

Church of the Holy Spirit

Children's Formation

Dear Parents,

As we move through our extended Advent season, our young people will be engaged preparing for the coming of Jesus. We've named the focus of our reflection "Papa Panov" as we will be focusing on Leo Tolstoy's adaption of the French folktale. The story centers around an old shoemaker who spends Christmas day, waiting for Jesus to come. At the end of the day, he is disappointed that Jesus did not visit him only to realize that Jesus was part of all the people he served that day. The story in its entirety can be found here:

<http://americanliterature.com/author/leo-tolstoy/short-story/papa-panovs-special-christmas>.

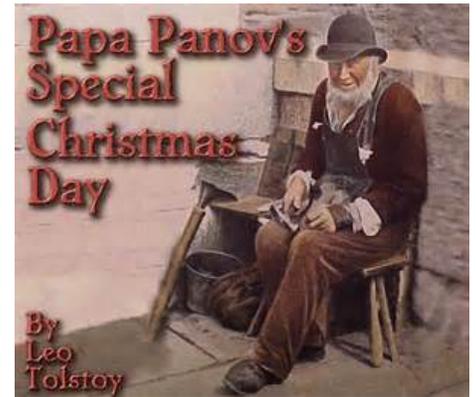
The story quotes **Matthew 25: 35-40**: ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

All of the Sunday School sessions and other activities focus on serving Jesus by feeding the hungry, clothing people, and caring for others. Please see the side bar for important dates and additional information about the remainder of this module. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Marlow: (908)884-6932 or michellekmarlow@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events

November 27

Sunday School:

Practice Hymn 60: Creator of the Stars at Night
Listen to Papa Panov story

December 4

Sunday School:

Practice Hymn 60
Rehearse dramatization for Christmas Eve Service
Knot Blankets to donate

December 11

Sunday School:

Practice Hymn 60
Rehearse dramatization for Christmas Eve Service
Finish blankets to donate

December 18

Lessons & Carols: children in Service, will sing Hymn 60
Country Arch Care Center, 2-3:30 pm: Final rehearsal, caroling with residents

December 24

Papa Panov Drama: 4 pm
Family Service

LESSONS AND CAROLS, DECEMBER 18

Hymn 60: Creator of the Stars

We will be practicing this hymn weekly and will sing it during Lessons & Carols on **December 18**. Below are the lyrics for review. All the children will sing versus 4 and 5:

1. Ellie (A cappella)

Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

2. Melissa (With Chris)

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

3. Jr. Choir (Chris & Jordan)

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

4. Full Sunday School Choir (Chris)

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

5. Full Sunday School Choir (Chris)

Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

6. Jr. Choir (Chris & Jordan)

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

PAPA PANOV DRAMA

To culminate the season, the children are all invited to be part of a dramatization of Papa Panov at the Christmas Eve 4pm Service. Rehearsals will be part of the weekly Sunday School time. The drama is designed so that children are not required to memorize any lines. A final rehearsal will be held on Sunday, December 18 at the Country Arch Care Center (see sidebar.)

If your child will not be at the Christmas Eve service, he/she can still participate in this meaningful Advent Sunday School program. Please, do let me know if your child will NOT be at the service, so that we can best plan accordingly.



"I was hungry and you fed me."
On the first Sunday of this module, children prepared a Popover Pizza that fed 24 people.

Country Arch Care Center Visit

**Sunday, December 18,
2-3:30 pm**

We will be visiting the residents at Country Arch Care Center for caroling and to present the Papa Panov drama. The entire parish is invited to join us.

This will serve as our final rehearsal before the Christmas Eve service. While this is a busy time of year, please make time to join us as we put into practice the scripture taught in Papa Panov by spending time with the residents of Country Arch. We hope to use this final Sunday in Advent as a means for us to prepare for Jesus by visiting others.

We can carpool from the church for any children, youth, or adults who would like a ride. We will leave promptly from the parking lot at 1:40pm.