



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

December 2006
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Advent started on December 03 therefore, Christmas preparations begins. We should prepare our hearts to receive Jesus with prayers and little sacrifices and acts of love. Together with 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.

We have prepared and enclosed some activities that you can use with the children during this season. It is an opportunity to teach the children the importance and great value that shows our love through good actions, and not through giving toys and gifts.

Important feasts and Saints:

December 02 Christmas Party — FCP
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 Saint Lucy

December 14 Saint John of the Cross
December 16 Leaders Workshop
December 25 Christmas
December 26 Saint Stephen
December 28 Holy Innocents
December 31 Holy Family

Enclosed materials:

- 1) Monthly calendar
- 2) Sunday activities
- 3) Advent calendar
- 4) The first Christmas booklet
- 5) St Francis Xavier History
- 6) Our Lady of Guadalupe

Suggested videos: (All available in the “Video Club”)

1. San Nicholas
2. Saint Francis Xavier
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. Christmas
5. Messenger of Guadalupe
6. The Angel Song –Cherub Wings
7. Saint John of the Cross
8. And other Christmas videos

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 our endeavors. We will gladly welcome and feedback you may give us regarding the activities package, tell us if it has been helpful or any suggestions you may have to improve its contents.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María











Florida Center for Peace

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DECEMBER 06

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Help the shepherds find Jesus</p> 					1	<p>Christmas Party</p> <p>Blessed Virgin Mary</p>
<p>3</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>4</p> <p>St. John of Damasco</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>St Nicholas</p>	<p>7</p> <p>S. Ambrose</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Immaculate Conception</p>	<p>9</p> <p>S. Juan Diego</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Second Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>11</p> <p>S. Damasus I -</p>	<p>12</p>  <p>Our Lady of Guadalupe</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>St. Lucy</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>S. John of the Cross</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Leader's Workshop</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Third Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>S. Peter Canisius</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>S. John Kanty</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	 <p>Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day</p>	 <p>S. Stephen, First Martyr</p>	<p>27</p> <p>S. John, Ap</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Holy Innocents</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas St Thomas Becker, BM</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas</p>
 <p>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</p>						

ADVENT CALENDAR

This is a special time when Catholics are full of joy, because of the preparation for the birth of Jesus, the Son of God.

Advent begins four weeks before Christmas and there are different ways to be prepared. One is the advent wreath with four candles, another way can be this calendar with 24 windows. You open one each day.

With this advent calendar you can know better the story of Christmas and do a nice craft.

Instructions:

1. Paste the two pages with the calendar in a cardboard, forming a stable.
2. In the page where the pictures are cut them all individually. Each day paste them in the square with the same number. Example December 1, paste the figure with # 1, of the Holy Land.
3. Only paste the figure from the top part. In this way you can always read the text
4. Each day continue pasting and ... MERRY CHRISTMAS

ADVENT CALENDAR



1

Between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea, our Savior must be born

2

The Jews were waiting for the birth of the Savior announce by the prophets

3

The Virgin Mary live in Nazareth and was engage in marriage to Joseph

4

The Archangel announce Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Savior

5

Mary answer: "I am the Lord's servant, may it happen to me as you have said"

6

Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit

7

Because of the census order by Rome, Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

8

Isaiah 6,14
A young women who is pregnant will have a son and will name Emmanuel

9

Mary had to travel in a donkey to Bethlehem

10

A new star appear announcing the birth of a new king

11

The three kings Melcher, Gaspar and Balthazar come from the Orient to adore the baby

12

The kings brought out gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

13

The three kings will be to adore Jesus whom they recognize as the Savior of the World

14

An angel announce the shepherds that the son of God will be born

15

The scripture tells us what will happen on Christmas night.

16

The Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph came to Bethlehem but, they had trouble finding a place to stay

17

In Bethlehem they find a stable where the cows and oxen were fed

18

The animals of the stable will keep warn Baby Jesus and will share with him, his firsts hours

19

In a humble manger Jesus the Savior of the world will sleep

20

Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased

21

In heaven there is great joy because the Son of God will be born

22

The shepherds brought their animals and came joyful to the manger in Bethlehem

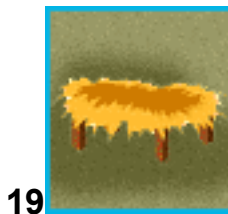
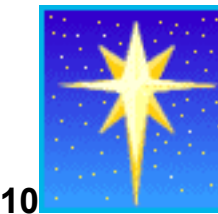
23

