



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

December 2009
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Advent started on November 29 therefore, 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.

Important feasts and Saints:

December 3	Saint Francis Xavier	December 19	Leaders Workshop
December 6	Saint Nicholas	December 25	Christmas Day
December 8	Immaculate Conception	December 27	Saint John the Apostle
December 9	Saint Juan Diego	December 28	Holy Innocents
December 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe	December 30	Holy Family
December 13	Saint Lucy		
December 14	Saint John of the Cross		

Enclosed materials:

- 1) Monthly calendar
- 2) Sunday Gospel
- 3) Christmas card
- 4) December's Mystery Saints
- 5) Bookmark with Child Jesus
- 6) History of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 7) So that Jesus is born
- 8) My Advent House
- 9) Flyer of the VI International Congress

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

Saint Nicholas	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saint Francis Xavier	The Angel Song -Cherub Wings
The Birth of Jesus	Saint John of the Cross
Christmas	And other Christmas videos
Messenger of Guadalupe	

We are planning the VI International Congress of Friends of Jesus and Mary for July 15 to July 18, 2010 in Miami, Florida. Start to make plans to attend. It will be a wonderful experience. The space is limited. Do not miss it.

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 any 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.

In the internet at our page www.fcpeace.com you can find more activities for Advent

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



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María








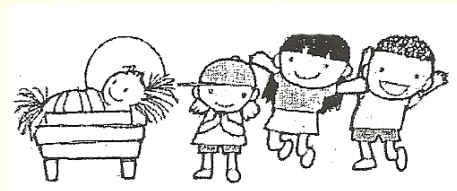
Florida Center for Peace

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DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1  Is 11,1-10 Psalm 71 Lk 10,21-24	2 Is 25,6-10A Psalm 22 Nt 15,29-37	3 Saint Francis Xavier Is 26,1-6 Psalm 117 Mt 7,21,24-27	4 First Friday Is 29,17-24 Psalm 26 Mt 9,27-31	5 First Saturday Is 30,19-21,23-26 Psalm 146 Mt 9,35-10,1,6-8
6 II Sunday of Advent Saint Nicholas Ba 5,1-9 Psalm 125 Flp 1,4-6,8-11 Lk 3,1-6	7 Saint Ambrose Is 35,1-10 Psalm 84 Lk 5,17-26	8 Immaculate Conception of Mary Gn 3,9-15,20 Psalm 97 Ef 1,3-6,11-12 Lk 1,26-38 	9 Saint Juan Diego Is 40,25-31 Psalm 102 Mt 11,28-30	10 Is 41,13-20 Psalm 144 Mt 11,11-15	11 Saint Damasus I Is 48,17-19 Psalm 1 Mt 11,16-19	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Si 24,23-31 Psalm 66 Lk 1,39-48 
13 III Sunday of Advent So 3,14-18a Psalm: Is 12,3,4b,5-6 Flp 4,4-7 Lk 3,10-18	14 Saint John of the Cross Nm 24,2-7,15-17a Psalm 24 Mt 21,23-27	15 So 3,1-2,9-13 Psalm 33 Mt 21,28-32	16 Is 45,6b-8,18,21,25 Psalm 84 Lk 7,18-23	17 Gn 49,2-8,10 Psalm 71 Mt 1,1-17	18 Jr 23,5-8 Psalm 71 Mt 1,18-24	19 Jc 13,2—7,24-25a Psalm 70 Lk 1,5-25
20 IV Sunday of Advent Mi 5,1-4a Psalm 79 Hb 10,5-10 Lk 1,39-45	21 Ct 2,8-14 Psalm 32 Lk 1,39-45	22 Is 1,24-28 Psalm: Is 2,1-5,6-7,8 Lk 1,46-56	23 MI 3,1,4,23-24 Psalm 24 Lk 1,57-66	24 2S 7,1-5,8b-11,16 Psalm 88 Lk 1,67-79	25 CHRISTMAS DAY The Nativity of the Lord Is 52,7-10 Psalm 97 Hb 1,1-6 Jn 1,1-18 	26 Saint Stephen Hch 6,8-10;7,54-60 Psalm 30 Mt 10,17-22
27 Holy Family Si 3,3-7,12-14 Psalm 127 Col 3,12-21 Lk 2,41-52 	28 Holy Innocents 1J 1,5-2,2 Psalm 123 Mt 2,13-18	29 Santo Thomas Becket 1JN 2,3-11 Psalm 95 Lk 2,22-35	30 1Jn 2,12-17 Psalm 95 Lk 2,36-40	31 Saint Sylvester 1 Jn 2,18-21 Psalm 95 Jn 1,1-18		

