



December 2011
Miami, FL

Dear brothers and sisters:

Advent started on November 27, Christmas preparations begin. We should prepare our hearts to receive Jesus with prayers and little sacrifices and acts of love. Together with the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the shepherds; let us adore and love Him. In this way our hearts will be ready to receive Him and live a true Christmas.

Some Feast and Saints:

December 3	Saint Francis Xavier.	December 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 6	Saint Nicholas.	December 14	Saint John of the Cross
December 8	Immaculate Conception .	December 25	Christmas Day
December 9	Saint Juan Diego.	December 28	Holy Innocents
December 10	Christmas Meeting.	December 30	Holy Family

Enclosed Materials:

- 1) Monthly Calendar and Sunday Gospel
- 2) Jesus Tree Bible Search
- 3) Jesse Tree Ornaments
- 4) Feast for December
- 5) Christmas Card
- 6) The Holy Family
- 7) Saint Francis Xavier

Suggested videos: (all available in the "Video Club")

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Saint Nicholas | 4. Messenger of Guadalupe |
| 2. Saint Francis Xavier | 5. The Angel song– Cherub Wings |
| 3. The Birth of Jesus | |

We would also like to thank you for the efforts you have performed to bring the word of God to the children, and for continuing to work and support. We wish you a beautiful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday December 10 at 11:00 am at 10670 SW 136 Street Miami FL 33176.

In the internet you can find more activities for Advent.

The Committee of Friends of Jesus and Mary would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas. May God's blessing shine upon you and your families during the holidays.



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María







Florida Center for Peace

9779 S.W. 72nd Street • Miami, Florida
Tel : (305) 412-1700 • Fax: (305) 412-1777

E-mail: info@fcpeace.com
E-mail: amigo_jym_miami@fcpeace.com
Webpage: www.fcpeace.com

December 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 First Friday	3 First Saturday Saint Francis Xavier
				Is 26,1-6 Psalm 117 Mt 7,21,24-27	Is 29,17-24 Psalm 26 Mt 9,2-31	Is 30,19-21 Psalm 146 Mt 9,35-10,1.6-8
4 Second Sunday in Advent	5	6 St. Nicholas	7	8 Immaculate Conception	9	10 Christmas Party
Is 40,1-5,9-11 Psalm 84 2P 3,8-14 Mk 1,1-8	Is 35,1-10 Psalm 84 Lk 5,17-26	Is 40,1-11 Psalm 95 Mt 18,12-14	 Is 40,25-31 Psalm 102 Mt 11,28-30	Gn 3,9-15,20 Psalm 97 Ef 1,3-6,11-12 Lk 1,26-38	Is 48,17-19 Psalm 1 Mt 11,16-19	Si 48,1-4,9-11 Psalm 79 Mt 17,10-13
11 Third Sunday in Advent	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	13 St. Lucy	14 St. John of the Cross	15	16	17
Is 61,1-2a 10-11 Salmo/Lk 1,46-50 1 Th 5,16-24 Jn 1,6-8,19-28	Is 7,10-14;8,10 Psalm 66 Lk 1,39-48	So 3,1-2,9-13 Psalm 33 Mt 21,28-32	 Is 45,6-25 Psalm 84 Lk 7,19-23	Is 54,1-10 Psalm 29 Lk 7,24-30	Is 56,1-3a,6-8 Psalm 66 Jn 5,33-36	Gn 49,2,8-10 Psalm 71 Mt 1,1-17
18 Fourth Sunday in Advent	19	20	21	22	23	24
2 S 7,1-5,8b-12 Psalm 88 Ro 16,25-27 Lk 1,26-38	Jg 13,2-7,24-25 Psalm 70 Lk 1,5-25	Is 7,10-14 Psalm 23 Lk 1,26-38	Ct 2,8-14 Psalm 32 Lk 1,39-45	1 Sg 1,24-28 Psalm /1Sm 2,1-8 Lk 1,46-56	Mll 3,1-4,4,5-6 Psalm 24 Lk 1,57-66	2 S 7,1-5,8b-11,16 Psalm 88 Lk 1,67-79
25 Nativity of Jesus	26 St Stephen, First Martyr	27 St. John Evangelist	28 Holy Innocents	29	30	31
Is 9,1-3,5-6 Psalm 95 Tito 2,11-14 Lk 2,1-14	 Acts 6,8-10;7,54-60 Psalm 30 Mt 10,17-22	1 Jn 1,1-4 Psalm 96 Jn 20,2-8	1 Jn 1,5-2,2 Psalm 123 Mt 2,13-18	1 Jn 2,3-11 Psalm 95 Lk 2,22-35	Si 3,3-7,12-14 Psalm 127 Mt 2,13-15	 1 Jn 2,18-21 Psalm 95 Jn 1,1-18



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Second Sunday in Advent; December 4, 2011

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.

The Preaching of John the Baptist

This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It began As the prophet Isaiah had written: "God said, "I will send my messenger Ahead of you to open the way for you." Someone is shouting in the desert, "Get ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!" So John appeared in the dessert, baptizing and preaching. "Turn away from your sins and be baptized," he told the people," and God will forgive your sins." Many people from the providence of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John wore clothes made of camels hair , with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. He announced to the people. "The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptized you with water but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

(Mark 1:1-8)

Reflection

The readings of this week call us to conversion and also invites us to participate in the creation of a new world by preparing the way to receive Jesus.

To prepare, we need to eliminate selfishness, deceit, and violence in ourselves and in the world around us. We have to bring hope, joy happiness and peace to all.

