



December 2010
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The Advent start on November 28 therefore, Christmas preparations begin. We should prepare our hearts to receive Jesus with prayers and little sacrifices and acts of love. 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 out love through good actions, and not through giving toys and gifts.

Important Feast and Saints:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dec. 3 Saint Francis Xavier | Dec.14 Saint John of the Cross |
| Dec. 6 Saint Nicholas | Dec.16 Leaders Workshop |
| Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception | Dec.25 Christmas Day |
| Dec. 9 Saint John Diego | Dec.26 Saint Stephan |
| Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe | Dec.26 Holy Family |
| Dec. 13 Saint Lucy | Dec. 28 Holy Innocents |

Enclosed Materials & Activities of the month:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Calendar of the month | 6) The Immaculate Conception |
| 2) Sunday Activities | 7) Love Gifts |
| 3) Advent Circle of Love | 8) Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| 4) Jesse Tree Bible Search | 9) The Family Tree of Jesus |
| 5) Jesse Tree Ornaments | 10) Christmas Card |
| | 11) Build your own Nativity Scene |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Saint Nicholas | 4. Christmas |
| 2. Saint Francis Xavier | 5. Messenger of Guadalupe |
| 3. The Birth of Jesus | 6. The Angel Song –Cherub Wings |
| | 7. Saint John of the Cross |

We would also like to thank you for the efforts you have performed to bring the word of God to children, and for continuing to work and support out endeavors.

The Committee of the Friends of Jesus and Mary would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Merry Christmas!



FLORIDA

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Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace



DECEMBER 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|
|  | | | <p>1</p> <p><i>Isaiah 25,6-10a</i> <i>Psalms 22,1-6</i> <i>Matthew 15, 29-37</i></p> | <p>2</p> <p><i>Isaiah 26,1-6</i> <i>Psalms 117</i> <i>Matthew 7, 21,24-27</i></p> | <p>3</p> <p><i>Saint Francis Xavier</i> <i>First Friday</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 25,6-10a</i> <i>Psalms 22,1-6</i> <i>Matthew 15, 29-37</i></p> | <p>4</p> <p><i>Saint John Damascus,</i> <i>First Saturday</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 25,6-10a</i> <i>Psalms 22,1-6</i> <i>Matthew 15, 29-37</i></p> |