Can you guess which Saints we are?

Mysteries Saints for December



1. ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○



2. ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○



3. ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○
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5. ○○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○
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6. ○○○○○○
○○○○○○○○○

Hits for December's Mystery Saints

A. He love Jesus very much and followed wit loyalty. He was there in the Calvary, along with Virgin Mary, At the foot of Jesus' cross. He wrote the fourth gospel, the Gospel of Love.

December 27

C. Her name means "full of light", and she is also known as the patron of good eyesight. Her mother was gravely sick and she took her to the miraculous tomb of Saint Agatha. The graces she received there were double, since her mom was physically and spiritually cured. She was accused of being a Christian by her fiancé, and died decapitated on December 13 of the year 300.

December 13

E. He was a bishop who loved little children and told them about Jesus. Children believed that he would leave presents in their shoes or stocking in December

December 6

B. He was born in Rome, around the year 305; the successor of Pope Liberio, in an era were there was an anti-pope. He faced many hardships and fought to keep all Christians united and expand the Christian faith. He is the patron of the catacombs and Christian arqueology

December 11

D. He was born in 1506, the same year that Columbus died. As a youth he studied in Paris, and met with Ignatius of Loyola, who made him realize that the most important thing is to save the soul. He joined the Company of Jesus and went to missions in India. He translated many prayers and Christian articles, and performed baptisms as well. He died in China, while planning one of this missions to go to Japan.

December 3

F. He was one of the first Christians. He was very kind and helpful to others. He was not afraid to tell about Jesus, even though people were cruel to him because he was a Christian. One of the first martyrs, he was stoned to death.

December 26



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2009

Readings: Baruch, 5:1-9; Psalm 125 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Luke 3: 1-6

The Preaching of John the Baptist

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Phillip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.

So John went throughout the whole territory of the Jordan River, preaching, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins."

As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"Someone is shouting in the desert: Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel! Every valley must be filled up, every hill and mountain leveled off. The winding roads must be made straight, and the rough paths made smooth. The whole human race will see God's salvation!"

(Luke 3: 1-6)

Reflection

John calls for a change of life to prepare the way of the Lord. We must straighten what is crooked in our lives, remove the obstacles and walls built by selfishness. John says that obstacle must be overcome so that Jesus can be with us. Is there anything in your home and family that you think is not totally right? What can you do to make things easier? What are some of the obstacles in their lives that are hard to overcome to prepare to receive Jesus?

Activity

Light the second candle of the Advent Wreath. Prayer together the prayer for this week and then share how they are preparing to receive Jesus. In the next page you will find an activity.

