



November 2011  
Miami, FL

Dear brothers and sisters:

We begin this month of November with the great celebration of the Feast of All Saints. Remember to pray for all our deceased relatives and friends.

Our nation celebrates Thanksgiving on November 24. Encourage the importance of praying for unity among all our brothers and sisters and give thanks for all the good things they gave to this great nation.

**Some Feast and Saints:**

November 1	All Saints Day.	November 19 <b>Reflection Day.</b>
November 2	Day of All Souls.	November 22 Saint Cecilia
November 3	Saint Martin de Porres.	November 24 Thanksgiving Day
November 8	Saint Angela of the Cross.	November 28 Saint Catherine
November 11	Saint Martin of Tours.	
November 11	Consecration day (Our Lady of Charity)	
November 12 y 13	Trip to Holy Land & St. Augustine.	

**Enclosed materials:**

- 1) Monthly Calendar & Sunday Gospel

**Activities**

- 1) Liturgical Year
- 2) Being Jesus to others
- 3) Virgin Mary
- 4) A prayer for Thanksgiving
- 5) Example for Life
- 6) Advent Wreath

**Suggested videos:** (All available in the "Video Club")

1. Saint Martin de Porres
2. Death
3. The Miraculous Medal
4. Gratitude Attitude
5. Annoying of the Sick

We are planning our 20 anniversary of our ministry Friends of Jesus and Mary for November 11, 12 & 13 2011 in Miami, Florida. Start with special mass on Friday November 11 at 12:00 pm in the shrine of Our Lay of Charity. And the next day tour to Holy Land & Saint Augustine, Florida. We invite all to start making plans to attend this big celebration.

We will have a Reflection Day in preparation for Advent, on Saturday November 19 at Saint John Newman form 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Please try to attend for share each others new experiences in our prayers groups

Date: November 19 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Place: St John Newman Church

Address: 12125 SW 107 Avenue, Miami, Fl 33176

My God bless your always, Friends of Jesus and Mary



*Friends of Jesus and Mary*  
*Amigos de Jesús y María*



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# November 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 All Saints  Rev 7,2-4,9-14 Psalm 23 Jhn 3,1-3 Mt 5,1-12	2 All Souls  Jb 19,1,23-27a Psalm 24 Flp 3,20-21 Mk 15,33-39;16,1-6	3 St. Martin de Porres  Ro 14,7-12 Psalm 26 Lk 15,1-10	4 Fist Friday  Ro 15,14-21 Psalm 97 Lk 16,1-8	5 First Saturday  Ro 16,3-9,16,22-27 Psalm 114 Lk 16,9-15
6 XXXII Sunday in Ordinary Time  Sb 6,12-16 Psalm 62 1 Thes 4,13-18 Mt 25,1-13	7 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica  Sb 1,1-7 Psalm 138 Lk 17,1-6	8 Saint Angela of the Cross  Sb 2, 23-3,7 Psalm 33 Lk 17, 7-10	9   Ti 3,1-7 Psalm 81 Lk 17,11-19	10 St. Leo the Great  Sb, 22-1 Psalm 118 Lk 17,20-25	11 Saint Angela of the Cross Consecration day  Sb 13,1-9 Psalm 18 Lk 17,26-37	12 Trip to Holy Land & St. Augustine  Sb 18,14-16;19,6-9 Psalm 104 Lk 18,1-8
13 XXXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time  Prv 31,10-13,19-20,30-31 Psalm 127 1 Thes 5,1-6 Mt 25,14-30	14  1 Mc 1,10-15,41-43,54-57,62-64 Psalm 118 Lk 18,35-43	15  2 Mc 6,18-31 Psalm 3 Lk 19,1-10	16 St. Gertrude  2 Mc 7,1,20-31 Psalm 16 Lk 19,11-28	17 St. Elizabeth of Hungry  2 Mc 2,15-29 Psalm 49 Lk 19,41-44	18  1 Mc 4,36-37,52-59 Psalm/ 1Cr 29,10-13 Lk 19,45-48	19 Reflection Day  1 Mc 6,1-13 Psalm 9 Lk 20,27-40
20 XXXIV Sunday in Ordinary Time  Ez 34, 11-12,15-17 Psalm 22 1 Cor 15,20-26,28 Mt 25,31-46	21 Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  Dn 1,1-6,8-20 Psalm /Dn 3,52-56 Lk 21,1-4	22 Saint Cecilia  Dn 2,31-45 Psalm /Dn 3,57-61 Lk 21,5-11	23  Dn 5,1-6,13-14 Psalm /Dn 3,62-27 Lk 21,12-19	24 Thanksgiving Day  Dn 6,12-28 Psalm /Dn 3,68-74 Lk 21,20-28	25 Saint Catherine  Dn 7,2-14 Psalm /Dn 3,75-81 Lk 21,29-33	26  Dn 7,15-27 Psalm /Dn 3,82-87 Lk 21,34-36
27 I Sunday of Advent  Is 63,16b-17,19b; 64,2b-7 Psalm 79 1 Cor 1,3-9 Mk 13,33-37	28 Catalina Laboure  Is 2,1-5 Psalm 121 Mt 8,5-11	29  Is 11,1-10 Psalm 71 Lk 10,21-24	30 St. Andrew Apostle  Ro 10,9-18 Psalm 18 Mt 4,18-22			



## **Friends of Jesus and Mary** **All Saints Day 1 of November, 2011**

**Readings: Rev 7, 2-4.9-14; Psalm 23, 1-2.5-6; I John 3, 1-3 Matthew 5, 1-12**

### **True Happiness/the Sermon of the Mount**

*Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around Him, and he began to teach them:*

*Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them!*

*Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!*

*Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!*

*Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!*

*Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!*

*Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!*

*Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!*

*Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the kingdom of heaven belongs to them!*

*Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers.*

*Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven, this is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted. (Matthew 5, 1-12)*

### **Reflection**

The saints we celebrate today are not just those on our altars, but those people, past and present, who are generous, peacemakers, just and prayerful. Do you know people who seem holy to you? Do you find in your neighborhood or your community role models according to the sanctity that Jesus taught? Which is your favorite Saint? Do they possess any of the qualities that Jesus lists?

