

2009–2010 “ABOUT THE COVER” COPY
EVERY SUNDAY BULLETINS
DECEMBER—JANUARY—FEBRUARY—QUARTER 1

December 6, 2009



Advent

About the Cover: John the Baptizer was a messenger, the last of a long procession of prophets. John was sent by God as the messenger who would prepare the way for God and His salvation. With John’s message recorded in Scripture, he still prepares God’s way into our hearts and lives. The cover painting is from *Growing in Christ*, CPH’s Sunday School curriculum.

December 13, 2009



Advent

About the Cover: These days before Christmas can get wearisome despite the joy of the season. Perhaps we get weary because of this season and all of its attendant activities and responsibilities. Yet the Church greets us: “Rejoice! The Lord is at hand” (Philippians 4:4–5). The Lord has redeemed us, carrying our sins, our guilt, and our weariness to the cross, where all is forgiven. Good reason to rejoice!

December 20, 2009



Advent

About the Cover: Artist Ridolfo Ghirlandaio (1483–1561) depicts with great care the annunciation, when Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of our Lord. Cousin Elizabeth spoke for the whole Church in blessing Mary and the fruit of her womb, our Savior Jesus Christ, who with His death and resurrection would bless us with forgiveness and eternal life.

December 27, 2009



Christmas

About the Cover: Most Christmas gifts have a short life expectancy, being broken or worn out before the twelve days of Christmas are over. One gift that lasts forever is the word of Christ—His word of forgiveness of our sin, His word of comfort at the time of death, His word of presence and promise through all the hills and valleys of this life. That makes for a merry Christmas indeed!

January 3, 2010



Christmas

About the Cover: “My, how you have grown!” How quickly an infant grows into a youth—at least in the Church Year, where it takes but two weeks. Jesus knows who He is and what His mission is. And He grows into that mission of love for us by dying on the cross in our place. With His forgiveness, He makes it possible for us to grow in love.

January 10, 2010



Epiphany

About the Cover: Social Security numbers, PINs, passwords, and account numbers all contribute to identifying us. Yet they don’t tell who we truly are. At His Baptism, Jesus is identified as God’s Son, who, on the cross, will carry out the mission of God’s love for us. With His death and resurrection, Christ gives us a new identity as children of the heavenly Father. In Christ, we are His indeed.

January 17, 2010



Epiphany

About the Cover: The Holy Spirit calls us to faith through the Gospel, enlightens us with His gifts, sanctifies us and the whole Church, and keeps us in the one true faith. God gives us gifts so that we may reflect His self-giving will and love to those around us. As we work and worship together, we unwrap the gifts of God and use them to help others hear of our Savior.

January 24, 2010



Epiphany

About the Cover: Bodies come in different sizes and shapes, yet each is designed to match the character of its owner and to help each of us function in daily life. When we were baptized, we were baptized into one body with many different functions—yet one body, the Body of Christ. By His death and resurrection, Christ purchased us to be His own and live in Him.

January 31, 2010



Epiphany

About the Cover: “How do I love Thee? Let me count the ways.” And we sure love to count—better to balance the books we keep on family and friends. Because of our agendas (hidden or not), we need a “still more excellent way,” and Christ gives it to us—His love that took Him to the cross, where He draws all of our loveless lives to Him and sends us on our way with His love in our hearts.

February 7, 2010



Epiphany

About the Cover: “It’s Greek to me” reveals our lack of understanding whether with calculus, science, or languages (even the Greek of the New Testament). With thanks to God, there are people who understand these things and make applications to help us. Sin has made it impossible for us to understand God’s language of love. Yet His Son died for us so we may know and understand God’s love.

February 14, 2010



Epiphany

About the Cover: Moses lived and died by God’s promise, his eyes stretching to see the Promised Land he could not enter. Hearing of Jesus’ transfiguration, our eyes of faith stretch back to the glorious sight. Yet God lets us see moments of glory as we hear His Word and eat His Holy Supper for our forgiveness. He also lets us see those in our world who need to hear of His transforming love in Christ Jesus.

February 21, 2010



Lent

About the Cover: It happened in the wilderness, at the dawn of our Lord’s public ministry—this direct confrontation between the prince of this world and the King of creation. Our Lord’s victory over Satan is a mighty witness of His saving power and a preview of the coming attraction of the cross, where all the powers of darkness were destroyed; where a wearied world found its rest; a defeated world, its victory.

February 28, 2010



Lent

About the Cover: Short attention spans, highway construction (or is it destruction?), and even some advertising are alike in this: they serve as detours to our goals. Threats of death and imprisonment did not keep our Lord from accomplishing His mission of going to the cross for our salvation. The road that went through Palm Sunday to Good Friday ends at the empty tomb, and we begin to travel in a new life.