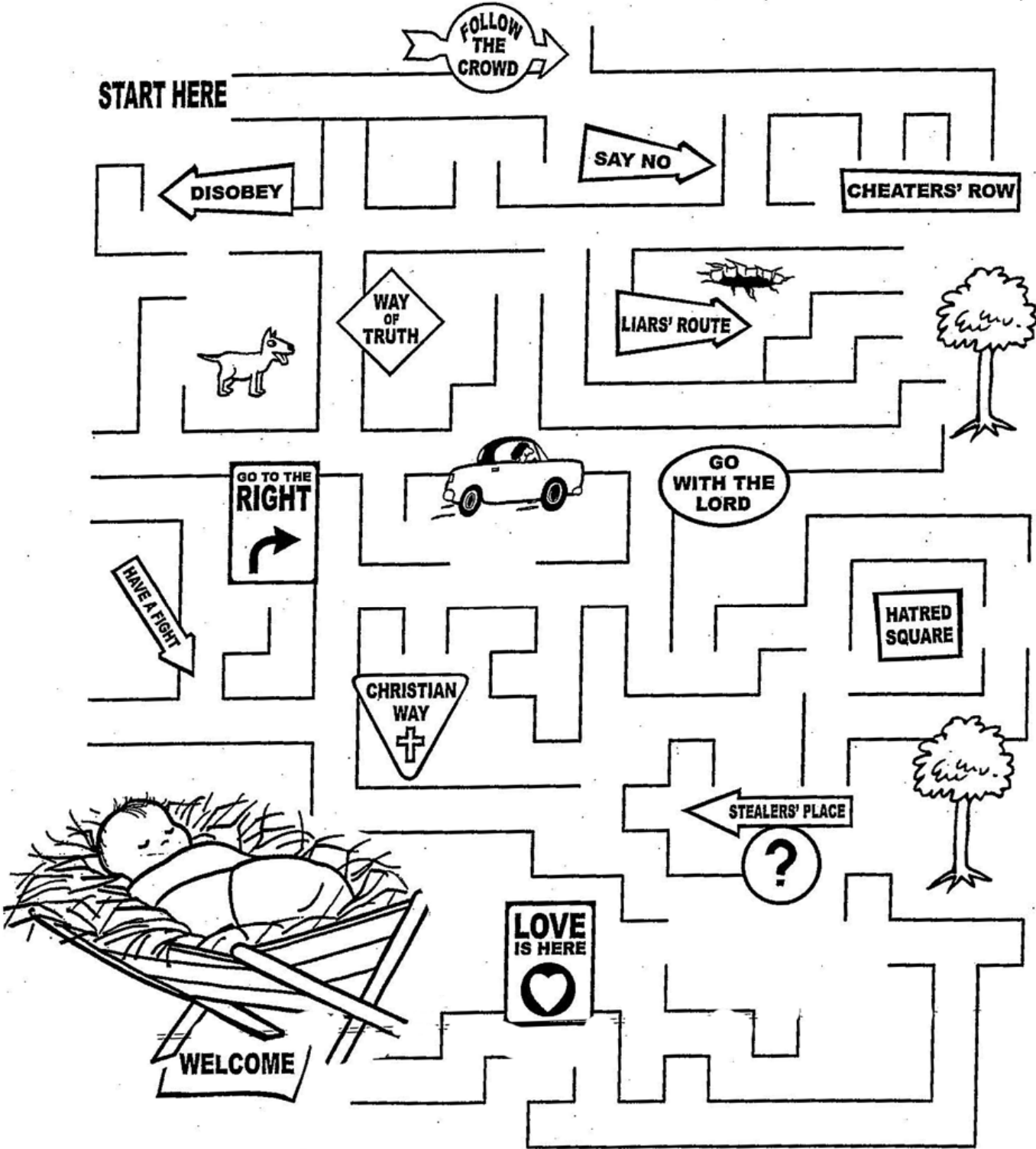
Prayer

Lord, we await you. Help us to prepare so when You come You find our love, respect, and fairness in the family grown. May you find us walking in honesty, sincerity, and affection for each other. Amen



Taking the right path

Can you find the way through this maze to the place where Jesus waits for you? Watch out for the temptations along the way



8th of December

"I am the Immaculate Conception"