Everything is ready and Mary and Joseph wait anxiously for the birth of JESUS

24

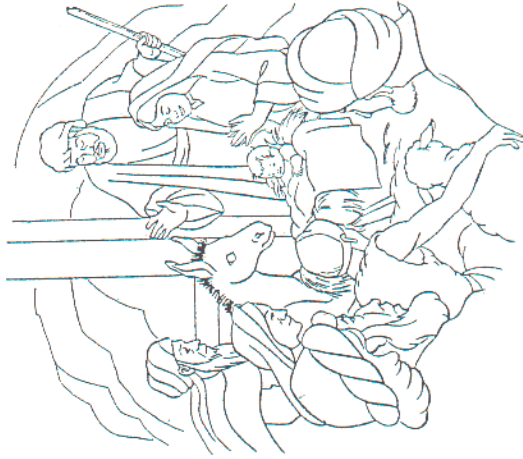
Today the savior is born all the earth is full of joy

ADVENT CALENDAR



A Book for You to Make and Share!

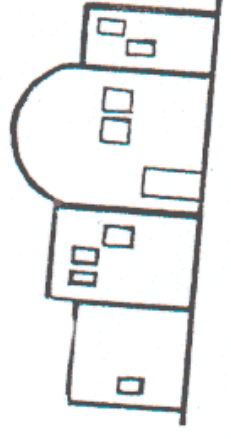
Copy this page and the next three pages, making sure that the front and back match the original. Cut them on the solid line and fold on the dotted line. Put the pages in order and tie with yard or staple

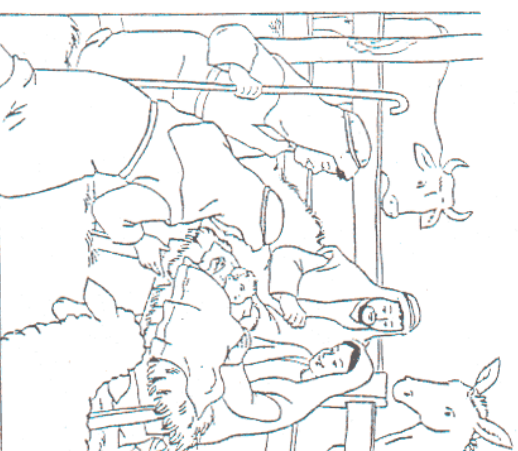


Their savior was born. They were happy and told everyone the good news about Jesus.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Story





There they found Jesus in the manger. They knew what the messenger had said was true.



Shepherds were caring for their sheep in the field near Bethlehem.

6



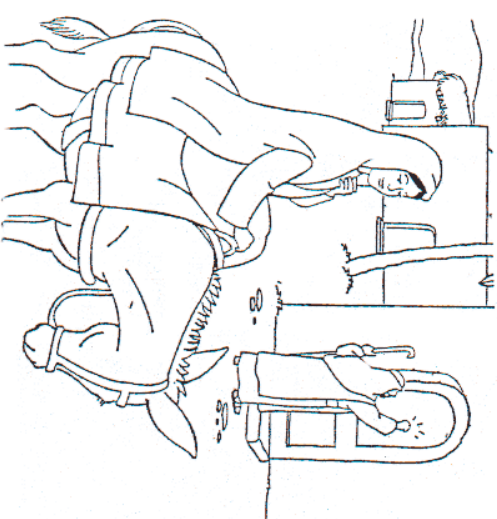
Joseph found a wooden box. He filled it with clean hay. The box was Jesus' crib.

3



The shepherds were surprised and excited. They hurried to Bethlehem

8



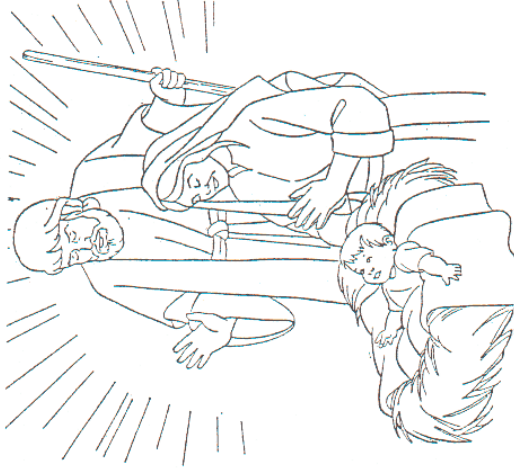
Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. The town was crowded with people.

1



That night, Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Jesus in warm clothes.

4



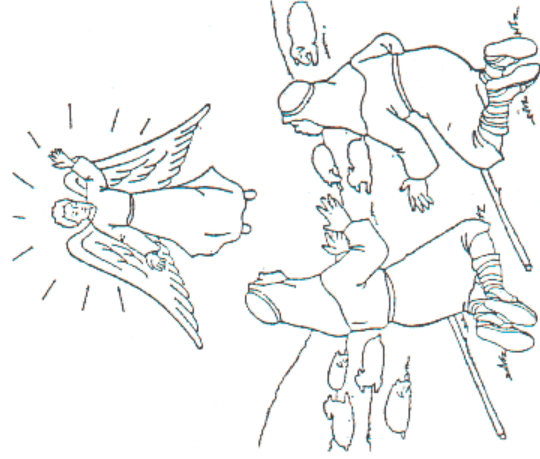
Mary and Joseph watched Jesus sleep. They rejoiced and thanked God for Jesus

5



Mary and Joseph had no place to sleep. They found a barn. Joseph made a straw bed for Mary.

