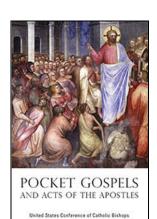
CHRISTIAN CONNECTIONS

Volume 1, Issue 4 October 2014

MOSACK'S Church Goods & Religious Gifts

POCKET GOSPELS NOW AVAILABLE



Pope Francis handed out thousands of pocket-sized copies of the four Gospels and Acts. He asked the faithful to read a passage every day, saying, "Take it, Carry it with you, and read it every day: it is Jesus Himself who is speaking to you ... The important thing is to read the Word of God, ... It is Jesus who speaks to us there. And welcome it with an open heart. Then the good seed will bear fruit!"

Pocket Gospels and Acts of the Apostles is a great way for believers to keep the Word of God as their constant guide and inspiration. It's the perfect size for purse or pocket.

This small pocketsized book, includes the
four Gospels and the Acts
of the Apostles in one
handy booklet. It has a
durable cover with a
beautiful Italian fresco on
the front - just like the
Pope's! Take Pocket
Gospels and Acts of the

Apostles with you and read it anytime you have a few minutes during day. the the waiting for bus! appointment! lunch! breaktime! Any-Already time! at reasonable price of \$7.95 each, MOSACK'S QUANTITY also has **PRICES** and SHIPPING on orders of \$100.00 or more. This book is a great gift idea for classrooms, parishes, bible study groups.

NOVEMBER - A TIME TO REMEMBER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

St Nicholas Day 2

Advent 2

Rosary Month 2 Respect Life

Advent/Christmas 3
Traditions

Crib Blessing 3

Thanksgiving 4

Book Review 4
Didache Series

All Souls Day, November 2nd is a day to reach out in love to all those who have touched our lives and are now in God's hands. While we can no longer give them one last hug or hold one last conversation, we are forever united in love. Prayer is our bond. We remember them with hope through our sadness. We treasure the moments of their lives with gratitude. We await the day we will be reunited in heaven forever.

For those who are grieving the coming holidays can be especially stressful. MO-SACK'S has a variety of books,

gifts and memorial items to ease the loss of a loved one. Shop online at www. mosacks.com for Merry Christmas From Heaven frames, ornaments and memorial statues, bereavement jewelry, and more. Let someone know you care and remember their loved one!





Veterans Day ,
November 11th is a national
holiday recognizing the
accomplishments and dedicated work of all soldiers
who have fought for our
country. It is a time to honor
their service and recognize
the debt owed by citizens of
our country to all veterans.
Call or send a thank you
card to the veterans you
know. Display the flag.

NICHOLAS A Saint for Christmas

Jesus was born in a Bethlehem stable, but He came to find a home in our hearts. St. Nicholas shows us how to respond to the aift of God's love. Born about 17 centuries ago in what is now the country of Turkey, Nicholas was a kindly bishop known for his generosity to the poor. He gave away his money to those in need, but tried to do it secretly so no one would know he was responsible. When people found out and praised Nicholas, he reminded them that God is the source of all goodness. Often children leave their shoes out the night before St. Nicholas Day (Dec 6th) in the hope that they will be filled with treats by morning. Cookies, cakes, candies left by a secret giver who was filled with the love of Jesus are traditional favorites. The tradition of Santa Claus came from St. Nicholas.

THE GREATEST TIME OF YEAR

Advent and Christmas! The greatest time of the year is right around the corner and we get to do certain rituals that are special to the season. Do we know what the meaning behind the Advent Season, Advent wreath, Oplatki, and St. Nicholas Day is? Everything that we do has a deep religious meaning which started with our European roots.

Let's start off with the Advent Season which can be traced back to the earliest days of the Church. Traditionally Christians would fast for the four weeks of Advent until Christmas Eve. This fasting was an imitation of the Jewish people who fasted as they awaited the Messiah. Then on Christmas Day, we joyfully feast in celebrate of Jesus birth.

Christmas is one of the most joyful times of year, however most of the time we are all guilty of getting caught up in the commercialism of it all. This year, let us take time to reflect on the true meaning of this holiday and realize that without Jesus there would be no Christmas. Let us remember that God gave to us the most precious gift, His only Son Jesus, and through this gift we merit everlasting life. May God bless you during this Advent and Christmas!

OCTOBER MONTH OF THE ROSARY - RESPECT LIFE

St. Pope John Paul II called the Rosary "the school of Mary" a special devotion that teaches about the close relationship between Mary and Jesus. "The Rosary is a prayer loved by countless Saints ... Simple yet profound, it is a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness ...With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the Faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer". (Rosarium Virginis Mariae) October 7th celebrates the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary honoring Mary's example and guidance to her child, Jesus. By praying the rosary and meditating on the mysteries, we open our lives to Mary and Jesus. We learn how to share God's love with the world.



Whether you are looking for a special Swarovski Crystal, Natural Gemstone, Mother-of-Pearl, Birthstone, or Wood Rosary MOSACK'S is your shopping destination. We even have inexpensive plastic and cord rosaries. Rosary bracelets, finger rosaries and chaplets are also in stock. Scriptural Rosary Books, and Mysteries of the Rosary pamphlets will help you focus on the lives of Jesus and Mary and pray without distractions.