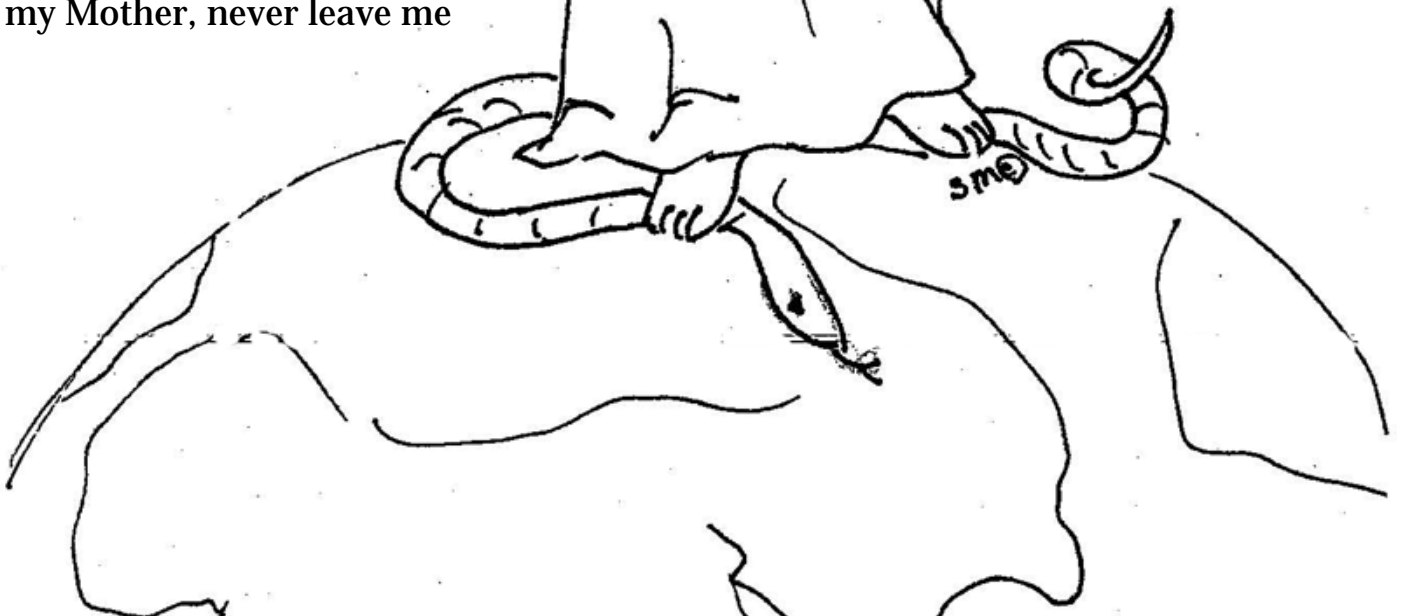
What is meant by
Immaculate Conception?

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





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2009

Readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm Isaiah 12, 3.46 5-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

The Preaching of John the Baptist

The people asked him, "What are we to do, then?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it."

Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what are we to do?" Don't collect more than is legal, "he told them. Some soldiers also asked him,

"What about us? What are we to do?" He said to them,

"Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay."

People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone

is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways.

(Luke 3:10-18)

Reflection

The coming of Jesus calls us to a change of life; to share, to free our hearts from selfishness,

to give up any ambitions or power or money.

Our greatest joy must be to give ourselves to others and to perform good deeds.

John invites us to prepare to receive Jesus by sharing what we have with others.

Tell Jesus about the things you have that you would like to share with others. Tell him what you want to do this week.

The readings remind us that Christmas is close. As it gets closer, what give them joy?

Activity

This week the pink candle is light. Say the prayer for this week. Share with the children the things that give them joy and those they plan to share with others. Remind them to bring a toy or gift for someone who doesn't have any.

Prayer

Lord, you are near, and that fills us with joy. May the conviction of your presence motivate us to bring joy to one another in our family, and to all those around us. Amen



The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Since the arrival of the first missionaries and thanks to the preaching of the Gospel, the people started their conversions to God.