### **Activity**

Bring books on the life of saints to the group meeting. Ask them to choose one. Their patron Saint will be great. They can each read the story. Then share them in the group, telling why these saints were happy.

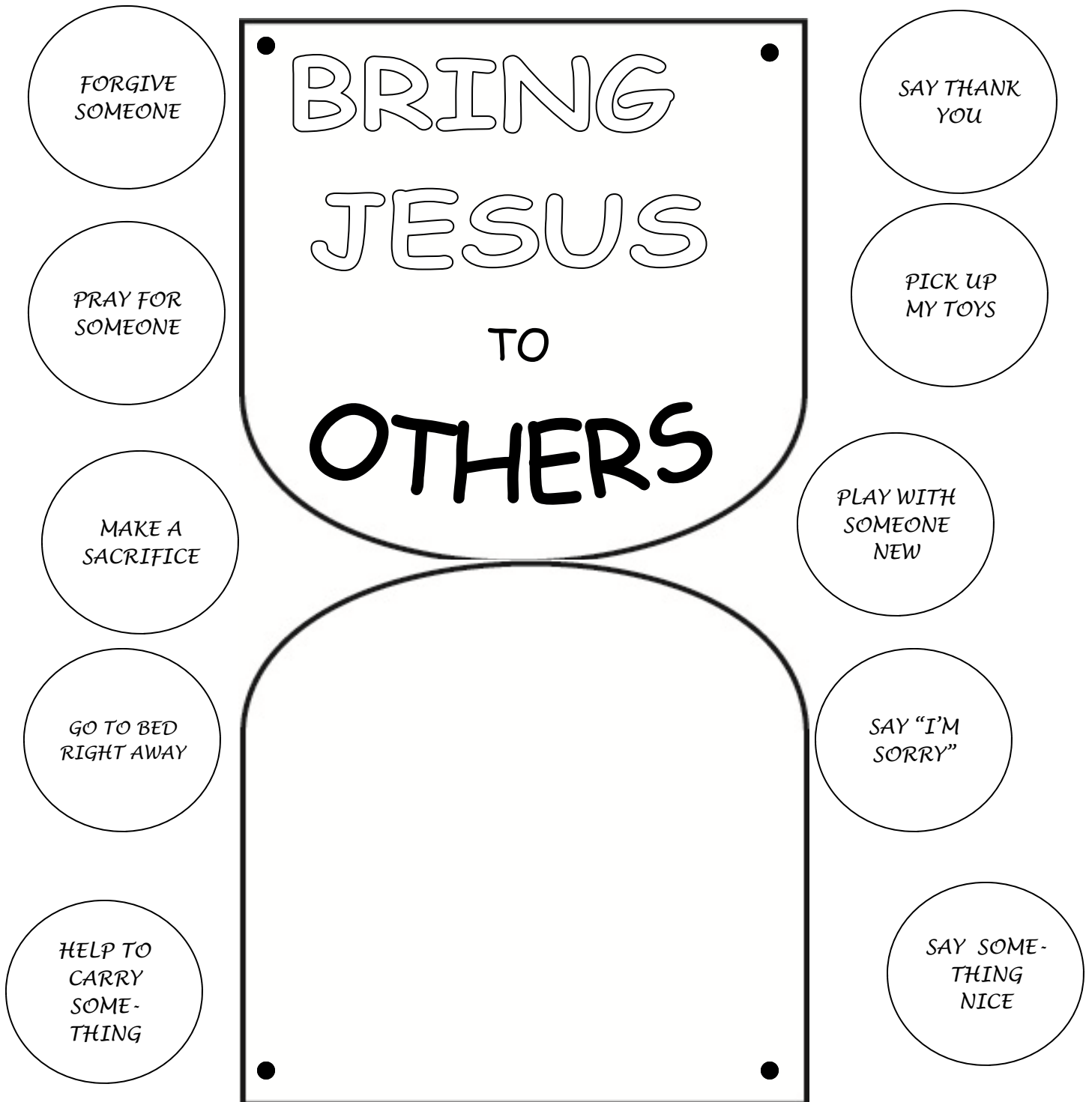
### **Prayer**

Lord, you know we seek happiness. We know that your plan for us is happiness. Help us to live in your happiness, as your beloved children. Amen



# Bring Jesus to Others

Tarcisius took Jesus to the prisoners. We can take Jesus to others in many ways. Cut out your Tarcisius-Pocket. Fold it on the dotted line and glue it around very close to the edges. Then cut the "hosts" (circles) and put one into the pocket each time you do what is written on it.





# Friends of Jesus and Mary

All souls/November 2, 2011

Readings: Isaiah 25, 6:7-9; Psalm 22; Romans 6, 3-9; John 6, 37-40

## With Jesus we live forever

Everyone whom my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me, because I have come down from heaven to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me. And it is the will of him who sent me that I should not lose any of those he has given me, but that I should raise them all to life on the last day. For what my Father wants is that all who see the Son and believe in him should have eternal life. And I will raise them to life on the last day. (John 6, 37-40)

### Reflection

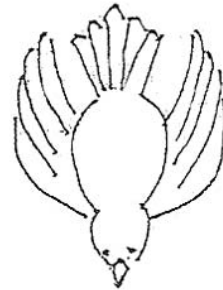
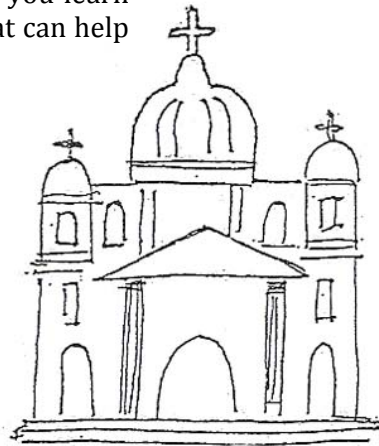
The death of someone close to us is a painful experience. Jesus gives us the hope of eternal life with God. Jesus says that those who believe in him will live forever. Do you know someone who has died but still seems to be present? What good examples did you learn from them? What did you learn that can help you live better?

### Activity

Ask the children to bring pictures of those they love who have died. Share who they were and why they admire them. Place the picture in the altar and pray for them all this month. The message must be the importance of praying for them.

