



FEBRUARY Youth Page

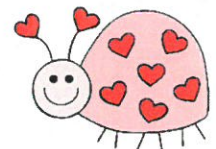


Announcements:

1st Eucharist Parent Student Meeting: Sat Feb 11: 2pm

God's Super Hero: St. Polycarp: Feb 23

The story of St. Polycarp's martyrdom is the earliest recorded account of a Christian martyr. Polycarp was a disciple of St. John the apostle. While still quite young, he became the bishop of Smyrna and was one of the most respected leaders in the first half of the second century. Polycarp was a Christian leader in a pagan world. He spoke clearly and simply, fearless in his love and defense of Christ, even though persecutions raged around him. He sought only to pass on the message he had been given by John, who had seen and heard and followed Jesus. Even as Polycarp prepared for martyrdom, his joy and confident trust were evident by all. Polycarp was seized for being a Christian and was threatened and pressured into denying Christ but would not abandon his belief and trust in Jesus, even it meant death. Polycarp lost his life in a cruel way. The community of believers celebrated the anniversary of Polycarp's death with great joy, for in him they had seen an outstanding example of love and patience. He had held strong and had won the treasure of eternal life. Polycarp is remembered as an Apostolic Father, one who was a disciple of the apostles. Like Polycarp, we are called to faithfully hand on the tradition of giving Christian witness joyfully, no matter what the cost.



On Feb 5, the Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time finds Jesus preaching to the crowds about the Beatitudes and continues by saying to the crowd: You are the salt of the earth and light of the world. Like salt, we can help others to taste and appreciate God's goodness and love for the world. As his followers, Jesus expects us to go and flavor the world and to be lights shining out and brightening the world around us with our goodness and love. He wants us to be shining examples of what it means to be his disciples, drawing people toward the light and warmth of God's love. Jesus used the example of salt as salt in Jesus time was considered to be a very precious commodity. It was used to pay the wages of Roman soldiers and any soldier who was considered efficient and capable was described as being 'worth his salt'. Salt was also invaluable for preserving food and for its antiseptic qualities.

Read Matthew 5: 13-16 and color the pictures below.