A 57 years old Indian, named Juan Diego, had converted to the Christian faith and he loved Mary very much. He lived in Tlaxtecal with his aged uncle, Juan Bernardino, and he went to Mass every Saturday.



On the 9th of December 1531, which was a Saturday, he was walking to Tlatelolco to attend Mass and to pay homage to the Blessed Virgin. As he reached the little hill called Tepayac, the Blessed Virgin appeared to him calling him by his name: "Juan ... dearest Juan Diego" because She knows us by our names.



And when he reached the top of the hill, he saw a most radiant Maiden with her clothing shining like the sun. Then She talks to him: "Where are you going". "I am going to Tlatelolco, to my Lady's Mass". And She said: "I am the Ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God, your Mother and the Mother of all men. And I want that they would build my Temple here for I, your compassionate Mother, will listen to all their needs." And She sent him to see the Bishop.



As soon as he found himself before the Bishop Fray Juan de Zumarraga, he knelt and revealed to him the message from the Queen of Heaven. The Bishop said to him: "You will come again and I will hear you calmly". The Bishop, thinking it was a fantasy, dismissed him and asked him to return some other time



Juan Diego returned home and passing by the little hill, the Blessed Virgin was there waiting for him. "My dear Lady, Queen, my dear little girl, I did go to where you sent me but the Bishop doesn't think it's true". And the Virgin said: "Listen, my youngest and dearest son, go again tomorrow to see the Bishop".



Obedient to the wishes of the Blessed Virgin, Juan Diego went again to see the Bishop who asked him for a sign from the Queen of Heaven so that he could believe.



When Juan Diego arrived at his house, he found that a sickness had struck his uncle Juan Bernardino. So next morning, instead of going to where the Blessed Lady was waiting, he went to get a priest, as his uncle had asked.



Juan Diego hurried in search of the priest, avoiding the place where he would meet Our Lady, but She came to block his way, asking: "Dearest of My sons, where are you going?" and he told Her everything, calling Her: "My little Maiden, My Daughter, my smallest Girl. And the Blessed Virgin answered: "Am I not here to help you? Are you not under My shadow and My protection? Do not fear, your uncle is well. Go up to the top of the hill, gather some flowers and bring them to me."



Juan Diego climbed to the top of the hill and when he reached there, he was astonished to see so many beautiful roses, when it still was not their season. Then he began to cut them, placing them in his ayate.



The Blessed Virgin took the flowers with Her precious hands and said: "My youngest and dearest son, these different kinds of roses are the proof, the sign that you will take to the Bishop."



When he came to the presence of the Bishop, he held out his ayate and just as the roses fell to the floor, the beloved image of the Perfect Virgin Holy Mary appeared in the form and figure which is now preserved in the Temple of Tepeyac with the name of "Virgin of Guadalupe", blessing all who go to see Her, especially the children, whose Mother She is.



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Fourth Sunday of advent December 20, 2009

Readings: Micah 5:1-4a Psalm 79 Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1: 39-45

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!" (Luke 1:39-45)

Reflection

Mary doesn't think of herself, but of what she can offer her cousin. The two women recognize the gifts and grace of God in each other.

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?

Activity

Light the last candle of the Advent wreath. Give out paper. Ask the children to write The names of people in whom they recognize Jesus. Also write about the visitors who give them joy and why. Collect the toys or gifts they pledge to bring last week for the children who do not have any.

Prayer

Loving Jesus. True God and true man, we thank you for becoming one of us. Teach us to share your peace in our family, neighborhood, city and country. Amen





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Holy Family December 27, 2009

Readings: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 127; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52*

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; they thought that he was with the group, so they traveled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you." He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand his answer. So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Jesus grew both in body and wisdom, gaining favor with God and people. (Luke 2: 41-52)

Reflection

In the readings of this week, Paul gives us a whole list of attitudes to nurture at home: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, love, mutual forgiveness, support, encouragement.