### Prayer

Lord, the death of our loved ones saddens us. We miss them so much. We thank you for the good memories and examples they have left us. With their help we want to live on this earth knowing that your kingdom is our final home and that we will live with you forever. Amen.





# Death

## Theme Discussion

1. Discuss with the children their experiences of loss, whether it is the loss of a hat, a game, a friend, or the death of a parent or sister or brother, or friend or relative. Review and summarize what makes it so hard to face loss or death.

2. Based on the Gospels, show how Jesus faced both the death of others and His own death:

- The widow of Naim (Lk 7:11-15)
- Lazarus (Jn 11:1-43)
- The Daughter of Jairus (Lk 8:41-42; 45-56)
- Gethsemane (Mt 26:36-46; Mc 14:32-42; Lk 22:34-46)

# November 2

## All Souls Day





3. We believe in our resurrection because Jesus rose from the dead. Read the accounts of the Resurrection from Matthew 28, Luke 24 and John 20 .

4. Review the teaching of the Church on heaven, hell, purgatory, the Last Judgment, the Second Coming.

5. Ask the children what consoles them and makes them feel loved when they have lost someone or something. Take time to talk about loss. Encourage the children to share their sadness. Help them to see that although nothing can take the place of what they have lost, they can find love in the kindness of others.

### Jesus makes changes for the better!

Club Members!  
Sister Jane talked about some things in nature that changed, like the trees and the butterfly...  
Can you find others? Draw or paste a picture of them in the boxes below.

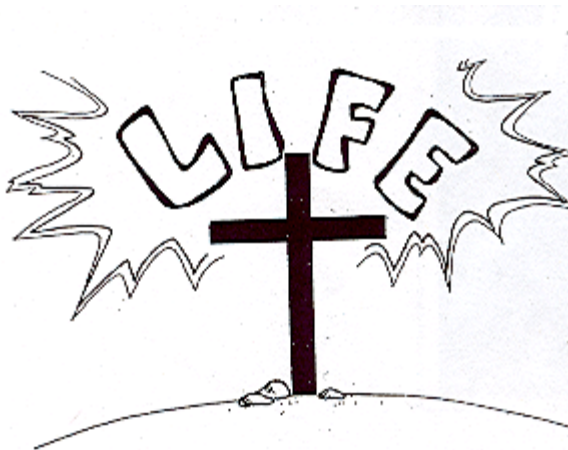
	
	

What do these changes tell you about the change from this life to a Life of Fullness with God in Heaven?

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Fill the blanks from the Word Bank.

We are created to \_\_\_\_\_ forever.  
Jesus is waiting to \_\_\_\_\_ us home into heaven.  
He said, "I am \_\_\_\_\_ a place for you".  
We have \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus.  
For those who died, life did not en but \_\_\_\_\_  
There will be no sadness there, no \_\_\_\_\_, no pain.  
Heaven is where \_\_\_\_\_ is!

<b>WORK BANK</b>
Welcome
Preparing
God
Live
Changed
Tears
New Life



## **Friends of Jesus and Mary**

**XXXII Sunday in Ordinary time/November 6, 2011**

**Readings: Wisdom 6: 13-17; Psalm 62; 1 Thessalonians 4: 12-17; Matthew 25:1-13**

### **The Parable of the Ten Young Women/We must be prepared**

*At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there were ten young women who took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and the other five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any extra oil with them, while the wise ones took containers full of oil for their lamps. The bridegroom was late in coming, so they began to nod and fall asleep.*

*It was already midnight when the cry rang out, "Here is the bridegroom!" Come and meet him! The ten young women woke up and trimmed their lamps. Then the foolish ones said to the wise ones, "Let us have some of your oil, because our lamps are going out" "No, indeed", the wise ones answered, "there is not enough for you and for us." Go to the store and buy some for yourselves. So the foolish ones went off to buy some oil; and while they were gone, the bridegroom arrived. The five who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was closed. Later the others arrived. "Sir, sir! Let us in!" they cried out. "Certainly not! I don't know you," the bridegroom answered. And Jesus concluded, "Watch out, then, because you do not know the day or the hour." (Matthew 25: 1-13)*

### **Reflection**

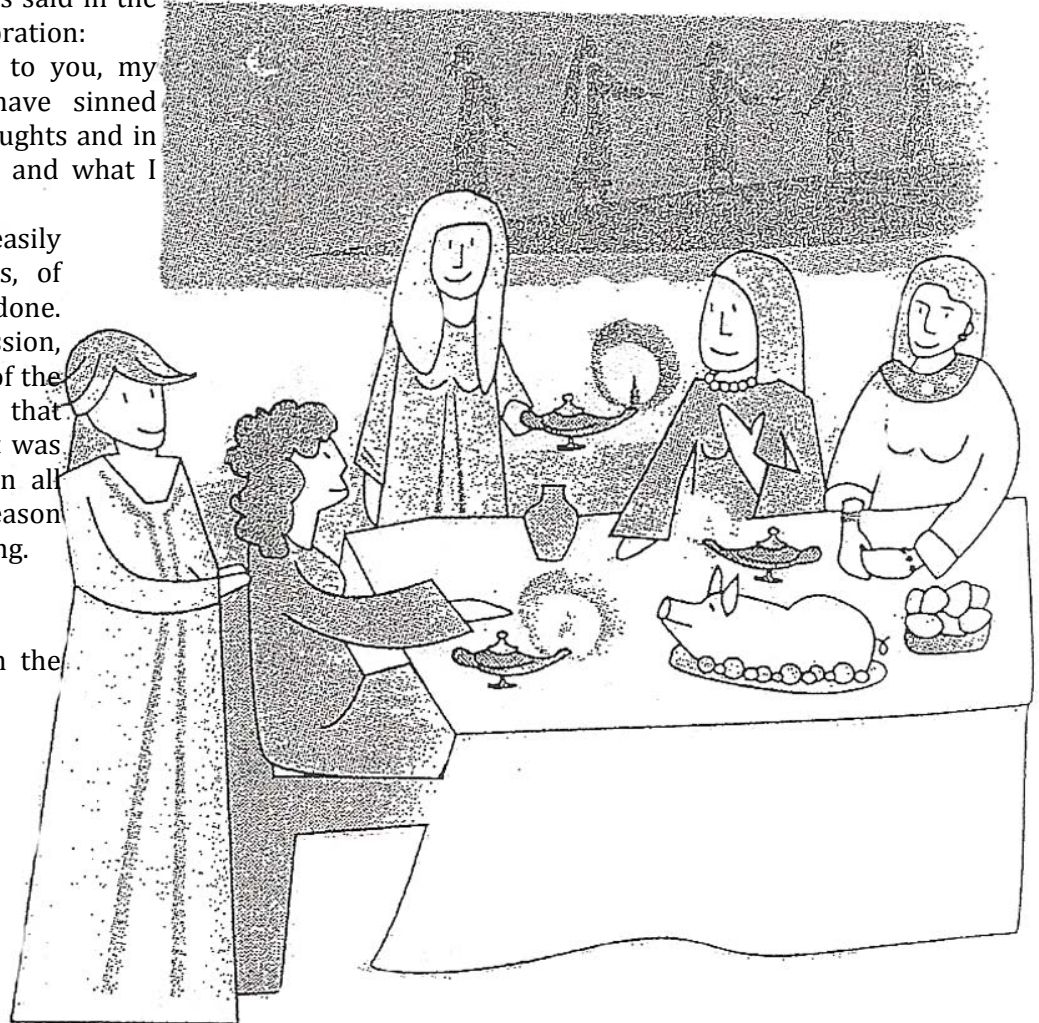
Let's remember the prayer that is said in the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration:

