



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

December 2017
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Christmas preparation begin. We should prepare for the most important season of the year, The Birth of Jesús. Let's enjoy with the family and Friends.

IMPORTANT FEAST AND SAINTS:

December 03 Saint Francis Xavier
December 06 Saint Nicholas
December 08 Immaculate Conception
December 09 Saint Juan Diego
December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 13 St. Lucy
December 14 St. John of the Cross
December 25 Christmas Day
December 27 St. John the Apostle
December 28 Holy Innocents
December 30 Holy Family

Enclosed Materials:

- 1) Monthly Calendar & Sunday Góspel
- 2) Jesse Tree Ornaments
- 3) Jesse Tree Bible Search
- 4) Advent Wreath

Suggested Dvd's:

- 1) The Birth of Jesús
- 2) The Day the Sun Danced
- 3) Saint Nicholas

The ministry of Friends of Jesús and Mary wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New year 2018

God Bless you,
Comité Amigos de Jesús y Maria

FLORIDA

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Friends of Jesus and Mary
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Florida Center for Peace

December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 FIRST FRIDAY Dt 7, 2-14 Psalm/ Int Dt. 3, 75-81 Lk 21, 29-33	2 FIRST SATURDAY Dt. 7, 15-27 Psalm/Int: Dt 3, 82-87 Lk 21, 34-36
3 1ST SUNDAY ADVENT Isaiah 63, 16b-17 Psalm 79 1 Co 1, 3-9 Mk 13, 33-37	4 Isaiah 2, 1-5 Psalm 121 Mt 8, 5-11	5 Isaiah 11, 1-10 Psalm 71 Lk 10, 21-24	6 St Nicholas Isaiah 25, 6-10 Psalm 22 Mt 15, 29-37	7 Isaiah 26, 1-6 Psalm 117 Mt 7, 21-24-27	8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Gn 3, 9-15.20 Psalm 97 Eph 1, 3-6.11-12 Lk 1, 26-38	9 ST. JUAN DIEGO Isaiah 30, 19-21.23-26 Psalm 146 Mt 9, 35-10, 6-8
10 2ND SUNDAY ADVENT Isaiah 40, 1-5.9-11 Psalm 84 2 P 3, 8-14 Mk 1, 1-8	11 Isaiah 35, 1-10 Psalm 84 Lk 5, 17-26	12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Sirach 24, 23-31 Psalm 66 Lk 1, 39-48	13 SAINT LUCY Isaiah 40, 25-31 Psalm 102 Mt 11, 28-30	14 Isaiah 41, 13-20 Psalm 144 Mt 11, 11-15	15 Isaiah 48, 17-19 Psalm 1 Mt 11, 16-19	16 Sirach 48, 1-4. 9-11 Psalm 79 Mt 17, 10-13
17 3RD SUNDAY ADVENT Isaiah 61, 1-2a Psalm/Int. Lk 1, 46-54 1Th 5, 16-24 Jn 1, 6-8	18 Jr 23, 5-8 Psalm 71 Mt 1, 18-24	19 Jg 13, 2-7. 24-25 Psalm 70 Lk 1, 5-25	20 Isaiah 7, 10-14 Psalm 23 Lk 1, 26-38	21 Sgs 2, 8-14 Psalm 32 Lk 1, 39-45	22 1S 1, 24-28 Psalm/Int: 1 S 2, 1-8 Lk 1, 46-56	23 Mic 3, 1-4, 23-24 Psalm 24 Lk 1, 57-66
24 4 SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2 S 7, 1-5.8-12.14.16 Psalm 88 Ro 16, 25-27 Lk 1, 26-38	25 NATIVITY OF THE LORD Isaiah 52, 7-10 Psalm 97 Hb 1, 1-6 Jn 1, 1-18	26 Acts 6, 8-10; 7, 54-60 Psalm 30 Mt 10, 17-22	27 St John Evangelist 1 Jn 1, 1-4 Psalm 96 John 20, 2-8	28 HOLY INNOCENTS DAY 1 Jn 1, 5-2, 2 Psalm 123 Mt 2, 13-18	29 ST. THOMAS BECKET 1 Jn 2, 3-11 Psalm 95 Lk 2, 22-35	30 1 Jn 2, 12-17 Psalm 95 Lk 2, 36-40
31 HOLY FAMILY Gn 15, 1-6; 21, 1-3 Psalm 104 He 11, 8. 11-12.17-19 Lk 2, 22-40						

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Friends of Jesus and Mary

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

First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2017

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, 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 thinking, love, and making 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. 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.



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, brightens 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)

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Friends of Jesus and Mary

Second Sunday in Advent; December 10, 2017

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

The Preaching of John the Baptist

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

All flesh shall see the salvation of God. R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:1-8)

Reflection

The readings of this week call us to conversion and 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 must 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!