Mary and Joseph soon learn that their son does not belong to them but to God.

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?

What did they learn from their experience?

Is it hard for them to obey?

Activity

Dramatize the scene of gospel.

Make a script to give to each child. Mary and Joseph looking for Jesus and the great joy they felt when they find him. What did Jesus said to his parents?

When the presentation is finish, all are unite in prayer. Each child name one adult of his home and pray for something that seems to be worrying a certain family member.

Prayer

Lord, we often suffer anxiety and worry about the future of our family and friends. Help us to foster trust and to freely speak to one another and forgive, help, and encourage one another, so that our family may become what you calls us to be. Amen



Jesus is the Reason
of the Season!

Candy Cane Catechism

What could a candy cane say about Jesus?

It could say his name: Jesus

Or tell about the shepherds who heard
the angel's message.

The pure white candy tells of Mary,
the purest of virgins.

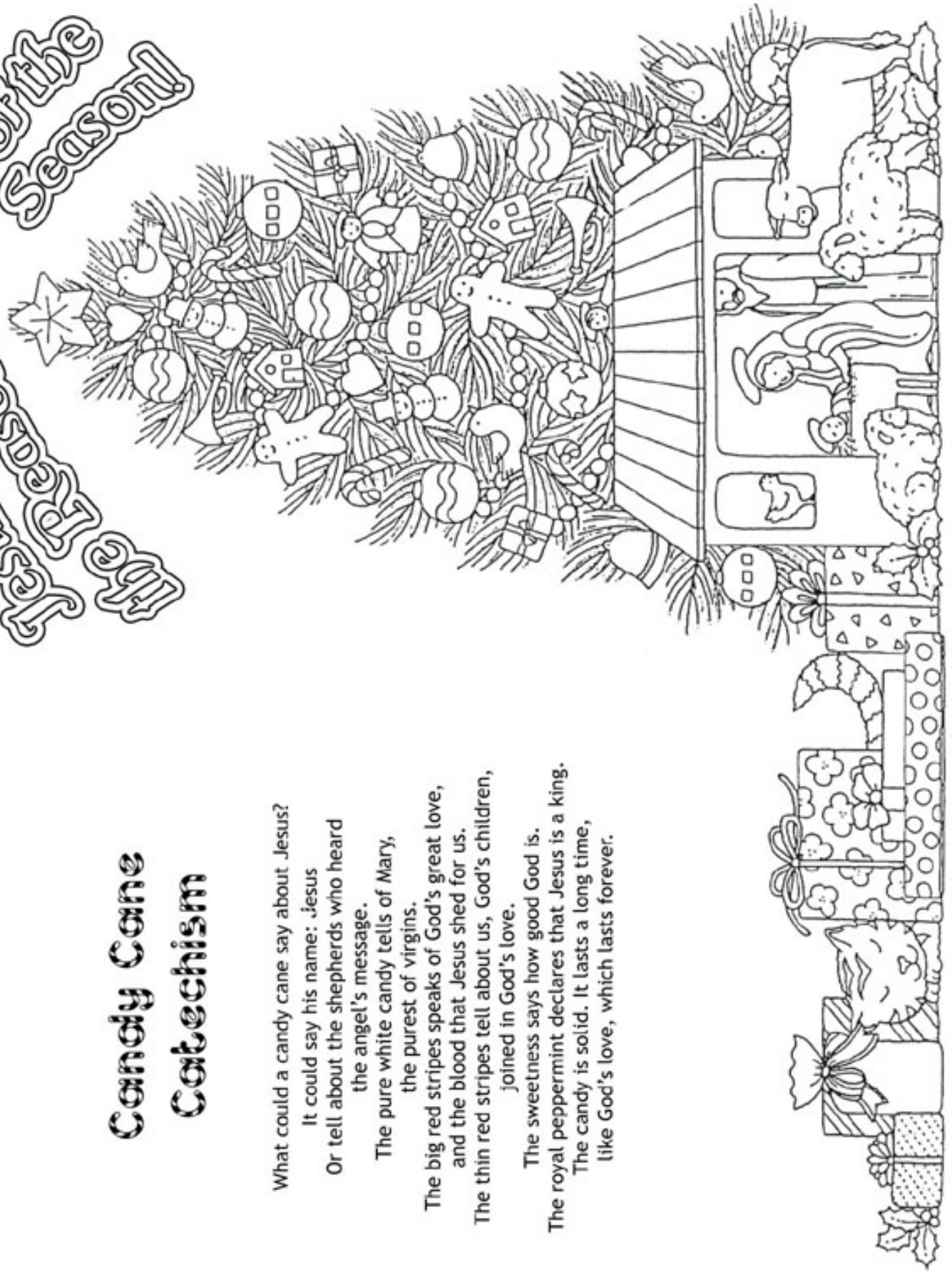
The big red stripes speaks of God's great love,
and the blood that Jesus shed for us.