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have FAILED TO DO.

When we go to confession, we easily remember the sins of thoughts, of words, and of what we have done. But which are the sins of omission, what we fail to do? The parable of the foolish Virgins clearly tells us that they omitted to take the oil that was necessary for the lamps to burn all through the night. For this reason they did not enter into the wedding.

### **Activity**

The activity for this week is on the following page.



**Activity for XXXII Sunday in Ordinary time/November 6, 2011**

**Readings: Wisdom 6: 13-17; Psalm 62; 1 Thessalonians 4: 12-17; Matthew 25:1-13**

**FIND EXAMPLES OF SINS OF OMISSION**

Below you will find several phrases. Indicate with an X the ones that are sins of OMISSION.

1\_\_Every month I go with my friends to sing and play with the children who are cancer patients.

2\_\_Just to ignore my Mom, I did not take out the garbage.

3\_\_I wanted to stay and play, so I did not take my toys to the poor kids.

4\_\_I had to leave some money at the old folks' home, but it started to rain torrentially and I did not go.

5\_\_A friend needed help to do better on her test, but I didn't feel like helping her.

6\_\_I should have done my homework, but didn't because I was watching television.

**The sins of OMISSION destroy, break, and hurt and do nothing to reconstruct, repair, and heal.**



**Prayer**

Lord, we know that being attentive to you is being attentive to those around us.

Give us the wisdom and light to recognize your presence in those that are closest to us and in all that happens in our life. Amen





## Friends of Jesus and Mary

Sunday XXXIII Ordinary time/November 13, 2011

Readings: Proverbs 31, 10-13,19-20,30-31; Psalm 127; 1 Thessalonians 5, 1-6; Matthew 25,14-30

### **The Parable of the Three Servants: What do you do with your talents?**

*At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there was a man who was about to leave home on a trip; he called his servants and put them in charge of his property. He gave to each one according to his ability: to one he gave five thousand gold coins, to another he gave two thousand, and to another he gave one thousand. Then he left on his trip. The servant who had received five thousand coins went at once and invested his money and earned another five thousand. In the same way the servant who had received two thousand coins earned another two thousand. But the servant who had received one thousand coins went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The servant who had received five thousand coins came in and handed over the other five thousand. "You gave me five thousand coins sir", he said. "Look! Here is another five thousand that I have earned." "Well done, you good and faithful servant!" said his master. "You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!" Then the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, "You gave me two thousand coins, sir. Look! Here are another two thousand that I earned." "Well done, you good and faithful servant!" said his master. "You have been faithful in managing small amounts, so I will put you in charge of large amounts. Come on in and share my happiness!" Then the servant who had received one thousand coins came in and said, "Sir, I know you are a hard man; you reap harvests where you did not plant, and you gather crops where you did not scatter seed. I was afraid, so I went off and hid your money in the ground. Look! Here is what belongs to you." "You bad and lazy servant!" his master said. "You knew, did you, that I reap harvests where I did not plant, and gather crops where I did not scatter seed? Well, then, you should have deposited my money in the bank, and I would have received it all back with interest when I returned. Now, take the money away from him and give it to the one who has ten thousand coins. For to every person who has something, even more will be given, and he will have more than enough; but the person who has nothing, even the little that he has will be taken away from him. As for this useless servant throw him outside in the darkness; there he will cry and gnash his teeth."  
(Matthew 25, 14-30)*

### **Reflection**

God gives us many things, qualities and talents, but we must use them for good and develop them to become everything God wants us to be. Speak to God and ask Him which is your best talent. He wants us to use it to help others.

### **Activity**

Let the children make and cut out five coins out of construction paper. Ask them to write in each one a talent they have. They can make a commitment to study, do some service, or train for something where they can use their talent.