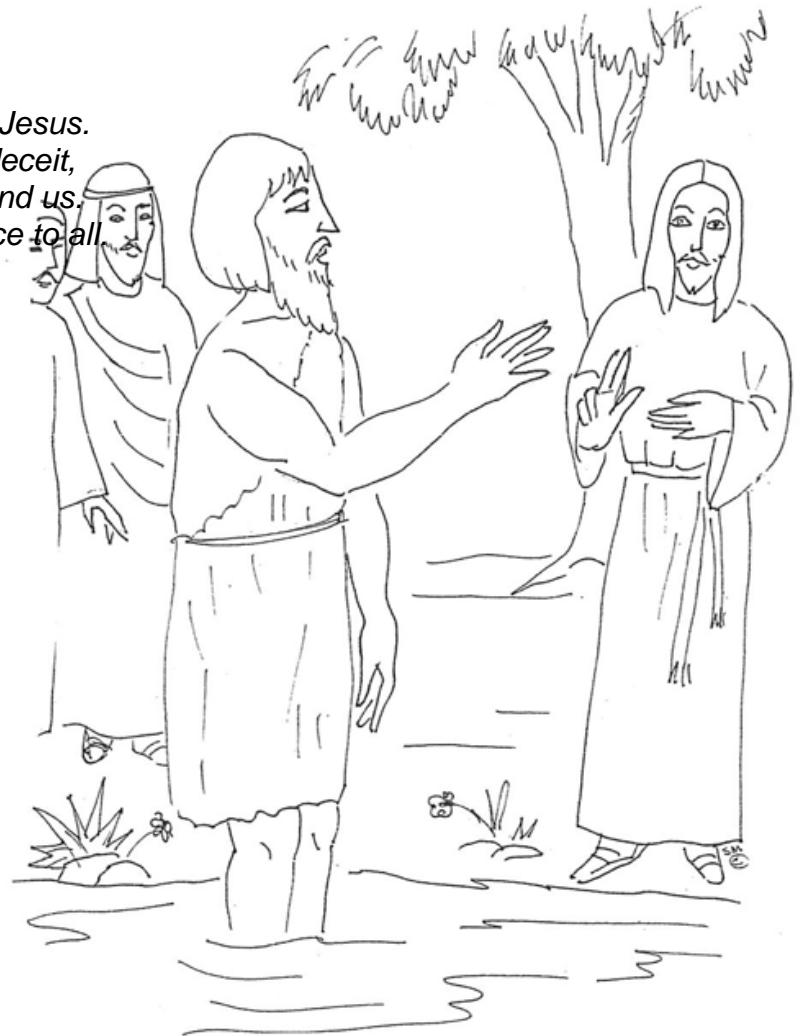
Activity and Prayer

Encourage the children to share the things they are going to offer Jesus this week. As they express their commitments for the week each one turns on a light on the altar.

(Use battery lights).

Then the second Advent candle is light, for the second week of this season.

All together pray saying: "Jesus we want to prepare the way for you! Come!"





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Third Sunday of Advent/ December 11, 2011

Readings: Isaiah: 61, 1-2, 10-11; Psalm ; 1 Thessalonians 5,16-24; John 1: 6-8,19-28

God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, "Who are you?" John did not refuse to answer but spoke out openly and clearly, saying: "I am not the Messiah." "Who are you, then?" they asked "Are you Elijah?" "No, I am not," John answered. "Are you the Prophet?" they asked. "No," he replied. "Then tell us who you are," they said. "We have to take back an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John then answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah: "I am 'the voice of someone shouting in the dessert: Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!' " The messengers, who had been sent by the Pharisees, then asked John, "If you are not the Messiah nor Elijah nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?" John answered, "I baptize with water, but among you stands the one you do not know. He is coming after me, but I am not good enough even to untie his sandals." All this happened in Bethany on the east side of the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.

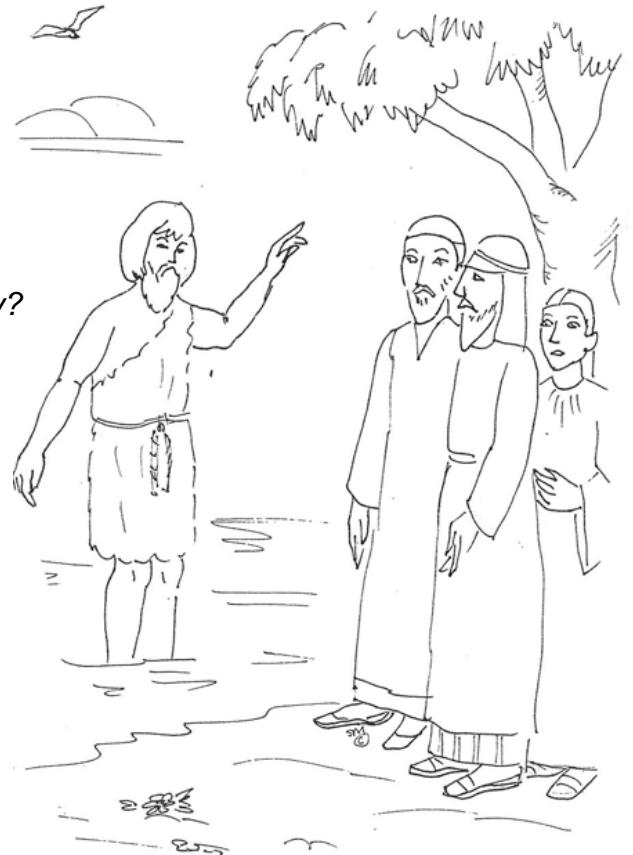
Reflection

In this week gospel, the same as last Sunday, the voice of someone shouting in the dessert, John, is showing the straight path to travel to receive Jesus. The Holy Spirit, teaches us to pray in hope. The prayer of the Church and our personal prayer nourish hope on us.

Jesus speaks to us about the joy that comes from doing the right things, praying, being grateful, and defending those who are treated unfairly. Have you ever felt such joy? Give time for the children to reflect on the question.

