



SAES NOTES – DECEMBER 2019



Dear Friends:

I taught Godly Play both during my initial days of serving a parish and later in my ministry while serving a school. It is a wonderful curriculum that invites children into the sacred stories of our heritage. One of my favorite stories to share was the story of Christmas night as part of the Advent lessons.

Advent is time to prepare and to "get ready." During each week of Advent, the students were introduced to a different element or two of the story (the idea of "taking a journey," the prophets, the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the wise men).

One of my favorite parts of the story is when the brown cow gets mentioned. (A crowd-pleaser regardless of age.) The cow's presence in the story is used to capture the "surprise" element of the birth of our Lord in a manger. As surprised as everyone else was, just think of how surprised the cow was as she tried to get a little breakfast that early morning and instead came face to face with Jesus!

Sunday was the beginning of Advent and our journey towards the Christmas mystery. It is a time for us to intentionally prepare for the arrival of Jesus Christ. **I believe that the season is all about being open to surprises--specifically, the surprise of meeting Jesus in unexpected places.**

I propose as an Advent discipline that we attempt to do everything we can to be open to seeing Jesus--especially in places where you might not expect such an encounter.

For example, what if you go into that next difficult conversation with the intent and desire to see Jesus in the other participants? What if you look for Jesus in the next challenge that unexpectedly appears at your door? Perhaps in the next intervention with that student so talented at "pushing buttons?" Dare I say it, what happens if we intentionally look for Jesus at our faculty or board meetings? Are there ways for all of these seemingly mundane interactions to point toward what Jesus is calling all of us to do in our lives?

I can't say for sure what, if anything, would be different. But, I have to wonder, if maybe, just maybe, you might be in for a pleasant surprise--just like the brown cow that early Christmas morning.

Please know of my prayers for you and your community as we enter the Christmas recess. I am hopeful that the season of Advent will be a time for you to spiritually prepare for the feast!

Advent

Advent is the first season of the Christian year. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” It’s a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth and the incarnation but also the anticipation of Christ’s Second Coming. Advent is a traditional season of fasting but also of hope and expectation.



Week 3
HEAVEN or JOY
Year A Matthew 11:2-11
Year B John 1:6-8, 19-28
Year C Luke 3:7-18

Week 2
JUDGMENT or LOVE
Year A Matthew 3:1-12
Year B Mark 1:1-18
Year C Luke 3:1-6

Week 4
HELL or HOPE
Year A Matthew 1:18-25
Year B Luke 1:26-38
Year C Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Week 1
DEATH or PEACE
Year A Matthew 24:36-44
Year B Mark 13:24-37
Year C Luke 21:25-36

The Eastern Orthodox equivalent of Advent is the 40-day Nativity Fast.

ADVENT COLORS
The traditional western liturgical color is violet/purple. However, other colors are used. Pope Innocent III declared black proper. Many traditions, including the Episcopal Church, also see blue, representing hope, as an acceptable alternative.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Advent Wreath started as a home devotion among early Lutherans. The modern version comes from the 19th century.

Forward Movement
inspire disciples. empower evangelists.
For more resources, visit www.ForwardMovement.org

SAES EVENTS



Marketing for Re-Enrollment January 9, 2020 12:00 pm (CST)

Re-enrollment is a critical time of the year in the life of a school. Developing an intentional and focused marketing calendar will ensure that your external and internal marketing is both cost effective and helpful in building enrollment! This webinar will focus on re-enrollment marketing strategies and best practices.

[Register For Free](#)



The Strategic Planning Process: A Roadmap for Success January 23, 2020 6:00 pm (CST)

Strategic Planning is necessary for a high performing board to meet its governance role effectively. If it's time to craft a new strategic plan in your community, don't miss this webinar. We will discuss the best way to set the stage for a dynamic process. We will also explore the entire process from selecting the strategic planning committee, to collecting data to inform the process, to hosting a strategic planning event with stakeholders, to crafting the final plan for board adoption. This webinar is a “must see” for board members!

[Register for Free](#)

Newly Appointed Heads of School Webinar January 9, 2020 4:00 pm (CST)



**The
Education
Group**

This Webinar, sponsored by SAES and The Education Group and conducted by The Education Group Executive Coaches who have “been there and done that,” will address your questions and raise others, all in an effort to support and empower newly appointed school heads to make the most of the months before you “officially” start to work next summer. Please join us and fellow “new heads” by registering now for a **free** hour-long Webinar.



David Dougherty
Director, Executive Coaching
The Education Group



Susan Lair
Consultant, Executive Coach
The Education Group



Bob Kirkpatrick
Consultant, Executive Coach
The Education Group

If you'd like more information about the coaches, The Education Group, and the Executive Coaching Program, visit www.educationgroup.com.

[Register Now For Free](#)

SAVE THE DATES!

EARLY LEARNING CONFERENCE
JUNE 25, 2020
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL, FORT WORTH, TX

2021 SAES BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 21-22, 2021
THE WESTIN GALLERIA, HOUSTON, TX

Father David's Blog



Do We Know What Game We Are Playing?

This blog entry explores Sinek's latest book (The Infinite Game). This was the subject of the Leadership Deep Dive at our Biennial Conference.

[Read More](#)



JANUARY 6, 2020
8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Trinity Episcopal School
3901 Bee Cave Rd.
Austin, TX

K-12 EDUCATORS: Envision Education 2020 is a special event featuring some of the nation's top thinkers on K-12 education and learning. Trinity Episcopal School in Austin is proud to host this event as they continue to celebrate their 20th year and underscore their commitment to professional development. Join your fellow educators Mon., Jan. 6 for a day of inspirational and informative experiences for educators!

[Registration Details](#)

ARE YOU A FUTURE LEADER?

 National Association of Episcopal Schools
LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE 2020
WWW.EPISCOPALSCHOOLS.ORG/FUTURELEADERS

#FUTURELEADER

In collaboration with:


LEADERS FOR THE FUTURE 2020
February 5-7, 2020
Hyatt Regency, DFW Airport, Fort Worth, TX



SAES PODCAST

SUBSCRIBE ON APPLE
iTunes OR GOOGLE
PLAY

[Click here to listen!](#)



Dallas Job Fair 2020
February 22, 2020
DoubleTree Dallas Near the Galleria

Great jobs for private school teachers in Texas
and around the South!

[Apply Now](#)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Three Simple Tech Tools To Make Math Thinking Visible

"Some people argue that using technology in education feels automated and less personal. I've found the exact opposite to be true."

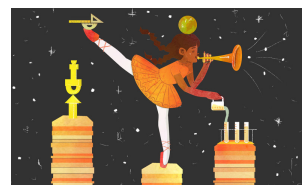
[READ MORE BY KATRINA SCHWARTZ, KQED MIND/SHIFT](#)



The Key to Raising Brilliant Kids? Play A Game

"Everything we learn starts with collaboration and relationships."

[READ MORE BY CORY TURNER & ANYA KAMENETZ, NPR](#)



FEATURED CORPORATE SPONSOR

Thousands of companies and individuals across Texas and South Central U.S. trust Higginbotham's Single Source solution for insurance and financial services.



HIGGINBOTHAM

Global Reach. Local Touch. Single Source.



Follow us at:

**Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools
(@SAESchools) and LIKE our page!**

Visit our website