### **Prayer**

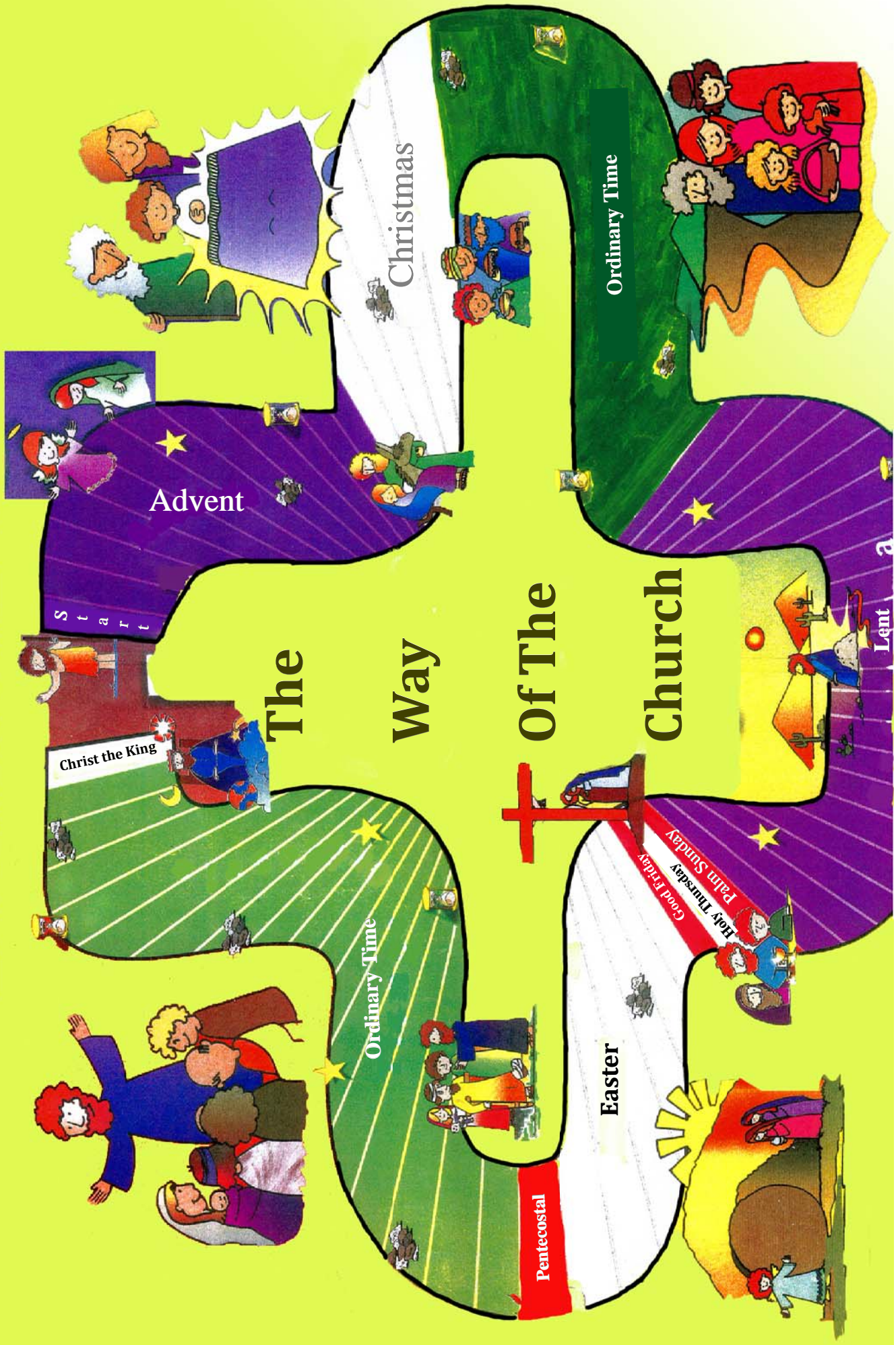
Lord, help us show our gratitude for all our talents and good qualities you have given us, making them be fruitful and developing them. May we encourage one another to place their qualities and talents at the service of others. Amen







# LITURGICAL YEAR



# Liturgical Year

To get to know the path that the Church presents, by which means we learn to understand what we celebrate during a year, in special times like: Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. This is called the Liturgical Year.

But, what is a year? For example, a calendar has 12 months from January through December and we call it the Civil Year.

The School Year is from August to May in the U.S.A. Other countries have different months.

The Liturgical Year is defined by the Church as seen in the following picture, (show picture) starting with the First Sunday in Advent until the Feast of Christ the King.

What does Liturgical mean? These are the teachings of the Church on how to celebrate, in detail, each season and feasts of the Lord throughout the year.

We count the years as A, B, and C. In year A, we read the Gospel of Mathew; in B, the Gospel of Mark; and in C, the Gospel of Luke.

## Activity

Distribute the pages that contain the pictured Liturgical Year. Design the poster in different colors to identify the different liturgical seasons with their respective colors. Dynamically speak about the different aspects of the picture. Where the poster says exit is where the Liturgical Year begins. In the space that reads Christ the King is the end of the Liturgical Year. How many colors can you identify? Four

Briefly explain the meanings of the different colors:

**Green:** Hope and growth; **Purple:** Penance; **White:** Joy and purity;

**Red:** Martyrdom and Fire of the Holy Spirit; **Pink:** Happiness.

**Advent:** Time to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

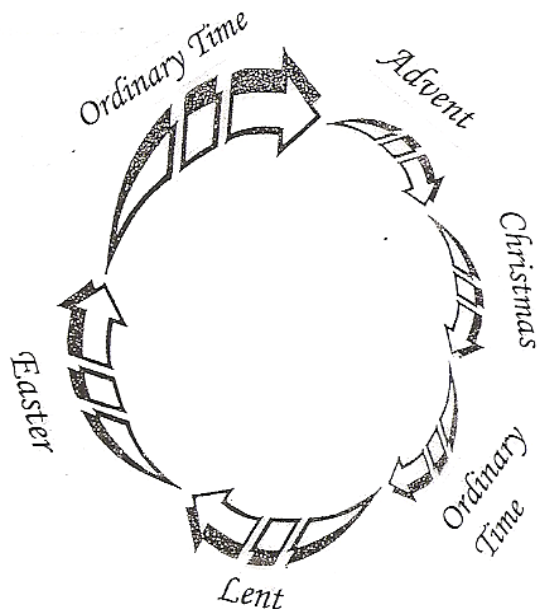
**Christmas:** Time to celebrate joyfully the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Ordinary Time:** A long period made up of two stages: One starts when Christmas ends until Lent. The other starts on Holy Trinity Sunday until the eve of Advent.