Activity and Prayer

*Hand out jingle bells to each child, explaining that the bells express joy. Sing Christmas songs
Light the third candle , for the third week of Advent.
Encourage each child to express his or her commitment for the week. After each child express his commitment all answer: "You give us joy Jesus" and ring the bells.*





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Fourth Sunday of Advent / December 18, 2011

Readings: 2 Samuel 7, 1-5.8-12.14-16; Psalm 88; Romans 16,25-27; Luke 1, 26-38

The Birth of Jesus is announced

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you! Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her: "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!" Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be? The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. For there is nothing that God cannot do." I am the Lord's servant", said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her. (Luke 1, 26-38)

Reflection

Talk with the children about houses and what makes a house a home. What would you need? (Decorations, comfortable furniture, neatness, etc.) How can we be a dwelling place or home for God, since Jesus wants to come to each and every one of us? Do you have doors in your house? Do we also have doors in our hearts? How are we going to open our "doors" and hearts to Jesus?

Activity and Prayer

Give each child a little house cut of cardboard. Ask them to write their names on the door. On the back write their commitment for the week, to prepare a good house for Jesus. Place your house in the Christmas tree or at the Nativity set.

Prayer together saying: "Yes, Lord we want you to come to our house and to our hearts." Come, Jesus, come! Help us to put in order our relationship, lives and hearts ; so that you may come and dwell in us. Amen.





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Nativity-25 of December 2011

Readings: Isaiah 52, 7-10 Psalm 97 Hebrews 1, 1-6 John 1, 1-18

Jesus is the best present

In the beginning the word already existed; the word was with God, and the word was God. From the very beginning the word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. This was the real light-the light that comes into the world and shines on all people. The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father. The word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.

John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'" Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. God gave the law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known, (John 1, 1-18)

Reflection

In this gospel we can see how in the Word there is life and in life there is light. Light that shines in darkness. We can observe that the coming of Jesus divides the history in two parts. Darkness before Jesus and Light after Jesus. Whom are you going to be, sons of darkness or sons of light? Jesus is the true light in which the promises has been fulfilled. The Word made flesh. He is not a dream is a reality.

Activity

Act the story of the nativity of Jesus.

Write in a piece of paper the names of the different persons in the story, so that Jesus would be the one to pick them

Sing Christmas songs. At the end of the representation each child can express what he or she wants to give to Jesus.

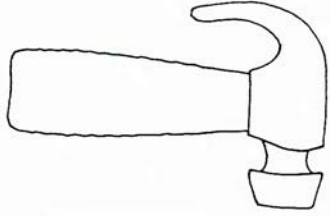
Prayer

Jesus newly born, you are our God.

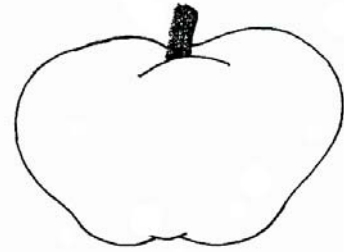
You come to change our hearts and to tell us that we are all equal., children of the great love of God. You come to show us to share. You are our best gift. Teach us to, out of love, change the world. Amen