Come Lord Jesus come!



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Friends of Jesus and Mary

Third Sunday of Advent/ December 17, 2017

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

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not. "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So, they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,* "as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (John 1:6-8,19-28)

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 24, 2017

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

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. "But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Highest, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from 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 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. Pray 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.***



El Greco: La Anunciación



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Nativity-25 of December 2017

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

Jesus is the best present

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him. (John 1,1-18)

Reflection

In this gospel we can see who 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 He 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***





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Holy Family / December 31, 2017

Readings: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a *pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. (Luke 2:22-40)

Reflection

Imagine the scene. How do Hannah and Simeon feel? How does Mary feel? Jesus was a child like you. He came to bring light. His light is stronger than the darkness of our lies and all those things people are ashamed of. Do you see any darkness around you? How could you bring light to others? Is it hard for you to tell the truth sometimes?

Activity Prayer

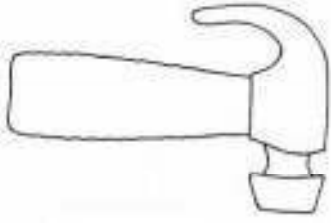
Have the children make a list of things they can do to bring light to the world. Give a candle to each child. Present each child to God. As they express their desire to become light for the world, they light a candle. Then together say the following prayer:

Prayer

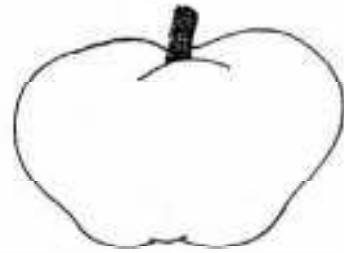
O God you ask us to be light, respecting the dignity of all human beings since you became human like us. You ask us to be light where there is the darkness of hatred and jealousy. Make us, Lord, light so that all people may see the smile of your shining love. **Amen.**



Jesse Tree Ornaments



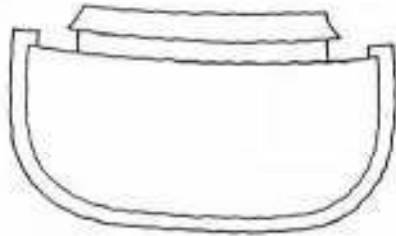
JOSEPH



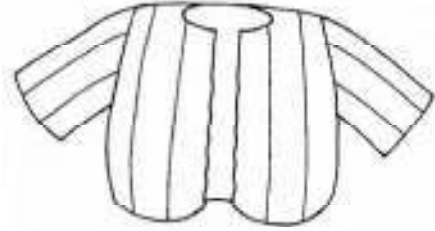
ADAM AND EVE



ABRAHAM



NOAH



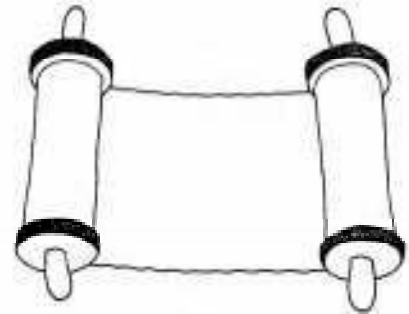
JOSEPH



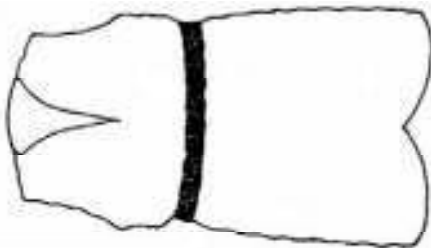
MARY



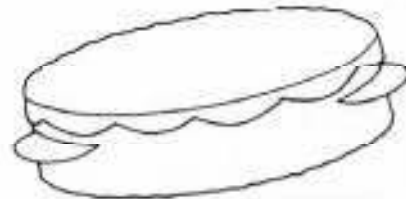
DAVID



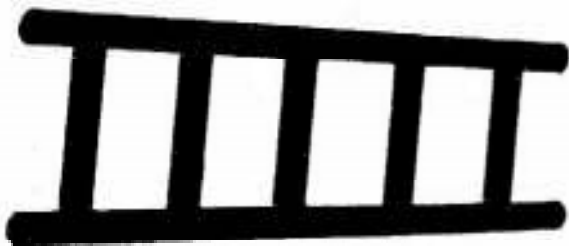
ISAIAH



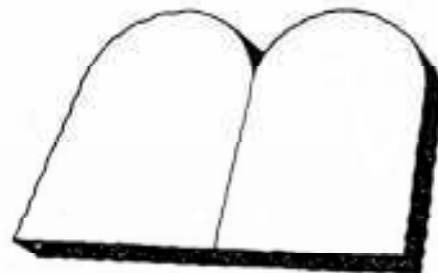
JOHN THE BAPTIST



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