**Lent:** An intense time to prepare for Easter.

**Easter:** Starts on Easter Sunday and lasts for 50 days ending on Pentecost.


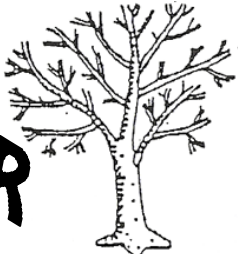


Color the Liturgical Year page using the designated colors



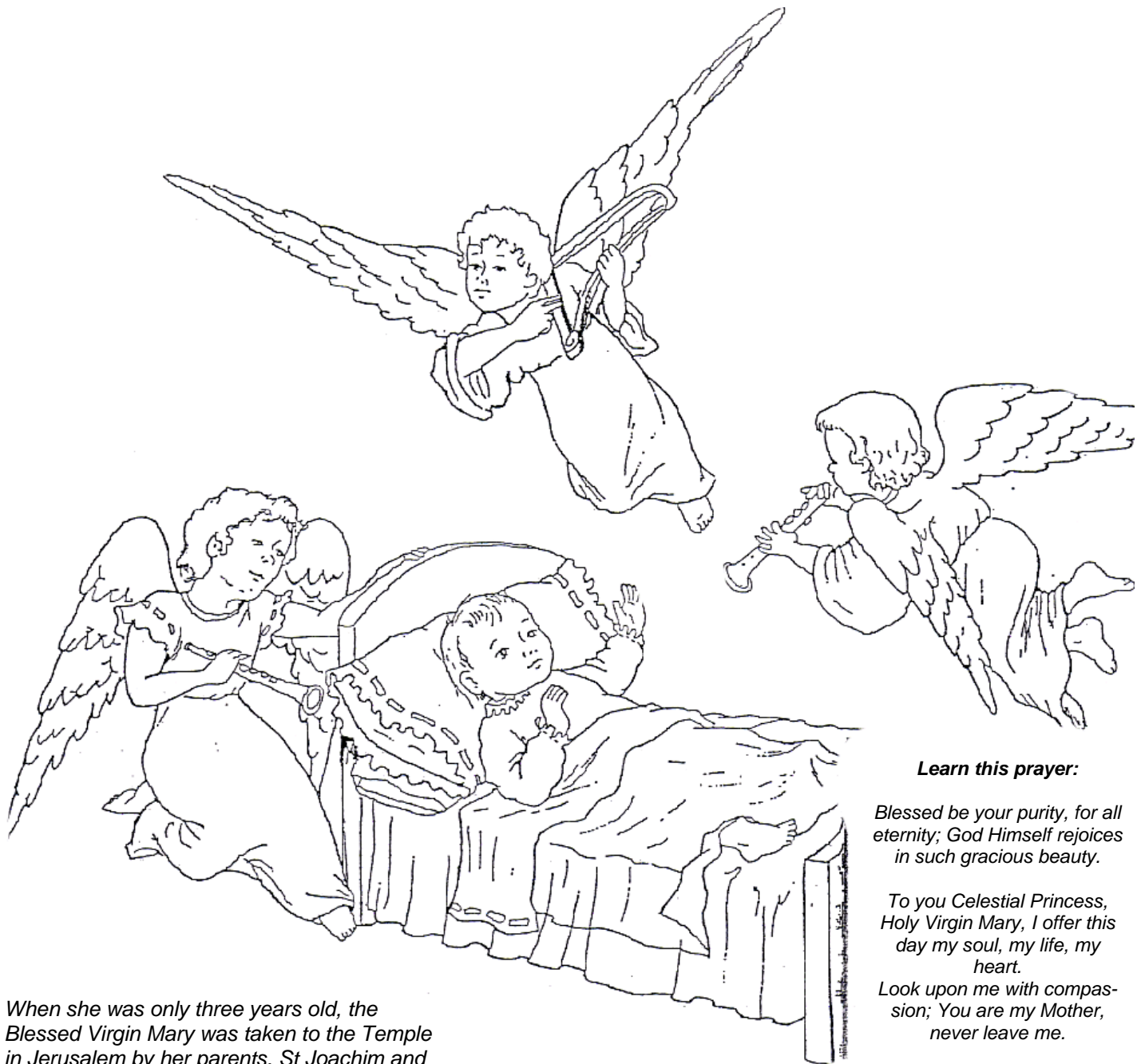


Compare the seasons in nature  
with the seasons in the Liturgical Year

Think of the four seasons in nature: Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring  
 Fall: Temperatures become cooler and the leaves change color  
 Winter: means colder weather and shorter days  
 Spring: comes; plants and trees grow new leaves and the temperature becomes warmer  
 Summer: The days are longer the plants and trees are green with leaves, and the weather can be hot

NATURAL SEASON	COLOR	LITURGICAL SEASON	COLOR
 <b>AUTUMN</b>	BROWN	<b>ADVENT</b> We Prepare for the coming of Christ	<b>VIOLET</b>
	YELLOW		
	ORANGE	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> Celebrate the birth and baptism of Jesus	<b>WHITE</b>
<b>WINTER</b> 	BROWN	<b>ORDINARY TIME</b> Two Periods: One is between Christmas time and Lent	<b>GREEN</b>
	WHITE		
	GRAY		
<b>SPRING</b> 	BLUE	<b>LENT</b> We recall the sufferings and death of Jesus	<b>VIOLET</b>
	PINK	<b>EASTERN</b> Celebrate the Jesus victory over the death	<b>WHITE</b>
	YELLOW		
 <b>SUMMER</b>	GREEN	<b>ORDINARY TIME</b> The other is after Eastern Time until the beginning of the Advent	<b>GREEN</b>
	RED		
	YELLOW		

There are seasons in the Liturgical year of the church too. Each season of the liturgical year has a name and different color vestment. The seasons in nature and the liturgical year, along with their colors are in the chart. Color each box with the color listed, to help you remember the season.



**Learn this prayer:**

*Blessed be your purity, for all eternity; God Himself rejoices in such gracious beauty.*

*To you Celestial Princess, Holy Virgin Mary, I offer this day my soul, my life, my heart.*

*Look upon me with compassion; You are my Mother, never leave me.*

*When she was only three years old, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem by her parents, St Joachim and St Anne. (We celebrate their feast day on July 26). Mary's whole life was to belong to God. He had chosen her to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus. The Blessed Virgin was happy to begin serving God in the Temple. And St Joachim and St Anne were pleased to offer their saintly little girl to God. They knew that God had sent her to them.*

*In the Temple, the high priest received the child Mary. She was placed among the girls who were dedicated to prayer and Temple service. The high priest kissed and blessed the holy child. He realized that the Lord had great plans for her. Mary did not weep or turn back to her parents. She came so happily to the altar that everyone in the Temple loved her at once.*

*St Joachim and St Anne went back home. They praised God for their blessed daughter. And Mary remained in the Temple, where she grew in holiness. She spent her days reading the Bible, praying and serving the Temple priests. She made beautiful linens and splendid vestments. Mary was loved by all the other girls because she was so kind. Mary tried to do each of her duties well, to please God.*

*Mary lived her life to please God. She was aware of his divine presence. We can ask Our Heavenly Mother Mary to teach us how to please Jesus every day.*

# A Prayer for Thanksgiving



## **We thanks you, God**

Loving God, we give you thanks  
for all the good things that you do;  
for family, friends and myself too;  
for helping us in all we o.