| <p>5</p> <p><i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 11 1-10</i> <i>Psalms 71</i> <i>Romans 15,4-9</i> <i>Matthew 31-12</i></p> | <p>6</p> <p><i>Saint Nicholas,</i> <i>(Patron of Children)</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 35,1-11</i> <i>Psalms 84</i> <i>Luke 5,17-26</i></p> | <p>7</p> <p><i>Saint Ambrose</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 40,1-11</i> <i>Psalms 95</i> <i>Matthew 18, 12-14</i></p> | <p>8</p> <p><i>Immaculate Conception</i></p> <p><i>Genesis 3,9-15.20</i> <i>Psalms 97</i> <i>Ephesians 1,3-6.11-12</i> <i>Luke 1,26-38</i></p> | <p>9</p> <p><i>Isaiah 48,17-19</i> <i>Psalms 1,1-6</i> <i>Matthew 11,16-19</i></p> | <p>10</p> <p><i>Isaiah 25,6-10a</i> <i>Psalms 22,1-6</i> <i>Matthew 15, 29-37</i></p> | <p>11</p> <p><i>San Damasus</i></p> <p><i>Ecclesiastes 48,1-4.9-11</i> <i>Psalms 79</i> <i>Matthew 17,10-13</i></p> |
| <p>12</p> <p><i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Our Lady of</i> <i>Guadalupe</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 35,1-6a.10</i> <i>Psalms 145</i> <i>Santiago 5,7-10</i> <i>Matthew 12,2-11</i></p> | <p>13</p> <p><i>Saint Lucy</i></p> <p><i>Numbers 24,2-7.15-17a</i> <i>Psalms 24</i> <i>Matthew 21,23-27</i></p> | <p>14</p> <p><i>Saint John of the</i> <i>Cross</i></p> <p><i>Zephaniah 3,1-2.9-13</i> <i>Psalms 33</i> <i>Matthew 21,28-32</i></p> | <p>15</p> <p><i>Isaiah 45,6b-8.18.21b-26</i> <i>Psalms 84</i> <i>Luke 7,19-23</i></p> | <p>16</p> <p><i>Isaiah 54,1-10</i> <i>Psalms 29</i> <i>Luke 7,24-30</i></p> | <p>17</p> <p><i>Genesis 49,2.8-10</i> <i>Psalms 71</i> <i>Matthew 1,1-17</i></p> | <p>18</p> <p><i>Jeremiah 23,5-8</i> <i>Psalms 71</i> <i>Matthew 1,18-24</i></p> |
| <p>19</p> <p><i>4th Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 7,10-14</i> <i>Psalms 23</i> <i>Romans 1,1-7</i> <i>Matthew 1,18-24</i></p> | <p>20</p> <p><i>Isaiah 7,10-14</i> <i>Psalms 23</i> <i>Luke 1,26-38</i></p> | <p>21</p> <p><i>San Pedro Canisio,</i> <i>Sacerdote y Doctor</i> <i>De la Iglesia</i></p> <p><i>Canticle 2,8-14</i> <i>Psalms 123</i> <i>Luke 1,39-45</i></p> | <p>22</p> <p><i>Samuel 1,24-28</i> <i>1 Sm 2,1,4-8</i> <i>Luke 1,46-56</i></p> | <p>23</p> <p><i>Malachi 3,1-4;4,5-6</i> <i>Psalms 24</i> <i>Luke 1,57-66</i></p> | <p>24</p> <p><i>Isaiah 9,1-3.5-6</i> <i>Psalms 95</i> <i>Titus 2,11-14</i> <i>Luke 2,1-14</i></p> | <p>25</p> <p><i>Nativity of the Lord</i> <i>Christmas Day</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 52,7-10</i> <i>Psalms 97</i> <i>Hebrews 1,1-6</i> <i>John 1,1-18</i></p> |
| <p>26</p> <p><i>The Holy Family</i></p> <p><i>Ecclesiastes 3,2-6.12-14</i> <i>Psalms 127</i> <i>Colossians 3,12-21</i> <i>Matthew 2,13-15</i></p> | <p>27</p> <p><i>Saint John, Apostle &</i> <i>Evangelist</i></p> <p><i>1 John 1,1-4</i> <i>Psalms 96</i> <i>John 20,1-8</i></p> | <p>28</p> <p><i>Holy Innocents</i></p> <p><i>1 John 1,5;2,2</i> <i>Psalms 123</i> <i>Matthew 2,13-18</i></p> | <p>29</p> <p><i>Saint Thomas Becket</i></p> <p><i>1 John 2,3-11</i> <i>Psalms 95</i> <i>Luke 2,22-25</i></p> | <p>30</p> <p><i>1 John 2,3-11</i> <i>Psalms 95</i> <i>Luke 2,22-25</i></p> | <p>31</p> <p><i>1 John 2,18-21</i> <i>Psalms 95</i> <i>John 1,1-18</i></p> | |