October is also dedicated to prayer and sacrifice for Respect Life. The National Campaign for Life (Sept 24th through Nov 2nd) encourages 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. As we consider life issues during October, let us open our eyes to the many ways in which human life is at risk in our world and find constructive ways to witness the Gospel of Life.

RESPECT LIFE PRAYER

Almighty God, as people of faith we are always reminded of Your great love for us and for every individual You created.

Yet our hearts are heavy as we mourn the unborn who have not had the opportunity to live full lives.

We mourn the loss of our sisters and brothers who were denied the gift of life through abortion.

We also mourn the loss of their gifts to the world, which would have enriched the lives of so many.

During these 40 Days of the Prayer Campaign for Life our prayer is for a conversion of heart for all who contribute to the act of abortion. We pray that they may grow to appreciate God's life in the womb and His love for all who share in His life. We also pray for the conversion of our own hearts so that we may be worthy instruments for God's love for others by what we say and do. May God bless all who are dedicated to protecting all human life from conception to natural death. May their efforts be strengthened by this time of prayer and fasting.

Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon Bishop of Cleveland

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

The Advent wreath is full of symbolic meaning:

- <u>The Evergreen Branch</u>: Symbolizes that God's love is never ending and lasts forever. God is life and we have life by dwelling with Him.
- The Circle: The Advent wreath is made in the circle because it shows that God is one, and shows that He loves us without stopping. Also as a circle has no beginning and no end so does God and his love for us.
- <u>The Red Berries</u>: Demonstrates to us the sacrifice that Jesus will make for us on the cross.
- The Purple Candles: The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works that we should do at this time. Purple is also a color of royalty, which a king would wear. There are normally 3 purple candles.
- The Pink Candle: The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday is called Guadete Sunday, which is Latin for Rejoice Sunday. We rejoice because the coming of Christ is near.
- <u>The white candle</u>: The white candle which is normally in the center of the Advent wreath symbolizes the purity of Jesus and Mary who are without sin.



CRIB BLESSING: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love. When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy and love.

Lord, bless this crib and all who look upon it. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.



Advent Calendars help families count the days until Jesus' Birthday.

Mini Book Calendar: For the first 24 days of December there is a mini book that relates a Bible Story, offers a special prayer, or features a familiar Christmas song. Once you read each little book, you can hang it on your Christmas Tree. The unique Advent Calendar makes celebrating Advent at school or home truly meaningful.

Chocolate Calendar: Upon opening each window of the Stable Chocolate Advent Calendar, one finds a wonderful piece of gourmet milk chocolate along with a bible text that tells a part of the Nativity story





Oplatki is an Eastern European wafer like bread, almost identical to altar bread. However rather than being round, Oplatki is shaped like a rectangle and may have the image of the Holy Family, the three wise men or a star. Normally it comes in a pack of four, three white ones and a pink one. European cultures such as the Polish break the Oplatki at the Christmas Eve feast. After prayer, the head of the family breaks off a small piece of it and passes it down. Once everyone has a piece of the Oplatki, they eat it, then begin their feast.

This is to symbolize unity of the family who are united through Christ.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

In 1863 Abraham Lincoln set aside the fourth Thursday in November as a Day of National Thanksgiving for Americans. Nov. 27th is a time for family and friends to gather with all the laughter of happy children, the glad greetings of family reunited and the humble gratitude of the Christian heart.

MOSACK'S carries serving dishes, figurines, decorations, books and

gifts for Thanksgiving. As you join in the celebrated feast of turkey with all the trimmings - and prepare for the official launch of the Christmas Shopping season! - take time to remember the gifts and freedoms you have. Share your blessings with those less fortunate!

THANKSGIVING DINNER BLESSING:

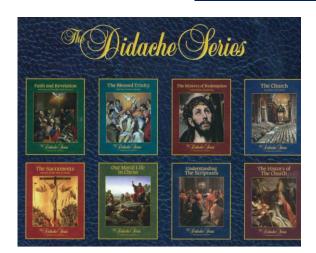
Almighty and gracious God, we give thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them.

Make us faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need.

We spend this day among family and friends sharing the blessings you have given us. Guide us in the service of your name.

Amen.

BOOK REVIEW: THE DIDACHE SERIES - TEACHING RESOURCE



NEW! *The Didache Series* presents basic doctrine, scripture, moral, and sacramental texts of the Catholic Church in a comprehensive and accessible format. Books are based on the Bible, The Catechism, teachings of the Church Fathers, lives of the Saints, and Vatican Council II.

The Parish Semester Course is perfect for home study and small group sessions deigned to help readers come to know Jesus Christ and his teachings. The eight book series is a comprehensive study of the Creed, Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, the Church, Sacraments and Christian Morality. Its approach examines the Church as an encounter with Christ providing the reader with the tools and practical examples for living the faith. Each book is divided into weekly lessons with full color illustrations and guided exercises.



8562 Mentor Ave Mentor, OH 44060 Phone:(440) 974-2221 Fax:(440) 974-4004

E-Mail:info@mosacks.com

We're on the Web! www.mosacks.com