8



A Messenger from God appeared to them and said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. Today your savior has been born. You will find him in a manger."

7

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 XAVIER, 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.

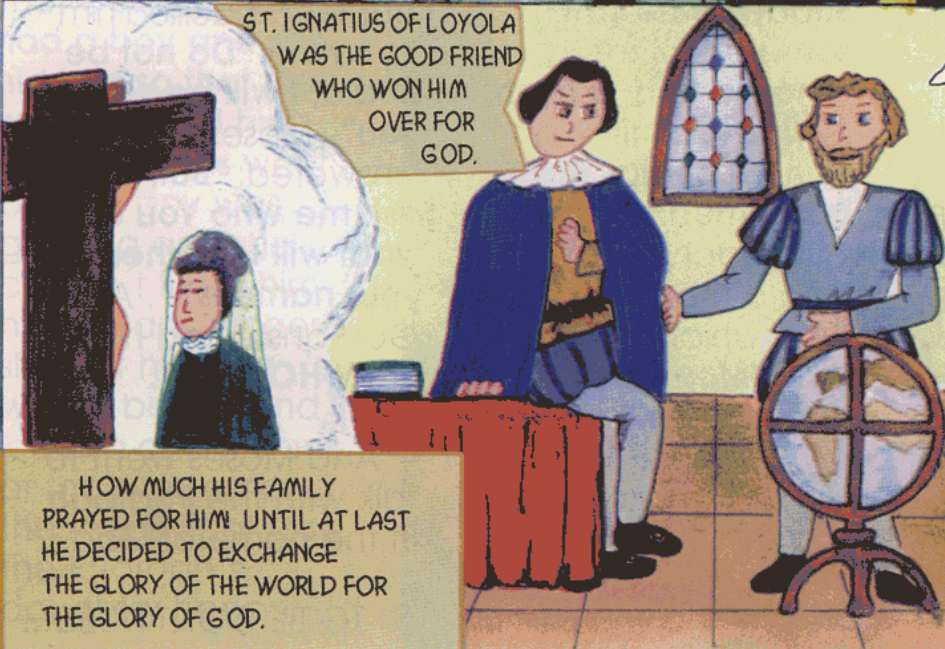
You must be joking! I don't like your idea of fun.

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.



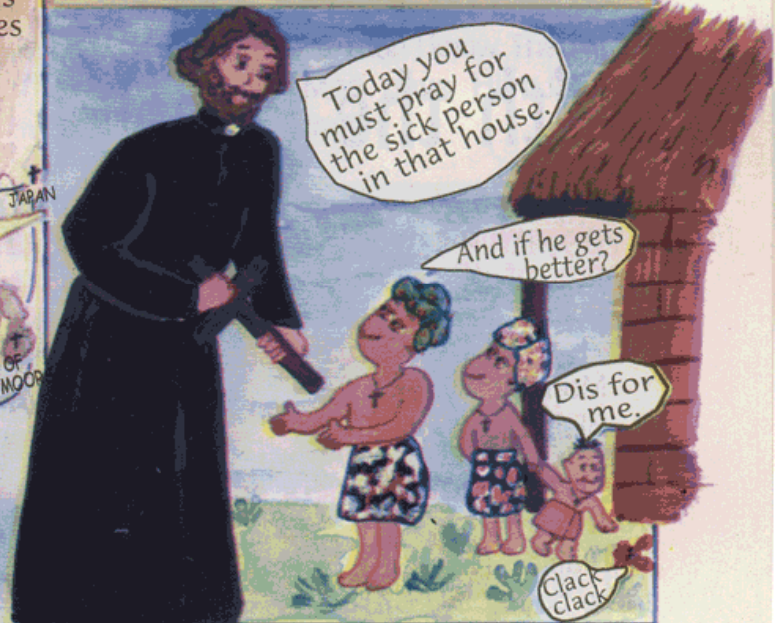
See how beautiful it is to be able to call God our Father. Our Father who art in Heaven...

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.

December 3:
First Sunday in
Advent

Advent: We await the coming of Jesus

Jer. 33:14-16;
1 Thess. 3:12-4:2;
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Talk about the story. Talk to the children about waiting. Are they impatient? Do they find waiting around to be very hard for them to do? Do they need immediate gratification? What do their families do when they are expecting a visit from someone? What can they do to prepare for Jesus' coming this Christmas?