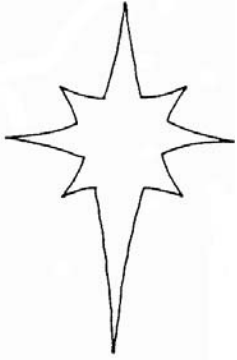
Jesse Tree Ornaments



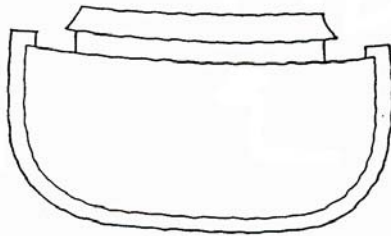
JOSEPH



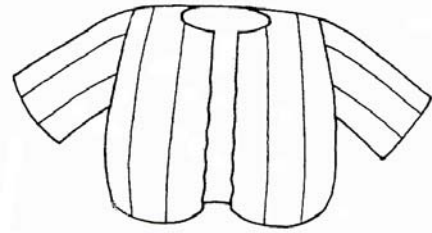
ADAM AND EVE



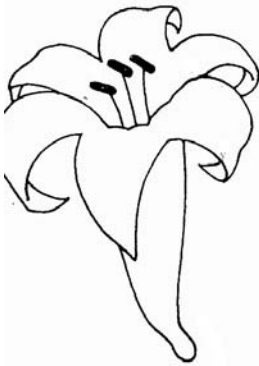
ABRAHAM



NOAH



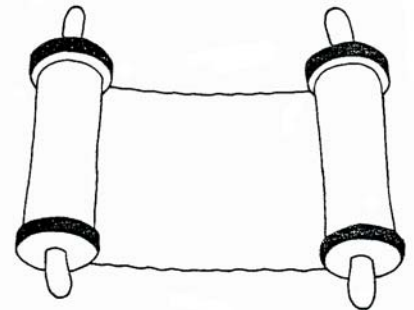
JOSEPH



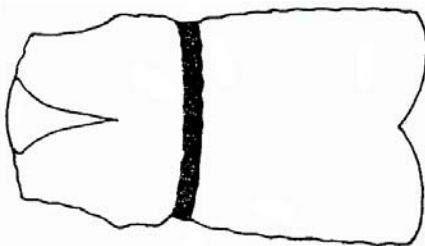
MARY



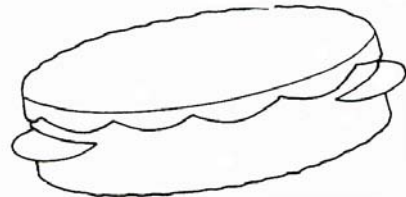
DAVID



ISAIAH



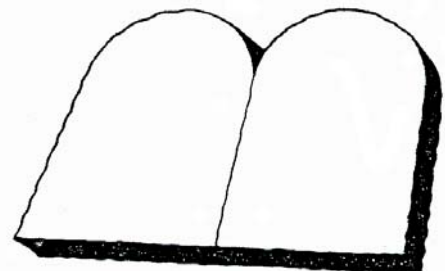
JOHN THE BAPTIST



MIRIAM



JACOB



MOSES

JESSE TREE BIBLE SEARCH

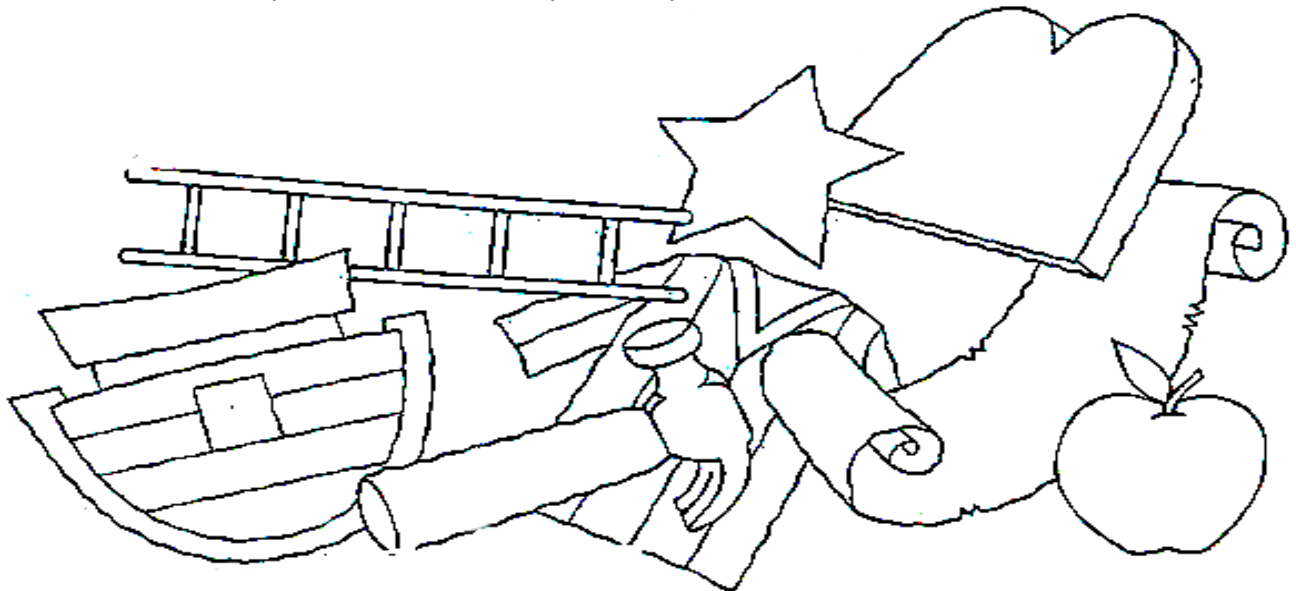
The following people are ancestors of Jesus. Look up the Scripture verses for each person in the Bible and read them. Find out from each Scripture passage the correct symbol for each individual and write in the blank next to the person's name. All of the symbols are listed in the Answer Bank at the bottom.

ABRAHAM	Genesis 22:15-18
MOSES	Exodus 32:15-16
JACOB	Genesis 28:10-22
JOSEPH	Genesis 37:3-4
ADAM Y EVE	Genesis 3:1-6
NOAH	Genesis 6:14-22
DAVID	1 Samuel 16:14-23
ISAIAH	Luke 4:16-21
MIRIAM	Exodus 15:19-21
JOHN the Baptist	Matthew 3:1-6
JOSEPH	Matthew 13:55

ANSWER BANK

Harp	Tambourine	Fruit	Star
Hammer	Coat of fur	Scroll	Coat/Tunic
Stone tablets	Ladder	Boat	