The thin red stripes tell about us, God's children,
joined in God's love.

The sweetness says how good God is.

The royal peppermint declares that Jesus is a king.

The candy is solid. It lasts a long time,
like God's love, which lasts forever.





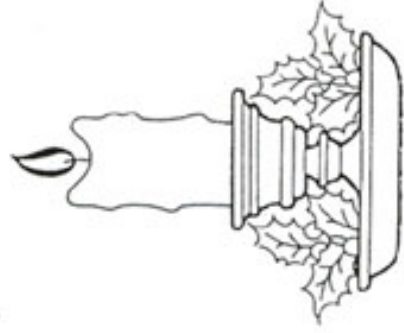
TO: _____

*Jesus is born,
Merry Christmas!*

FROM: _____

**"A Child is born to us!
A Son is given to us!"**

Isaiah 9:6





1

2

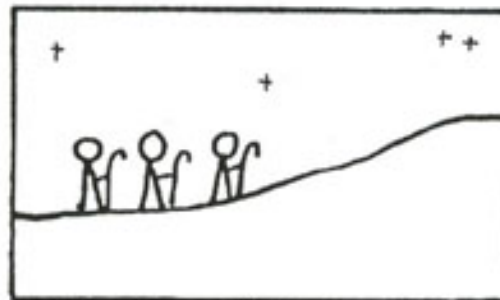
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5

BOOKMARK WITH CHILD JESUS

Color the pictures and paste them on the bookmark in the order that they occur in "the most wonderful story in the world".



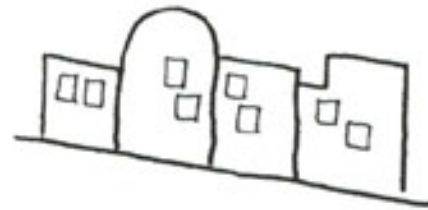
THE WISE MEN
AND SHEPHERDS
COME

JESUS
BIRTH



THE JOURNEY
TO BETHLEHEM

THE CROWDED
CITY



THE ANGELS
APPEAR

MY ADVENT HOUSE

Color the house and cut it out.

Cut out the windows and doors so that they can be opened.

For the Leader:

Instruct the children to cut out the window and door only through the 3 thick lines, so that they to open up and the project works correctly.