Activities. Provide your class with green, purple, and pink construction paper so each child can make his or her own Advent wreath and candles. Ask them to write their commitments for the week on the back of their first candle.

Final Prayer. As each child pastes the first candle on his or her Advent wreath, they should express their commitments for the week. All respond, "Come, Jesus".

You are there

How do you prepare for Christmas?

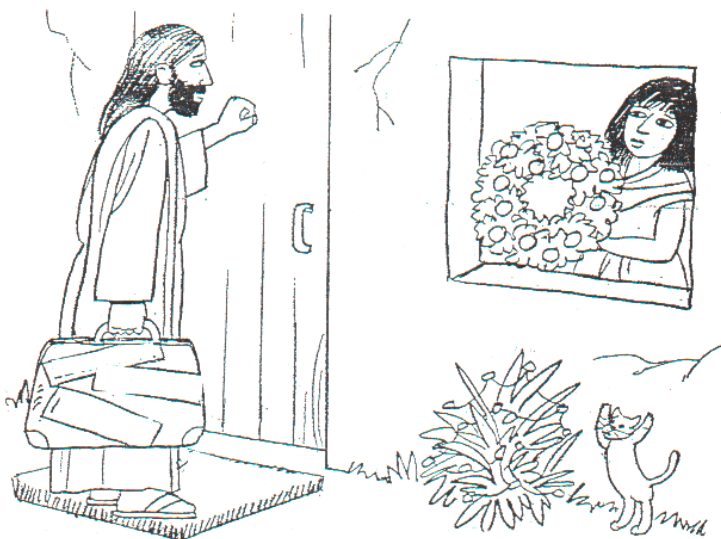
Jesus, your friend, invites you:

- ♥ How does your family prepare for visitors? When you are waiting for someone, what do you do?
- ♥ Do you clean or shop? Do you ever get so distracted by all your preparations that you forget about the person who is coming to visit? Do you often think of Jesus, who is to come this Christmas?
- ♥ God is not pleased when we spend our time worrying about those people who need our care and affection.

What am I going to do?

Tell Jesus what you like about Christmas. Tell him how you would like to prepare for it:

- ♥ For example: *I will give some of my allowance to someone who doesn't have much.*
- ♥ For example: *I will pray to Jesus to bring peace and love to my family.*
- ♥ _____



Q: Advent is a countdown to Christmas, when Jesus arrives. Are you prepared to welcome Jesus? How do you prepare for visitors?

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:

Advent, Coming, Waiting, Gifts, Eating, Drinking, Love, Peace, Forgiveness, Attention.

A	D	V	I	E	N	T	O	I	R
R	L	E	N	O	P	F	R	S	T
E	G	N	O	I	C	N	E	T	A
P	G	I	B	Z	A	P	N	M	
S	Q	D	R	E	P	S	E	M	O
E	A	A	M	B	E	A	R	H	R
J	H	U	E	E	O	S	D	N	B
C	O	M	E	R	D	M	O	B	R
P	E	R	D	O	N	A	N	L	A
R	E	G	A	L	O	S	U	V	R

Mary said yes to God

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about things we all should say yes to. What about those we should say no to? Provide examples of good things that happen when we say yes – when we help and share with others. What good things happen when we say no to violence, drugs, or selfishness?

Remind the children of the upcoming celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a few days. Through her apparitions to Juan Diego, Guadalupe confirmed the dignity we all have as children of the living God, regardless of the color of our skin or our background.

Activities. Provide pictures for the children of the scene of the Annunciation or the apparitions of Guadalupe to Juan Diego. Talk about the good things that happened after Mary said yes or when Juan Diego agreed to do what Mary asked of Him.

Final Prayer. Each child should present his or her commitment for the week. All respond: "Jesus, I want to say yes so you can come into the world."



Q: The Angel Gabriel came to tell Mar that she would give birth to Jesus. Although Mary was worried, she did as God asked.?

You are there

Are you shocked to see an angel? What do you say?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

- ♥ When she said yes to God, Mary opened the way to the coming of God.
- ♥ What good things happen to you, or in your house, when somebody has done something that pleases god?
- ♥ What do you think God is asking you to do today?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and thank for Mary, who made it possible for him to come to the world. Tell him what you would like to do so that he can continue to come us.