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Second Sunday of Advent December 5, 2010

Readings: Isaiah 11, 1-10; Psalm 71; Romans 15, 4-9; Matthew 3, 1-12

The Preaching of John the Baptist

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching, "Turn away from your sins," he said, "Because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert, 'Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.

When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptized, he said to them, "You snakes who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins and don't think you can escape punishment by saying that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these rocks and make descendants for Abraham! The ax is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire. I baptize you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out." (Matthew 3, 1-12)

Reflection

In the readings of this week show us that wherever God is, people live in the light and seek peace.

John calls us to change our lives in preparation for the coming of God.

How do they and their families prepare for Christmas? Will some relatives come? How do they prepare for visitors? What do they look forward to?

Share about the story and the things that John told people around him. John insists that in order to prepare for the coming of God, we need to make some changes; live honestly and in truth. Is there something we would like to change in ourselves and in others? Share

Activity

Bring to the group white paper. Give one to each children. Ask them to divided in two.

Ask them to write in one side the things they think should change. In the other side write what they would do to change them.

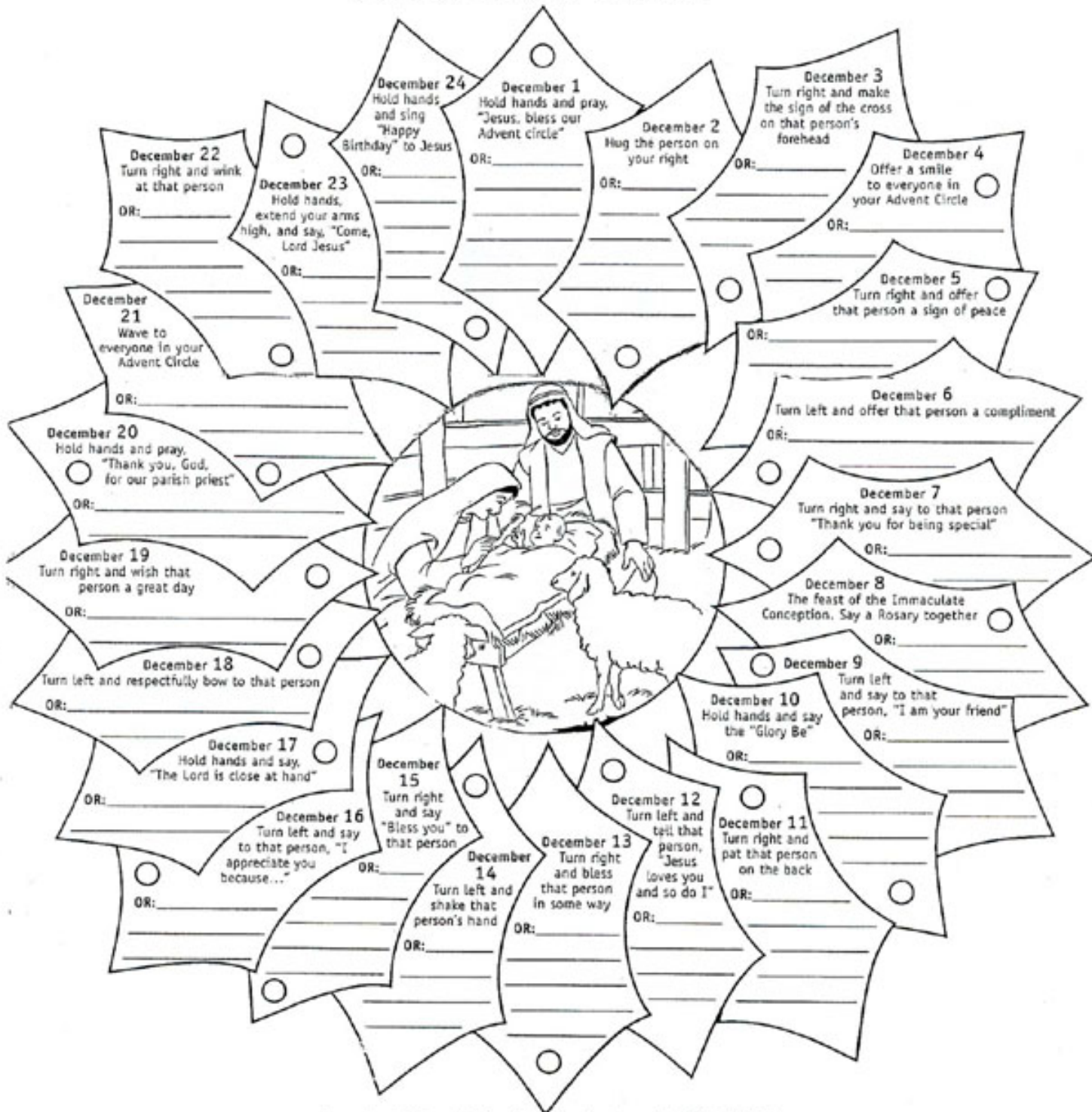
Teach them about the Christmas wreath. Encourage them to do it with their families in preparation for Christmas.

Prayer

Lord, in the midst of preparation for Christmas, sometimes we are too tense and treat each other harshly. Remind us that you are love and we should treat others with love too. Amen



ADVENT CIRCLE OF LOVE



- As we begin Advent let's get together to share the life and love that Jesus taught us.
- Read each of the holly leaves to see what you can do together. If you prefer to do something else write it in the holly leaves.
 - Each day color the circle if you have accomplish what appears there. Feel the excitement for each act of love you have done.
 - At Christmas day count the painted circles. This is the gift you will give Jesus. Between your friends and family you will feel how love and friendship grows in this circle of love.