We thank you for the world so sweet.

We Thank you for the food we eat.

Amen.

Prayer::

Today is a special day for giving thanks, God. You five me every good thing and I forget at times to thank You. For Family and health, for friends and food, for love and Your Life I thank You, thank You, thank You. Amen

## Peace

In the families

Psalm 127

*For the Lord provides for those he loves,  
While they are asleep.*

*Children are a gift from the Lord; they  
are a real blessing.*

*The sons a man has when he no be he is  
young are like arrows in a soldier's  
hand.*

*Happy is the man who has many  
such arrows.*

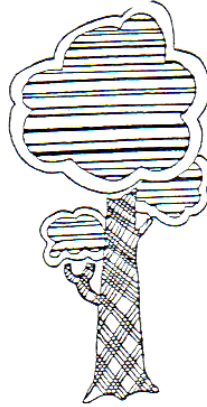
*He will never be defeated when he  
meets his enemies in the place of  
judgment.*

Psalm 128

*Happy are those who obey the  
Lord, who live by his commands.*

*Your work will provide for your  
needs; you will be happy and your  
children will be like young olive  
trees around your table.*

*A man who obeys the lord will surely  
be blessed like this*



## Praise the Lord!

IALELOUYA!

Psalm

*Praise the Lord!*

*Praise God in his Temple!*

*Praise his strength in heaven!*

*Praise him for the mighty things he has  
done.*

*Praise his supreme greatness.*

*Praise him with trumpets.*

*Praise him with drums and dancing.*

*Praise him with harps and flutes.*

*Praise him with cymbals*

*Praise him with loud cymbals!*

*Praise the Lord, all living creatures!*

*Praise the Lord!*



## November 23 Thanksgiving Day

*Lord, I will like to tell You have made a wonderful world You  
have given me good parents, who love me, and are very good with  
me. They and all my family take care of me, give me gifts and  
help me. If I have problems, they solve them for me. They also  
are very special to me, Thank You also for my grandparents.  
They teach me to know You better each day. But sometimes, Lord,  
I ask myself: what have I done for You to be so good to me?  
Thank You, my friend, thank You so much*

10 Years

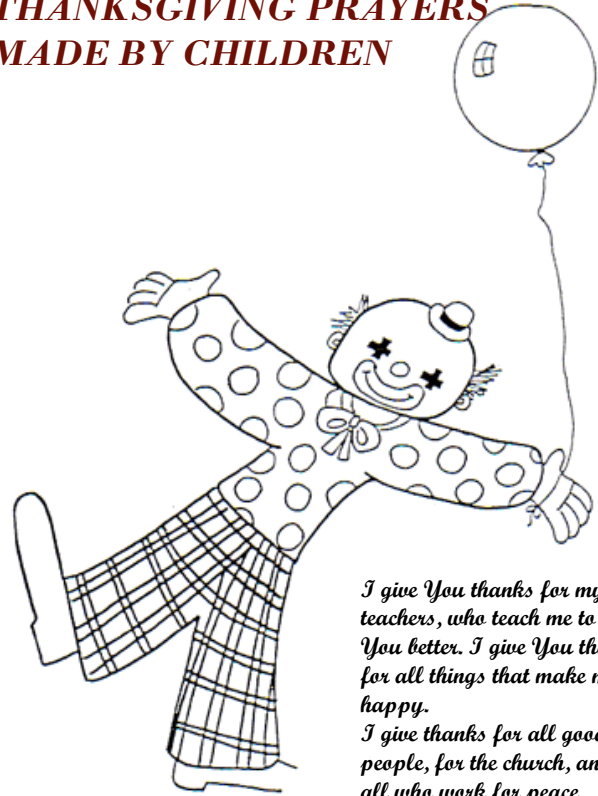


*Thank you, Lord for Heaven, where my grandparents went. All teach me  
I should not be sad, but it is hard for me.  
I was so happy with them and now I do not see them. My parents tell me  
they are in Heaven. I believe it, I want to thank You and tell You: I hope  
all one day can go to your house in Heaven*

11 Year



## THANKSGIVING PRAYERS MADE BY CHILDREN



*I give You thanks for my  
teachers, who teach me to know  
You better. I give You thanks  
for all things that make me  
happy.*

*I give thanks for all good  
people, for the church, and for  
all who work for peace*

9 Years





## **Friends of Jesus and Mary**

**First Sunday of Advent— November 27 2011**

**Readings: Isaiah 63: 16-17, 19; 64: 2-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 33-37**

*“Be on watch; be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge, after giving each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming; it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13: 33-37)*