- ♥ For example: *I will say yes when members of my family ask me for help.*
- ♥ For example: *I will listen attentively to what adults, parents, guardians, and teachers tell me knowing that God often speaks to me through them.*

♥ _____

WORD SEARCH

- Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:
- Gabriel, Yes, Son,
 - Impossible, Surprise,
 - Pregnant, God,
 - Mary, Mother.
- S O R P R E S A I R
I L M A D R E D S T
I G L N S I A A D C
D I O S J S N Z N E
O Q R A H U T A X L
G A B R I E L R H E
J H U E J R S A N B
V E R D O D A B B R
E L B I S O P M I A
N O P Q R C T E V R

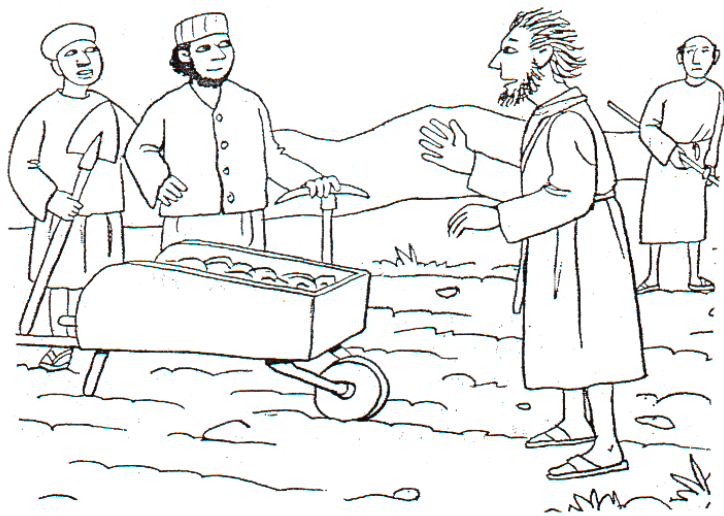
Prepare the way of the Lord

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about ways and paths. When is it easier to go from one place to another? Why do curves, mountains, and valleys make the journey slower? What are some of the obstacles in their lives that are hard to overcome? Why is it impossible for Jesus to come if we place obstacles of selfishness or curves of deceit in God's way?

Activities and prayer. Place the second Advent candle on the wreath that each child created last Sunday. As they write their commitment for the week on the back of the candle, all respond: "I want to prepare your way, Jesus."

You are there

What do you think John was talking about?



Q: Jesus come to straighten out what is wrong in the world. What obstacles and problems do you have? How can Jesus help out?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

- ♥ John says that obstacles must be overcome so that Jesus can be with us. What are some of the things you find difficult? Who can help you to overcome them?
- ♥ John says that things that are wrong in our lives must be fixed for Jesus to come to us.
- ♥ Is there anything in your home and family that you think is not totally right? Is there some people argue over? What are some of the problems in your family? What can you do to make things easier?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him what you would like to change about yourself so you can prepare for his coming. Tell him what you want to do this week.

- ♥ For example: *I will make up with a friend with whom I have fought.*
- ♥ For example: *I will make an effort to improve my homework.*

♥ _____

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:

Straight, Way, Jesus, John, Crooked, Prepare, Obstacles, Cousin, Mountains, Valleys.

