those young men are discerning whether they are indeed called into that particular kind of service to our LORD. They would appreciate your prayers for them!