**Sunday School Teachers’ Scripture and Feast Day Weekly Memo**

**Sunday,April 8, 2018**

**From Today’s Readings**

**John 1:1-17** *These renowned and eloquent verses testify to the presence of God the Son from the very creation of the world (vv 2-5) to His Incarnation; Jesus Christ was the ultimate revelation of God’s presence, glory, and enduring love. John the Baptist was called to be a witness so that “all people might believe.”* Discussion: John tells us that all those who *receive* Christ become children of God (v.12). Describe what “receiving” Christ means to you.

**Acts 5:34-6:7** *Two important events are recounted here. In the first, the teacher of the law Gamaliel exhorts the apostles’ antagonists to let them continue Jesus’ work, since if their purpose is godly they will prevail over any force against them anyway. The second details the first “ordination” as men are called and consecrated to assist the apostles in caring for the poor. St. Stephen was foremost among them and is considered the first ‘deacon’ of the Church.*  Discussion: Threatened by the Sanhedrin high priests, Peter and the apostles had to (v 29) “obey God rather than people.” Has there ever been a time you have faced such a choice? Can you imagine such moments in the future?

**James 3:1-12** *The apostle James explains the great harm that speech (the tongue) can cause and the importance of talking in godly ways.* Discussion: To what three things does James compare the tongue? (*a bit, a rudder, a spark*) How do these images help us understand what our words can do? Have you ever had the experience of regretting harsh, unkind language? What were the circumstances?

**Today is New Sunday**

New Sunday (*Nor Giragi*) is the first Sunday after Easter. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ and is thus often called Second Easter (*Grgnazadig).* The Sabbath was originally on Saturday, the end of the seven-day week and the day on which God rested after creation. But in the early church, Christians began to celebrate the day of the Resurrection as the Sabbath so that the new day for resting in God became Sunday. In theological terms, it became the 1st day and the 8th day of the week, signifying both beginning and fulfillment. The Gospel reading for New Sunday (John 1:1-17) summarizes the mission of Jesus Christ, God the Son, who existed from the beginning as God and participated in the creation. He became human to bring us into the light, to guide us out of our spiritual darkness.

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