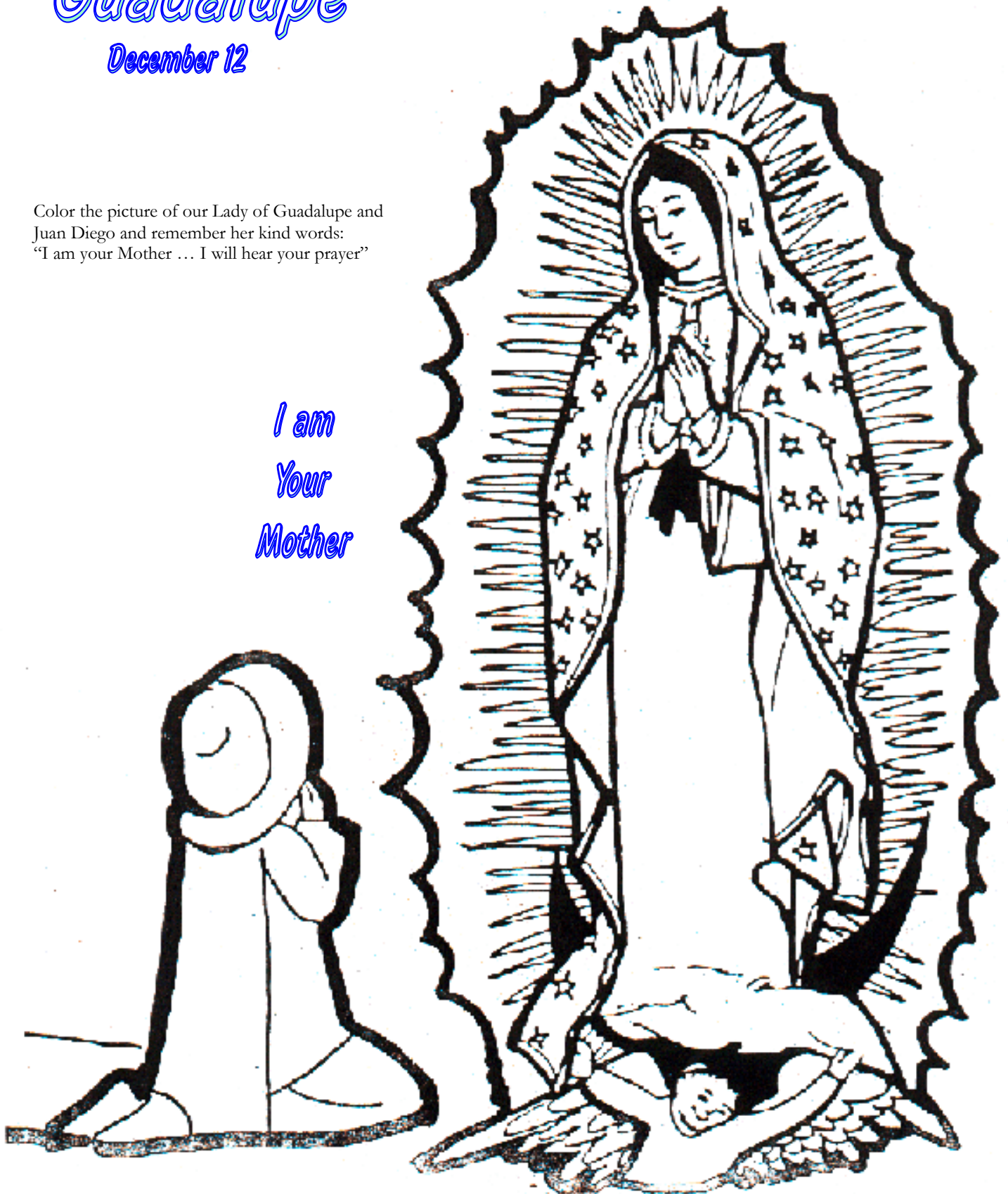
A	C	D	M	J	A	P	T	I	R
M	J	E	S	U	S	R	R	T	T
I	G	R	C	A	M	I	N	O	C
S	G	E	I	N	S	M	M	R	E
E	Q	C	S	I	U	O	V	C	L
T	A	H	M	D	E	A	A	I	E
N	H	O	E	S	O	S	L	D	B
O	B	S	T	A	C	U	L	O	S
M	E	R	A	R	A	P	E	R	P
N	O	P	Q	R	C	T	S	V	R

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*



December 17:
Third Sunday
In Advent

Jesus gives us joy

Zephi...3:14-18a;
Phil. 4:4-7;
Luke 3:10-18

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about Christmas, which is getting closer. What gives them joy? How long does that kind of joy usually last? Why does it end? Do they lose their joy when the gifts they get at Christmas break or when they get bored with them?

What is hard for them to share? What examples can they give of people taking advantage of others? Are there children in their schools or neighborhoods who bully weaker children?

Activities. On the back of the third candle (the pink one) from the advent wreath they have made, the children should write what brings them joy and this week's commitment. They should also pledge to bring a toy to class for someone in a poorer parish or country who probably won't get any presents this Christmas.

Final Prayer. After each child expresses his or her commitment for the week, all say, "Jesus, we rejoice because you are always with us".

You are there

Does this help to clear your doubts?

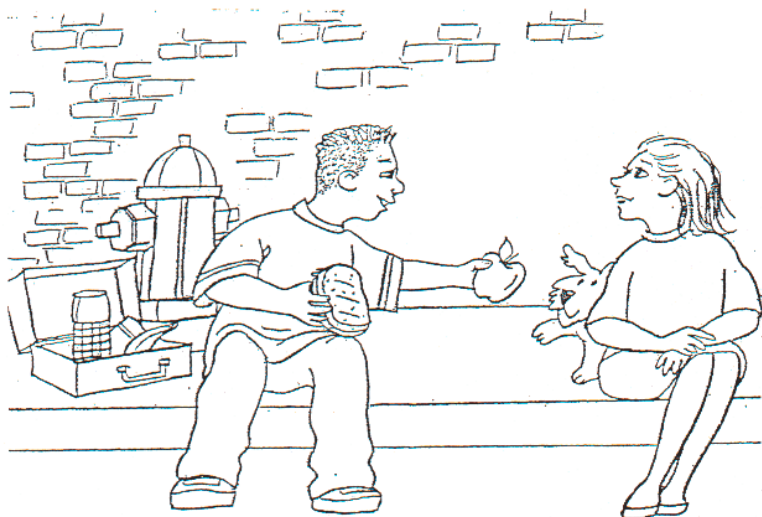
Jesus, your friend, invites you:

- ♥ John invites those who want to receive Jesus to prepare by sharing what they have with others. Do you want to receive Jesus?
- ♥ The first readings remind us that Christmas is near, and that gives us joy. What gives you joy during the Christmas season?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and thank him for what gives you joy. Tell him about the things you have that you would like to share with others. Tell him what you want to do this week.