JESSE TREE BIBLE SEARCH

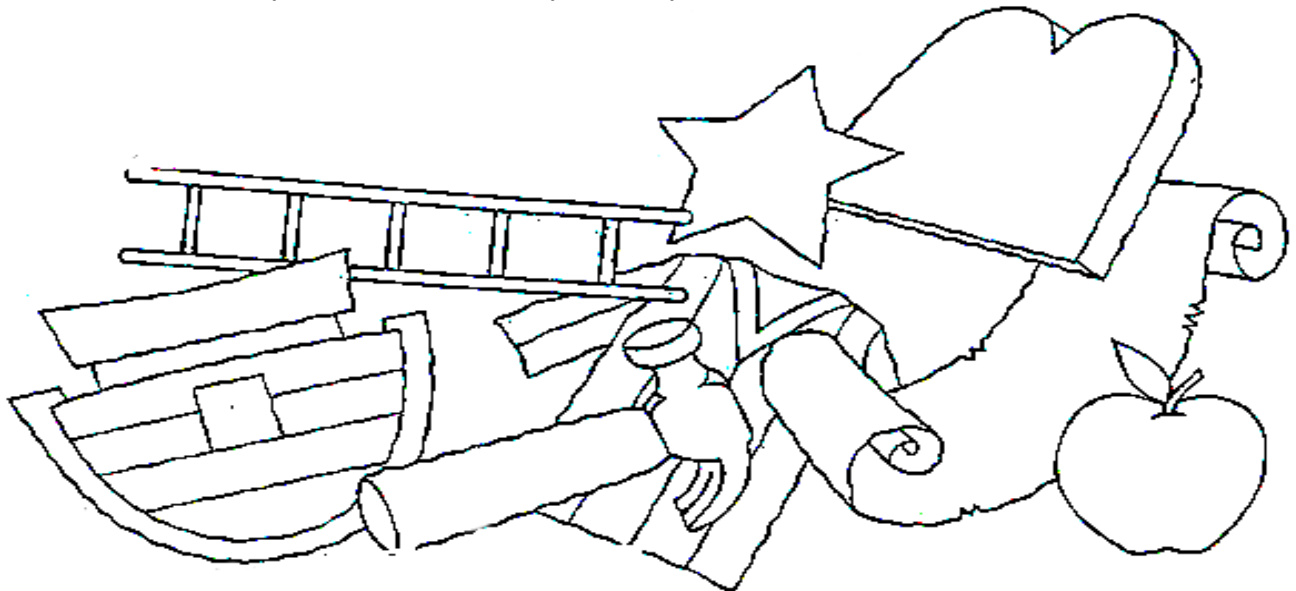
The following people are ancestors of Jesus. Look up the Scripture verses for each person in the Bible and read them. Find out from each Scripture passage the correct symbol for each individual and write in the blank next to the person's name. All of the symbols are listed in the Answer Bank at the bottom.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |

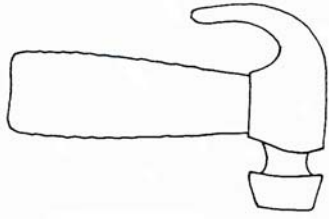
ANSWER BANK

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

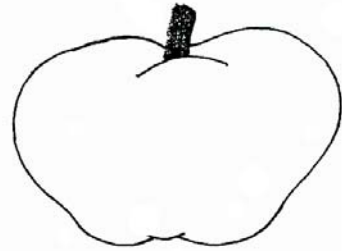
Share these symbols with someone in your family