Share these symbols with someone in your family

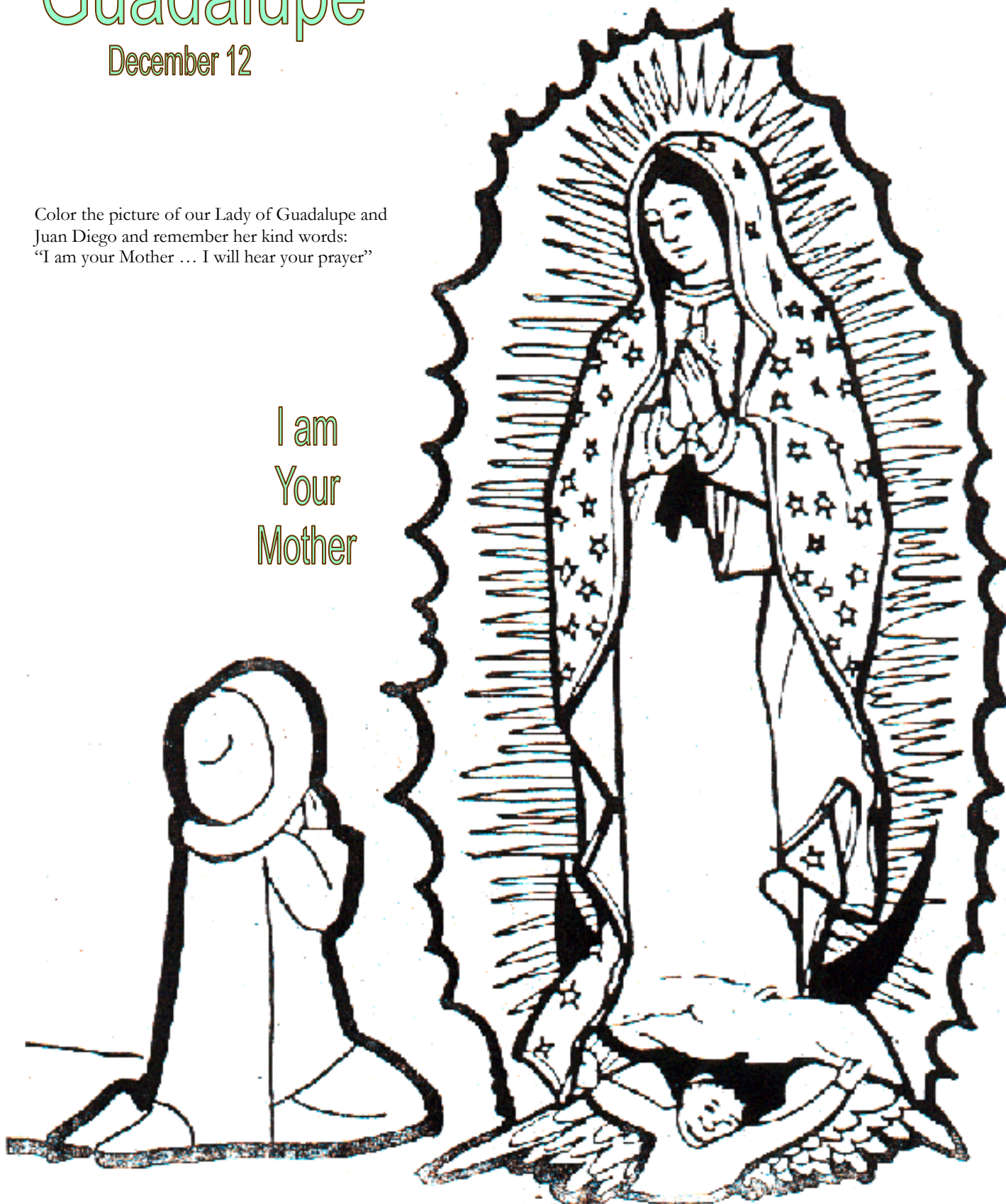


Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

Color the picture of our Lady of Guadalupe and
Juan Diego and remember her kind words:
"I am your Mother ... I will hear your prayer"

I am
Your
Mother



Feast for December

The Immaculate Conception

Blessed be your purity, for all eternity; God himself rejoices in such gracious beauty.
To your 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, Amen.

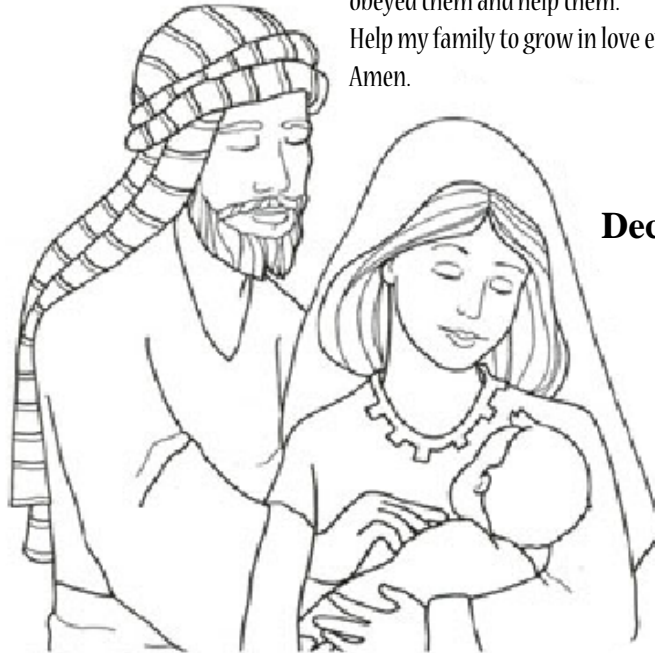
December 8



The Holy Family

Mary and Joseph, you loved each other very much, and you took good care of Jesus.
Jesus, you loved Mary and Joseph. You obeyed them and help them.
Help my family to grow in love every day.
Amen.

December 30



Christmas

We celebrate Jesus' birthday on this day.
Let's offer Him whatever small sacrifices we can make as a birthday gift to him



December 25

Our Lady of Guadalupe

"Listen", she said to Juan Diego.
"The littlest of my children, Am I not here to help you? Are you not under my blessing and protection? Do not fear!".



December 12

JESUS

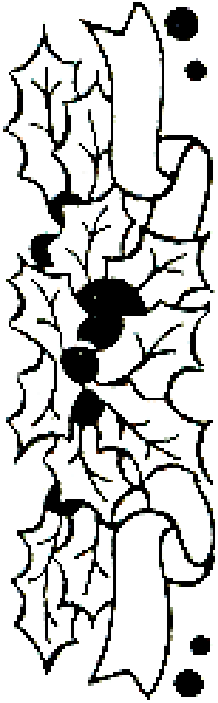
FOR THE SEASON

IS THE REASON



IS THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS!!

LET'S OFFER HIM OUR SMALL SACRIFICES
AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT .



“A Child is born to us!
A Son is given to us!”

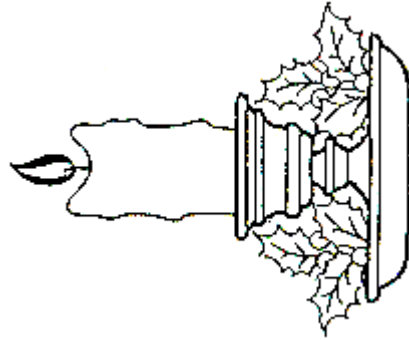
JESUS IS BORN! MERRY CHRISTMAS

Isaiah 9:6

to



from



St. Francis Xavier

I am going to be a great and famous genius. You'll see!



HE WAS BORN ON THE 7TH OF APRIL 1506 IN THE BIG CASTLE OF JAVIER, IN NAVARRA, SPAIN. HIS FATHER AND BROTHERS WERE VALIANT SOLDIERS, BUT HE PREFERRED TO WIN GLORY BY BECOMING A BRILLIANT SCHOLAR.

Goodbye, I will return as an important man loaded with honours.