- ♥ For example: *I will not take advantage of the kindness of my relatives by asking them for things I don't really need.*
- ♥ For example: *I will share what I have with others.*
- ♥ _____



Q: John the Baptist tells us that we must share with others to prepare for the coming of Jesus. Do you happily share with others? What is most difficult for you to share?

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:

- Rejoice, Receive,
- Soon, Christmas,
- Share, Price, Rich,
- Way, People, Take,
- Advantage.

A	P	R	O	V	E	C	H	A	R
L	P	M	N	O	P	F	R	S	I
E	R	E	C	I	B	I	R	D	T
G	E	N	T	E	S	N	M	N	R
R	C	A	S	I	U	T	W	X	A
A	I	V	M	O	T	N	O	R	P
R	O	I	E	S	O	S	Q	I	M
S	E	D	D	A	D	M	R	C	O
E	C	A	M	I	N	O	R	O	C
N	O	D	Q	R	C	T	U	V	R

Let us bring the joy of Jesus to others

December 24:
Fourth Sunday
In Advent

Mich. 5:1-4a;
He. 10:5-10;
Luke 1:39-45

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about visiting with others. Why do people visit one another? Do their mothers or others relatives visit people to help them? What kinds of visits do they like? Who are the good people in whom they recognize the presence of God? What are those people like?

Activities. On the back of the fourth candle of their Advent wreath, they should write the names of people in whom they recognize Jesus. They also can write about visitors who give them joy and why. Collect the toys or gifts they pledged to bring last week and present them at the Mass with the gifts of bread and wine.

Final Prayer. As they name the good people they know and present their gifts, all respond, "Jesus, teach us to share our joy."



Q: When Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she hurried to help her cousin Elizabeth, who was an older woman and about to have a baby. Do you rush to help others out when they need you?

You are there

Imagine how hard Mary's journey was. Are you tempted to just go back home?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

- ♥ Mary hurried to help her cousin. Do you hurry up to help others when you see help is needed?
- ♥ John jumped for joy when he recognized Jesus inside Mary. Do you rejoice when you see something that reminds you of Jesus' goodness?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and tell him about the times you have helped someone this week. Thank him for giving you things you can share with others. Tell him what you want to do this week.

- ♥ For example: *I will give thanks when I see other do good or notice good qualities in another.*
- ♥ For example: *I will pay attention to members of my family who need my help.*
- ♥ _____

WORD SEARCH

- Find the following
- hidden words in
- Spanish and write a
- sentence using
- them:
- Help, Hurry, Mary,
- Elizabeth, John, Rec-
- ognize, Impossible,
- Jesus, Pregnant,
- Baby

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	J
I	M	P	O	S	I	B	L	E	T
M	V	X	Y	Z	P	B	C	S	E
A	Y	U	D	A	R	P	M	U	O
R	Q	E	S	T	I	V	X	S	Z
I	B	B	D	S	S	G	J	I	J
A	L	E	A	O	A	U	R	S	R
E	M	B	A	R	A	Z	A	D	A
F	E	E	I	N	K	L	M	N	O
L	R	E	C	O	N	O	C	E	R

Jesus is a Gift of God for all

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about times when they have felt included or excluded. How did they feel? Have they ever excluded others? Why? What do they think about the story of Mary and Joseph looking for shelter? What does the story of the birth of Jesus tell them about the importance of people?

Activities. Make a live nativity scene. Draw lots to assign the different roles to the children. Ask the children to imagine what each character or thing in the story would tell the Child Jesus.

