

The Junior Observer

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A Bible Tale

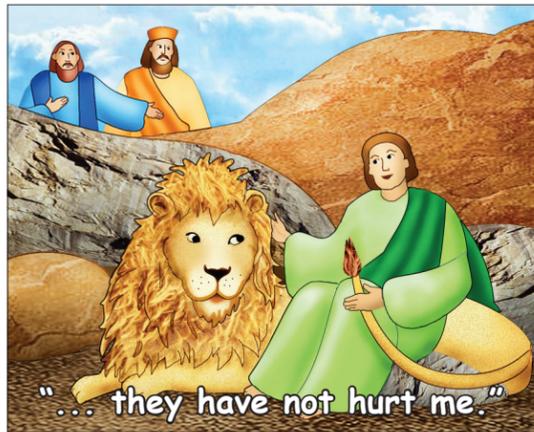
God Saves Daniel from the Lions

Catholic News Service

After King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated the king of Judah, he brought a man named Daniel and some other Israelites from Jerusalem to serve him. Although he was living among people who worshipped other gods, Daniel never stopped worshipping the Lord. So God gave Daniel the power to interpret dreams and visions, and he became well-known for his wisdom and understanding.

When Darius became king of Babylon, he chose people — including Daniel — to help him run his kingdom. Darius liked Daniel and planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom.

Darius' other assistants were jealous and wanted to accuse Daniel of doing something bad. So they asked the king to pass a law they



Q&A

Who brought Daniel to Babylon?

Why was Daniel thrown into the lions' den?

Read more in Daniel 6

knew Daniel would not obey.

"For 30 days," they said, "whoever makes a petition to anyone, divine or human, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions."

The king agreed. And once the king made a law, it could not be canceled.

Daniel continued to pray to God three times a day at his home. One

day, the king's assistants rushed in and caught him. They went to the king and insisted that Daniel be thrown into the lions' den.

Darius tried to find a way to save Daniel, but in the end he had no choice. He ordered Daniel to be cast into the lions' den and for a stone to be placed in front of the entrance. He sealed the stone with his ring so it could not be tampered

with.

"May your God, whom you serve so constantly, save you," he told Daniel.

In the morning, the king raced to the lions' den and called out to Daniel.

"My God has sent his angel and closed the lions' mouths so that they have not hurt me," Daniel replied.

The king was filled with joy and gave a decree to all his people: "Throughout my royal domain the God of Daniel is to be revered and feared. For He is the living God, enduring forever; His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be without end. He is a deliverer and savior, working signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, and He delivered Daniel from the lions' power."

Advent Begins Nov. 29

The first Sunday of Advent is coming soon. It's one of two special times in the Church year.

Advent is what we call the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

Advent is also the first season in the Church year. So you can tell your family members "Happy New Church Year" this weekend.

Advent and Lent are both seasons when we are preparing for something important. In Advent we prepare for God's gift of Jesus, His Son.

In Lent we prepare for God's gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus.

Christmas season is a celebration of Jesus' birth. Easter season celebrates His sacrifice for our redemption.

Both of these seasons are times of hope in the Church.

What is the name for the rest of the Church year?

It's Ordinary Time.

Read the Gospel and Color

Gospel Story

One day Jesus will come back to take us home to live with Him in heaven. So when scary things happen around us, we do not need to be afraid. We can stand up tall, because we know heaven will be so much better than this world.

— Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Prayer

Dear God, when I am afraid, help me to be brave and trust in you. I know heaven will be wonderful.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Jesus coming back in the clouds, ready to take you to heaven.

Mission for the Week

Write down one thing that scares you. Tell God about it, and ask Him to help you to be brave.

— Material courtesy Liturgical Publications