AND HE BEGAN TO TRIUMPH IN EVERYTHING: IN HIS STUDIES, IN SPORT... BUT HE DIDN'T LIKE TO OFFEND GOD.



Hey, champ! Come on, let's celebrate our victory in the races yesterday.

You must be joking! I don't like your idea of fun.

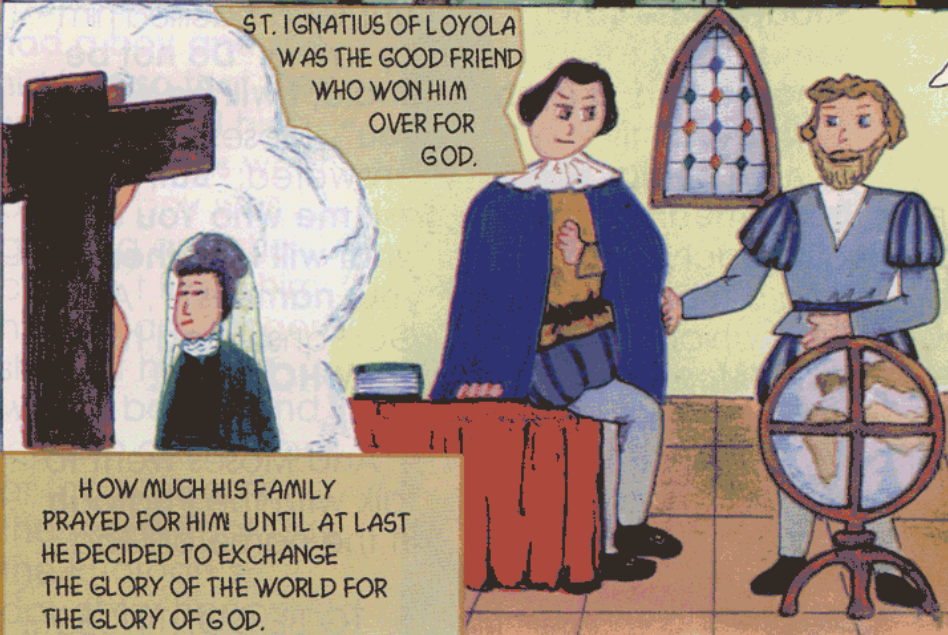
AT NINETEEN YEARS OF AGE HE GOES OFF TO THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS.



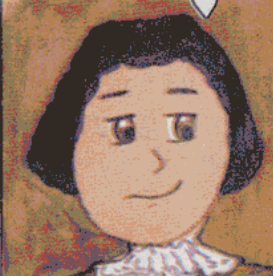
What good is it to you, Xavier, to win the whole world if you lose your soul?

Lord, what do You want me to do?

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA WAS THE GOOD FRIEND WHO WON HIM OVER FOR GOD.



HOW MUCH HIS FAMILY PRAYED FOR HIM UNTIL AT LAST HE DECIDED TO EXCHANGE THE GLORY OF THE WORLD FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.



TO BE A PRIEST! WITHOUT ONE LOOK BACKWARDS, XAVIER BEGINS TO BECOME A SAINT.

AND THEY BEGIN THE COMPANY OF JESUS. XAVIER IS SENT ON THE MISSIONS TO INDIA, WHERE HE COMMENCES HIS CAREER AS A GIANT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.



See how beautiful it is to be able to call God our Father. Our Father who art in Heaven...

HIS LETTERS TO ST. IGNATIUS ARE READ EVEN IN THE UNIVERSITIES.

And in a single month I baptised more than ten thousand people.

Now God wishes me to go to other parts too...

THE CHILDREN REALLY LOVED HIM. WITH HIS PRAYERS THE SICK WERE CURED AND BECAME CHRISTIANS.



Today you must pray for the sick person in that house.

And if he gets better?

Dis for me.

Clack clack

"Send more missionaries! There are many people out there who would be Christians if only we had more missionaries to bring the holy message to them..."

SPAIN



NOT MANY PEOPLE CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN, BUT THOSE WHO DID, HOW FAITHFUL THEY WERE!

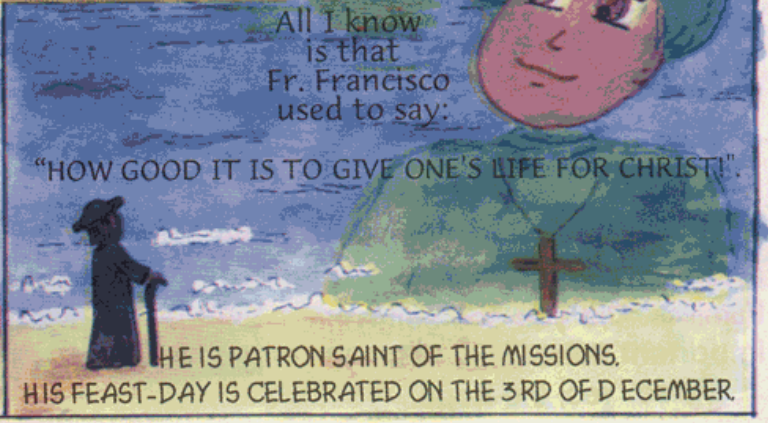


Honorable Mista.

Consecrate your faith to the care of the Virgin Mary.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER DIED AT THE AGE OF 46 AS HE WAS PREPARING TO GO TO CHINA.

THANKS TO HIS TEACHING, MANY PEOPLE BECAME MARTYRS.