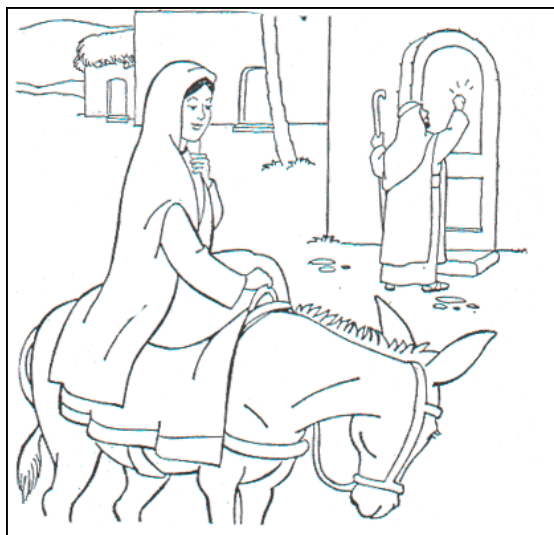
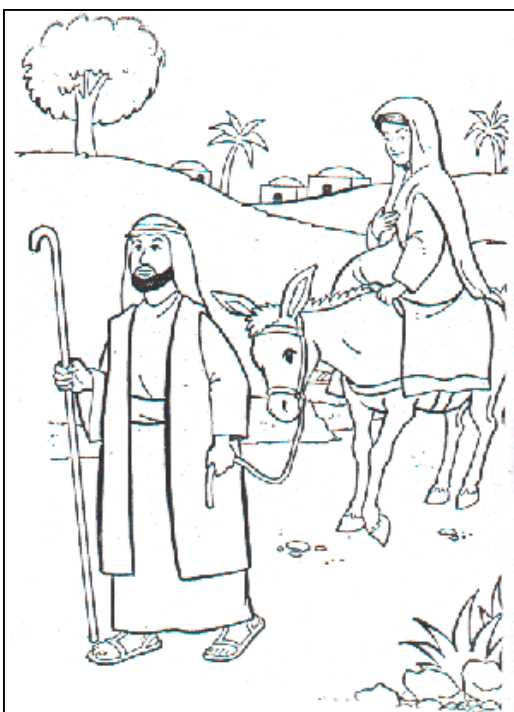
You are there. Imagine you have a house. Do you offer it Joseph and Mary even if you don't know them?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

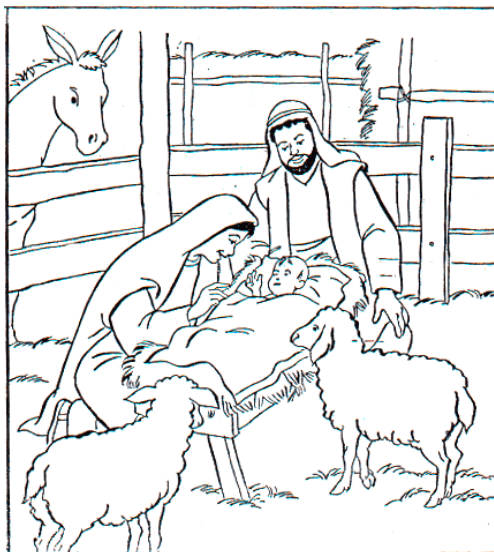
- ♥ Jesus, who is God, is born poor and in a poor place. Do you think people are more or less important according to what they have?
- ♥ Mary and Joseph did not find a place to stay. Do you know someone who is rejected? (for instance, someone in school who is never invited to play or to parties?)

What am I going to do? Speak to Jesus and thank him for becoming one of us. Tell him what you want to do this week.

- ♥ For example: *I will invite someone who is alone to play with me.*
- ♥ For example: *I will give something of what I have for a child who is poorer than I.*
- ♥ _____



What is your best Christmas gift of all? Draw a picture of what you think is the best Christmas gift.



Was Jesus lost?

December 31:
Holy Family

Sir. 3:2-6, 12-14;
Col. 3:12-21;
Luke 2:41-52

Talk about the story. Talk with the children about their families. With whom do they get along best? What would they like to change about the ways they relate to family members? Have they ever gotten lost-or done something that has greatly worried their parents? How did they feel when they realized what they had done? What did they learn from the experience?

Activities. Dramatize the scene of Joseph and Mary looking for and then finding Jesus. What do they do and say to each other?

Final Prayer. Ask each child to name one of the adults at home. Next, ask them to compose a prayer about something that seems to be worrying that certain family member.

You are there. Do you want to scold Jesus for the scare he gave Mary and Joseph?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

♥When he was 12, Jesus was helping do God's work. But realizing how much his mother suffered when he was lost, he was obedient after his return to Nazareth. Do you listen to the adults in your family? Is it hard for you to be obedient?

What am I going to do?

Speak to Jesus and thank him for the adults in your family. Tell him how you would like to improve your relationships with them. Tell him what you want to do this week.

♥For example: *I will talk more with my mother (o other adults) so that we understand each other better.*

♥For example: *I will respectfully and calmly express hoe I felt about things going on around me.*

♥ _____



Q: When Jesus was 12 ears old he spoke in the Temple, but Joseph and Mary were afraid he was lost. Do your parents worry about you sometimes? What causes them to worry about you?

WORD SEARCH

Find the following hidden words in Spanish and write a sentence using them:

• Passover, Jerusalem,
• Parents, House, God,
• Obedient, Family, Suffer,
• Grow, Temple

J C O M P A R T I R
E L M P A S C U A T
R G L A S I R C D C
U G H D O S E M N E
S U F R I R C W X T
A O B E D I E N T E
L C A S A O R Q N M
E E R D A D M R B P
N E R D O N A R L L
N F A M I L I A V O