### **Reflection**

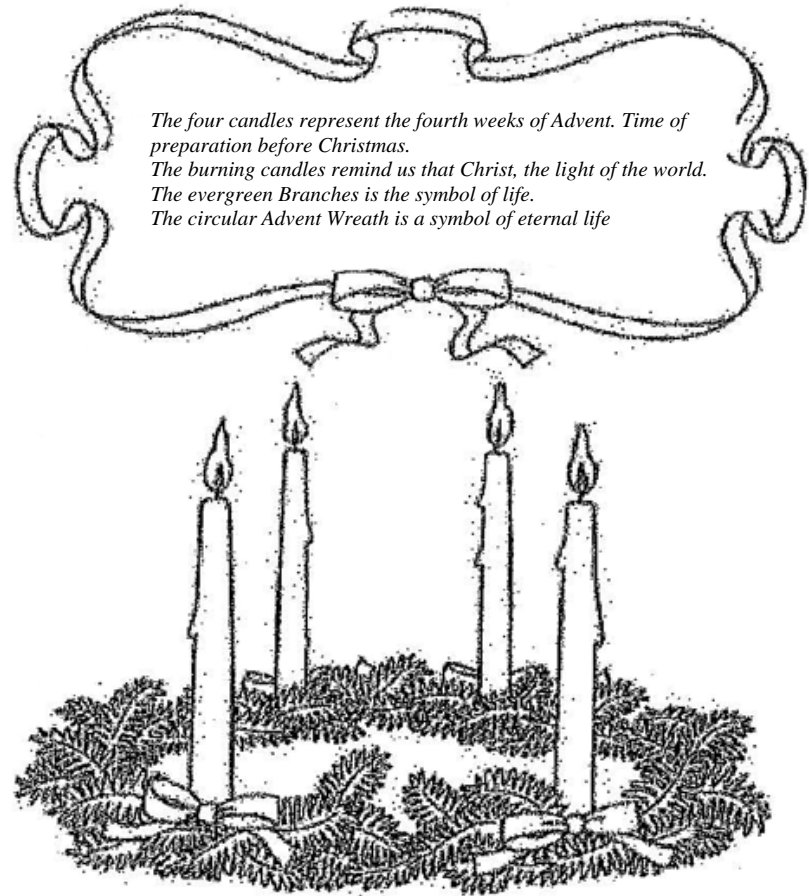
We are all similar and yet very different. Each of us is a unique being. God doesn't use molds; each of us is an original. While we are all different, we all have gifts and talents that we must develop. God gives us all: Intelligence: the capacity to think, reason, and remember. Freedom: the capacity to choose, make decisions, and exercise our responsibilities. Love: the capacity to give ourselves to others. Conscience: the capacity to distinguish right and wrong. We are made in God's image and likeness. In Baptism we accept our responsibility to develop all these gifts, so that we can reflect God's image to the world.

### **Activity**

Explain the meaning of the Advent Wreath. Prepare one for each child in the group. In the next page you will find more information.

### **Prayer**

Thank you God for creating us in your own image and likeness. Thank you for allowing us thinking, love, and making our own decisions. Help us to be better men and women, to develop our gifts, and to place them at the service of each other. Amen

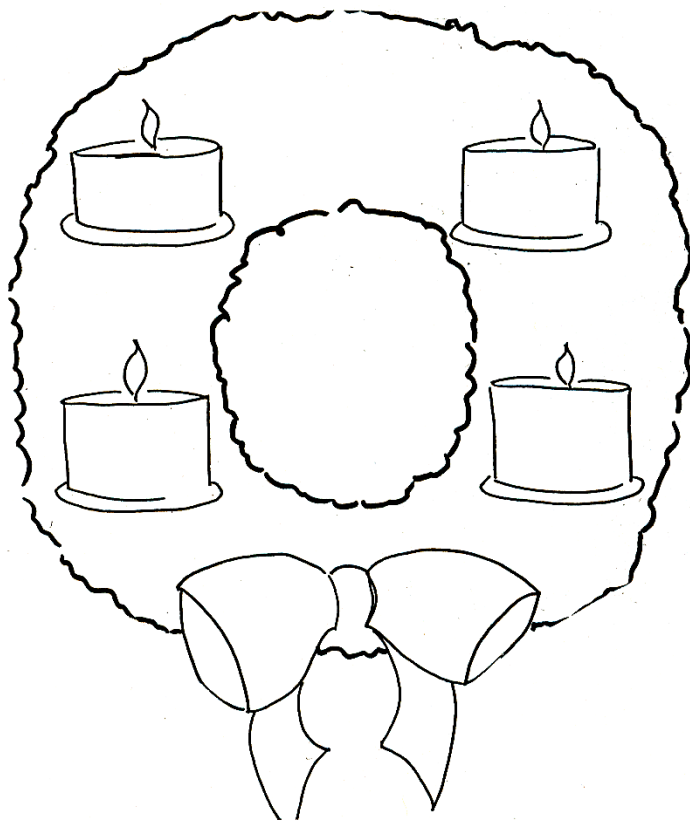


# ***ADVENT WREATH***

Everyone in the family can be involved in making an Advent Wreath for your home. Explain the symbolism of each part. Decide how each person will participate in preparing the wreath and in daily or weekly family devotions. The first time you gather to pray around the wreath, have some review the meaning of each part.

## **Circular Shape**

The Advent wreath is a circle. We cannot find the end or the beginning of a circle. The circular Advent wreath reminds us that Jesus came to give us a life that will never end, eternal life with God in heaven.



## **Make an Advent Wreath**

You can make an advent wreath for each child of your group

Materials needed:

- 1) One small paper plate
- 2) One donut for each
- 3) Four birthday candles three purple and one pink
- 4) A small green doilet

### **How to prepare it:**

Place the donut in the paper plate over doilet. Open the holes for the candles on the donut.

Spray it to preserve it. When they are dry, place the candle on the donut and decorate it with a ribbon.

## **Evergreen Branches**

The evergreen branches used to make the circle do not change color as do the leaves on other kinds of trees. The evergreens in the Advent wreath remind us that God never changes: God always has loved us and always will.

## **Candles**

There are four candles on the Advent wreath, one for each week in Advent. They remind us that the Jewish people waited a long time for the Savior to come. The burning candles remind us that Christ, the Light of the World, brightness the darkness around us. Each week we light one more candle, a sign that the more we let Christ into our lives, the brighter our lives will be.

## **Opening Prayer**

O God, bless this Advent wreath. May it help us prepare to welcome Jesus, your Son, into our lives, letting the light of his love shine through us. Amen.

**Week 1** (*Light 1 candle*) Come to us, Lord Jesus. Warm our hearts with your love. Help us to prepare for your coming. Help us to see the good things we can do. Help us to see the good things others do. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

**Week 2** (*Light 2 candles*) We believe in you Lord. We know that you can help us to love each other more. You are our light. Come Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

**Week 3** (*Light 3 candles*) Jesus, we want your coming to make a difference in how we live and love. Open our hearts to hear you telling us how we can bring peace and joy to others. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)

**Week 4** (*Light 4 candles*) Quiet the worries and fears in our hearts, Lord. Give us your peace. Thank you for the life you share with us. Help us to share that life with others. Come, Lord Jesus! (*Pause for silent prayer*)