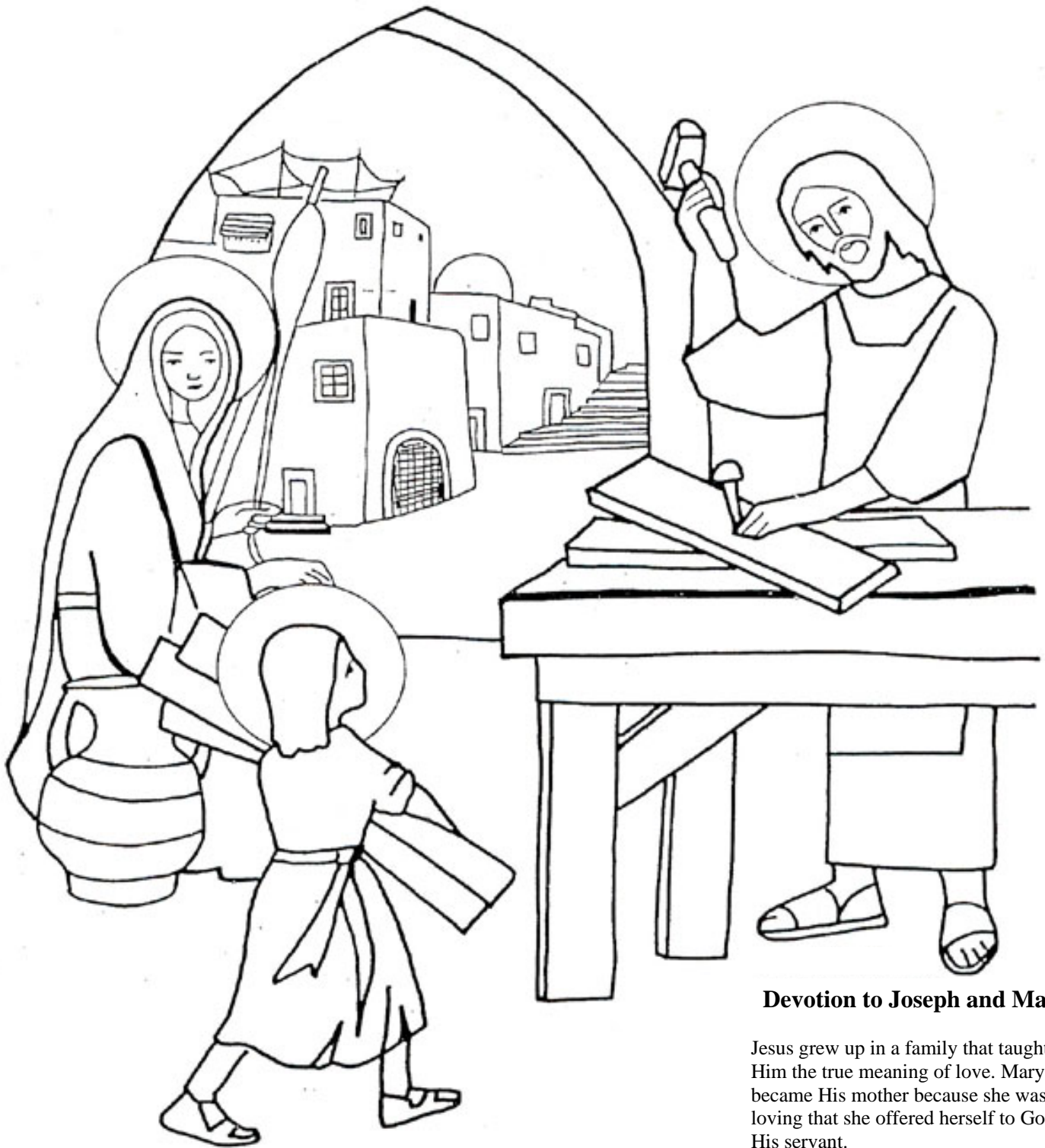


All I know is that Fr. Francisco used to say:

"HOW GOOD IT IS TO GIVE ONE'S LIFE FOR CHRIST!"

HE IS PATRON SAINT OF THE MISSIONS. HIS FEAST-DAY IS CELEBRATED ON THE 3RD OF DECEMBER.

The Holy Family



Devotion to Joseph and Mary

Jesus grew up in a family that taught Him the true meaning of love. Mary became His mother because she was so loving that she offered herself to God as His servant.

Joseph was so loving that he broke the law in order to care for Mary and Jesus. The Holy Family did not have it easy, but they always trusted in God's plan. We pray for their intercession for our family. May our homes be like the Holy Family's home in Nazareth

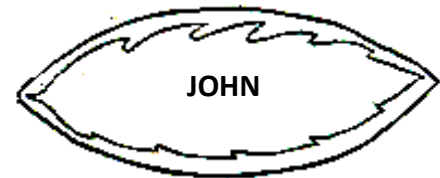
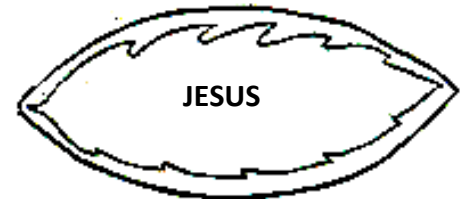
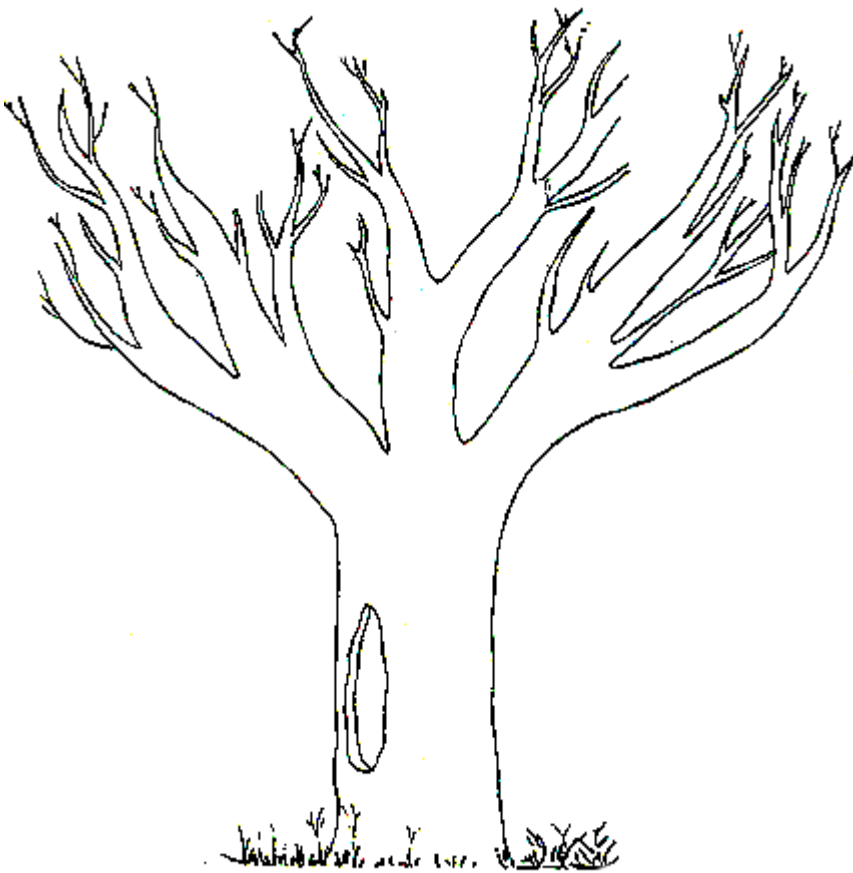
Name: _____