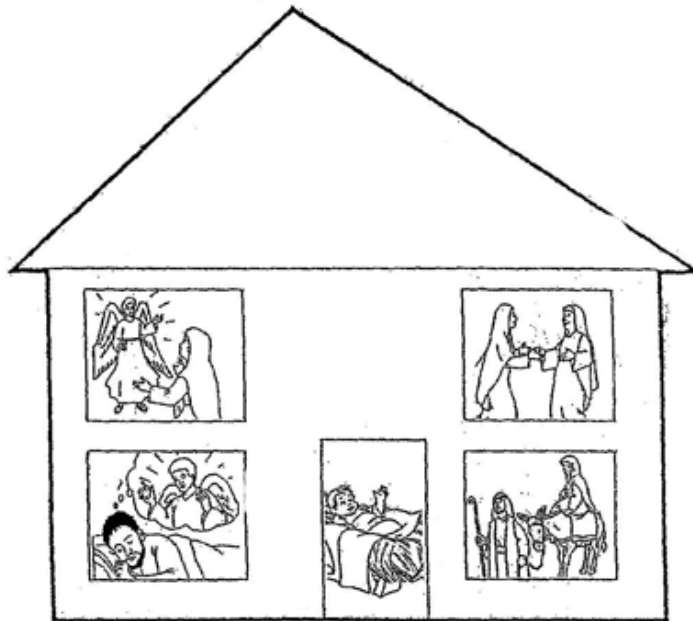
ADVENT SCENCES

Color the house and cut it out.

Glue the advent house on top of this one

For the Leader:

Help the children with the process of gluing and pasting the two houses. When they are finished instruct them to pen one window for each Sunday in Advent, and the door on Christmas day.



So that Jesus is born...

Have you thought yet of how you are going to prepare to receive Jesus this Christmas? Make your heart a comfortable crib for Jesus.

30 Pray for the Pope

1 Today instead of watching tv, use this time to read the life of a Saint.

2 Smile at those who you don't get along with.

3 Pray three Hail Marys for missionaries.

4 Try to make a visit to Jesus in the tabernacle.

5 Eat a little more of what you don't like, and eat less of what you like.

6 Try to make a visit to the sick or elderly.

7 Encourage a friend to go to Mass who doesn't usually go.

8 Pray a mystery of the Rosary as an act of love towards Our Lady. Immaculate Conception

9 Help around the house without complaining.

10 Talk with a classmate that is alone and that no one likes to be with.

11 Repeat "I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. Ask for forgiveness for those who don't believe, don't adore, don't hope, and don't love you"

12 Pray a Hail Holy Queen for the moms that have had an abortion and those that are thinking about having one, so they won't.

13 Today, don't eat sweets and give the money to the poor.

14 Always be happy, whatever happens and make the others smile.

15 Try to do what your mom and dad ask the first time without complaining.

16 Repeat: "Mary, Virgin of Hope, give me a clean heart in which Jesus can be born".

17 Speak of Jesus with a classmate.

18 Go into a church and make a spiritual communion with a lot of love.

"I WANT TO RECEIVE, LORD, TO RECEIVE YOU WITH THAT PURITY, HUMILITY, AND DEVOTION WITH WHICH YOUR HOLY MOTHER RECEIVED YOU, WITH THE SPIRIT AND FERVOR OF ALL THE SAINTS"

19 Try to do your homework as soon as possible and without complaining, ok?

20 Invite your brothers and sisters to pray a mystery of the rosary for the unity of the family.

21 Repeat many times: Come Lord Jesus!

22 Read the following Gospel passage: Luke 1:26-38

24 Receive Jesus with all the love you can.

23 Go before an image of the Virgin and ask Her to prepare your heart to receive her son.

How can you do it? Look: Glue this calendar to a piece of cardboard and hang it in your room. Put a piece of cotton over the different proposals. There is a proposal for each day of Advent.

When you wake up in the morning, uncover the proposal of the day and ask the Virgin to help you do it. If at the end of the day you have done it, you can put the piece of cotton over the crib of the Child Jesus. Like this, when Jesus is born He will find a wonderful crib in your heart.

Open your heart wider than ever.

... in your heart



Amigos de Jesús y María

VI Congreso Internacional
Del 15 al 18 de Julio 2010



Aruba



Colombia



Costa Rica



Rep.
Dominicana



El Salvador



Nicaragua



España



Chile



Curacao



Bonaire



Puerto Rico



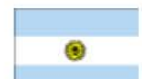
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