



Christian Education

Bulletin Insert

November, 2002

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St Cecilia's Day, November 22

St Cecilia is often shown in pictures playing the organ. She is the patron saint of music, organists and the blind. Children may like to find out about instruments mentioned in the Bible. In Psalm 81:1-3, the **tambourine**, **harp**, **lyre** and **ram's horn** (shophar) are mentioned. (In the BCP version the tambourine is called a timbrel) In 2 Samuel 6:1-5, we read of the great celebration as King David brought the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem. The instruments used in the procession are harps, lyres, tambourines, **sistrums** and **cymbals**. Others mentioned in the Bible include **flutes** (I Kings 1:40) and **trumpets** (Numbers 10:5). There were many types of lyre, harp and horn, and it can be confusing because each type has a different name. The internet is a good source of pictures of various instruments. A book with a good section on Hebrew music is 'The New Manners and Customs of Bible Times' by Ralph Gower, ISBN 0 8024 5954 4. 'Old Testament Days : an activity guide' by Nancy I. Saunders has directions for making a trumpet, a sistrum, a timbrel and cymbals among many, many other craft ideas. This book, ISBN 1 55652 354 8 is available from Anglican House in Saint John, 693 2295.

Tongue Twister

Bonnie burned the brown bread badly.

Christ the King - the Sunday Next Before Advent November 24

Have you and your family read the Narnia chronicles by C.S. Lewis? For children 8 and above, these are wonderful reading, and make excellent family read-alouds. If parents have not read these in a while, it is likely that they will see much more in the books than they did when they first encountered them. Perhaps you might read one or two during the Advent season, or watch them on video. The Diocesan Resource Centre in Saint John has the first four books which have been filmed for the BBC series. Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas, but also for thinking about the second coming of Christ. In the last paragraph of 'The Last Battle,' C.S. Lewis describes eternal life as "only the beginning of the real story. . . the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever; in which every chapter is better than the one before." You might wish to discuss what this might mean for each person in the family.

Younger children may enjoy making a banner or poster for Christ the King, showing as many different symbols or pictures as possible of the different ways of thinking of Jesus e.g. as shepherd, king, teacher, healer, bread of life, light of the world, vine, lamb etc.

Family Discussion Questions

Where can we see signs in our community that Christ is reigning? Where is he not?

What can we do to encourage Christ's kingdom to spread?

Is there anyone who might be able to help?

How can we go about putting this into practice?

For Fun (thanks to Clyde Spinney)

A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don' t pay for me Daddy. I' m under five."