The Family Tree of Jesus

Color this family tree of Jesus.

Here are the names of the people in Jesus' family.

Color the leaves
Cut them out
Paste them to the tree.



To the Teacher: Lead the children in pronouncing these names. Tell them the relationship each person had to Jesus: Mary and Joseph –Parents; Joachim and Anna –grandparents; Elizabeth and Zachary – Aunt and Uncle; John –Cousin

December 30th
The Holy Family

Paper Bag Manger Scene

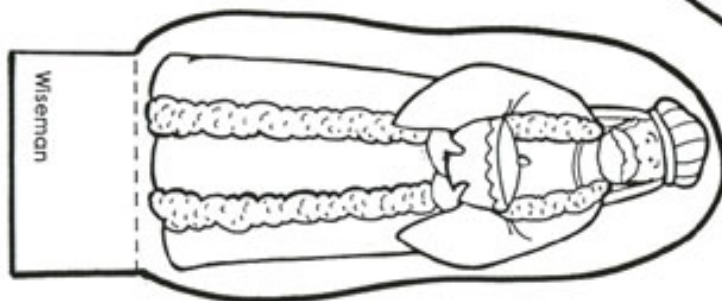
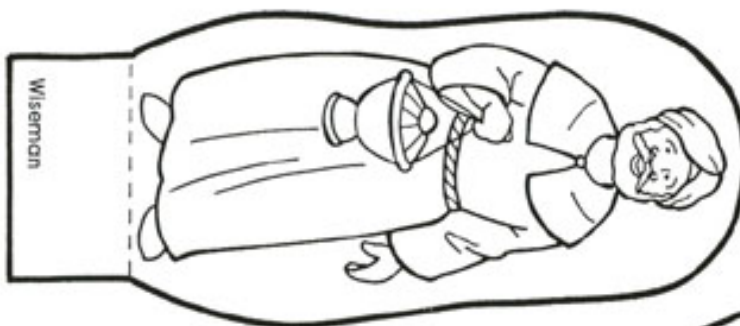
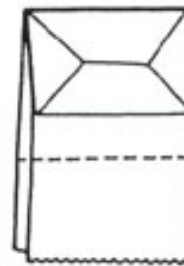
The children will love to make their own manger scene to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

Materials:

- 1 brown paper bag
- markers
- construction paper
- scissors

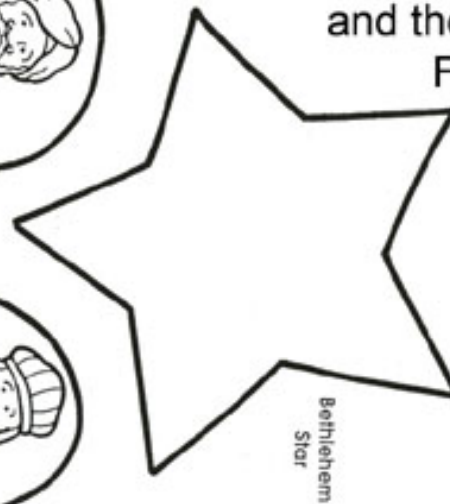
Fold the paper bag until it is flat, then cut it in half.

Open the bag and cut an opening to make the entrance of the manger.

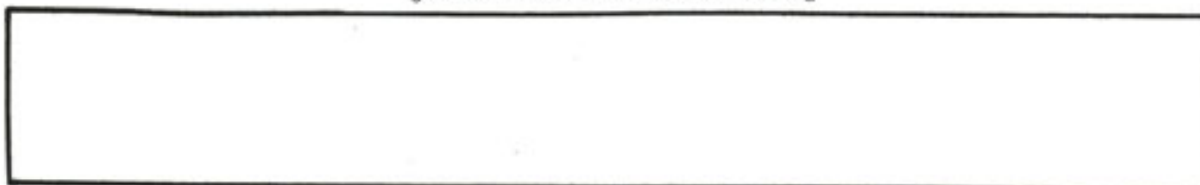


Color all the figures you plan to use for your manger scene, and then cut them out.

Fold them on the dotted line so that they can stand up on their own.



glue behind star—mount on back of bag



© In Celebration
F9680
Preschool
Christian
Crafts

Figures for the Paper Bag Manger Scene

Color all the figures you plan to use for your manger scene, and then cut them out.

Fold them on the dotted line so that they can stand up on their own.

© In Celebration
"F9680
Preschool
Christian
Crafts