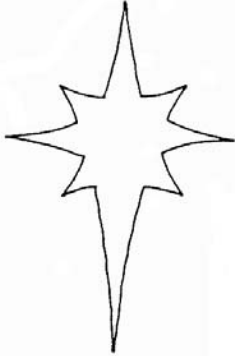
Jesse Tree Ornaments



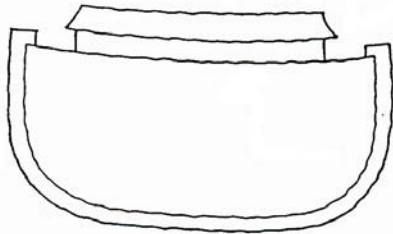
JOSEPH



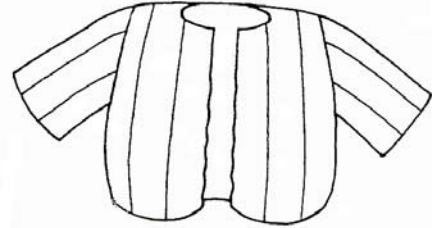
ADAM AND EVE



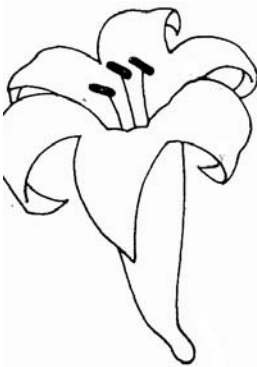
ABRAHAM



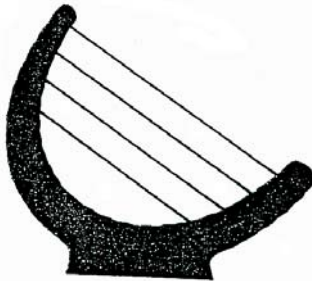
NOAH



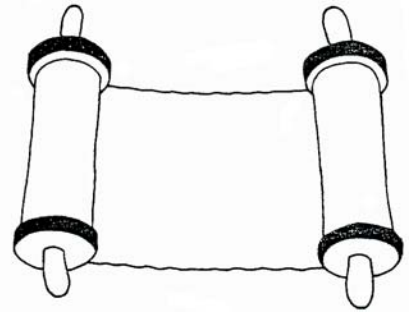
JOSEPH



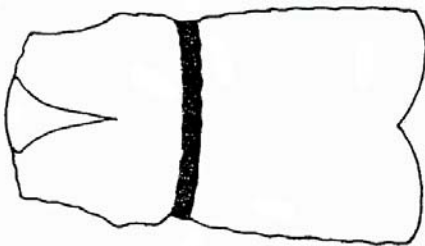
MARY



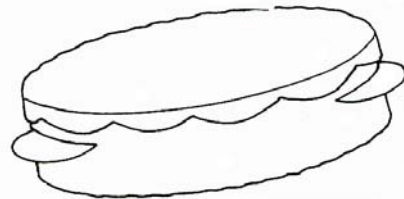
DAVID



ISAIAH



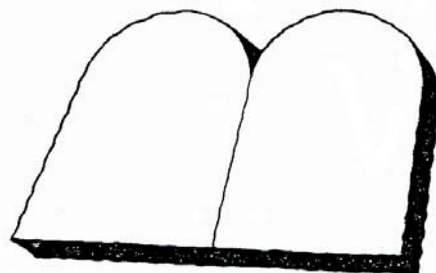
JOHN THE BAPTIST



MIRIAM



JACOB



MOSES



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2010

Readings: Isaiah 35, 1-6a.10; Psalm 145; James 5, 7-10; Matthew 11, 2-11

The Messengers from John the Baptist

When John the Baptist heard in prison about the things that Christ was doing, he sent some of his disciples to him. "Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean, the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!" While John's disciples were leaving, Jesus spoke about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass bending in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that live in palaces! Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. For John is the one whom the scripture says: 'God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John. (Matthew 11, 2-11)

Reflection

To the questions of John, Jesus answers with information about the good works, the fruits of the proclamation of salvation. We are from God if our works are works of service and love for others. John wants to know what Jesus does and asks. Are you interested in knowing more about God? Why do we think some people are good? Because of their money, their movies, or the sports they play? Whom do they admire? What actions show others that we are the people who do the works of God? Tell Jesus about the things you have done well this week to help your parents, teachers, and friends. What more could we have done? Why didn't we do it? What are the good works you are planning to do this week to prepare for Christmas? Share

Activity

Prepare some cards with good deeds you are going to do as gifts for you love ones. In the next page you will find some ideas. Share with the group what each one will offer.

Prayer

Lord, as we prepare for your coming this Christmas, we want to learn to do the works that you ask us; caring for one another, comforting those who suffer, aiding the poor in their need. Show us Lord, how to sow those seeds of love in the world. Amen





The greatest Gift ever given

Jesus is God's gift to us...



CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT LOVING

May be used any time this year.



FROM: _____




Love
Gifts




Color & cut
These gifts cards

Give them for Christmas

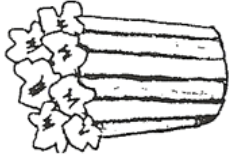
TO: _____




I WILL PREPARE
FOR YOU YOUR
FAVORITE
SNACK




TO: _____




I WILL WATCH
YOUR FAVORITE
VIDEO WITH
YOU




TO: _____




I WILL HELP
YOU WITH
YOUR HOME
WORKS




TO: _____




I WILL PLAY
YOUR FAVORITE
GAME WITH YOU



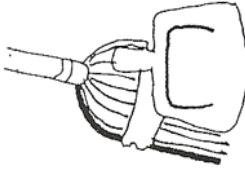
TO: _____




I WILL SING A
SONG FOR YOU




TO: _____




I WILL HELP
YOU WITH
YOUR WORKS




TO: _____




TODAY I WILL
SAY A PRAYER
JUST FOR YOU




TO: _____




TODAY I WILL
WALK WITH
YOU




TO: _____




I WILL HELP
YOU CLEAN
YOUR ROOM



TO: _____



I WILL HELP
YOU WHEN YOU
BABYSIT





The Feast of the
Immaculate Conception

December 8

Learn this prayer:

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

*To you Celestial Princess,
Holy Virgin Mary,
I offer this day
my soul, my life, my hearth.
Look upon me with compassion;
You are my Mother,
never leave me*

Our lady of Guadalupe

December 12





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Fourth Sunday of advent December 19, 2010

Readings: Isaiah 7, 10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1, 1-7; Matthew 1, 18-24

The Birth of Jesus Christ

This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy spirit. Joseph was a man, who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she was conceived. She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel" (which means, "God is with us").

So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. But he had no sexual relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus. (Matthew 1, 18-24)

Reflection

Mary makes possible the coming of God to the world through her acceptance. Joseph, the just man, places all his trust in God and believes God's word.

Why were Mary and Joseph so surprised? Do you think only God could have done something like that? Do your parents and teachers sometimes asked you to do difficult things?

Speak with the children about Joseph. Do they know men who are good and are like Joseph?

Joseph trusts in God despite all appearances and Decides to take care of Mary and her baby.

Mary accepts God's proposal although it is very difficult. Jesus can come into the world this way.

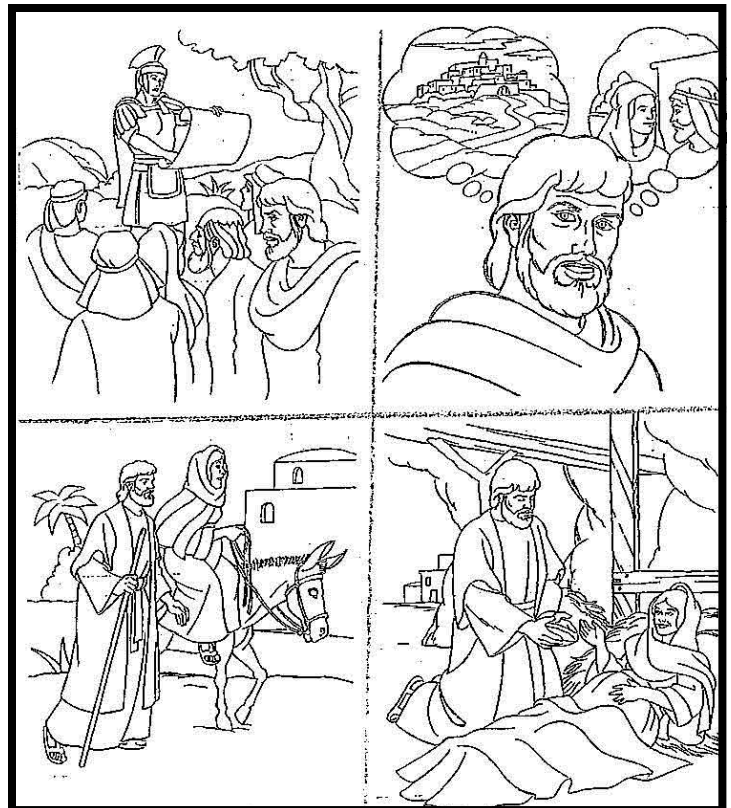
Do you think God may be asking to do something now? Share

Activity

Make a list of the gift Jesus will like to receive. The gifts he might like are good actions and service to others. Share in the group what each one is doing to prepare themselves for the coming of Jesus.

Prayer

As we get closer to Christmas, Lord we want to participate in your coming into the world saying yes like Mary to a life of generous service, of self giving and sacrifice for others. Be born in us Jesus. Come soon, Lord. Amen





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Christmas, December 25, 2010

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

The Word of Life

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 comes 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

What do you think of the story of Mary and Joseph asking for room at the inn? How do you feel about the story of the birth of Jesus? Do you think that because he was God, he should have had more comfort? Why would it be like that?

*Imagine you have a house in Bethlehem. Do you offer it to Joseph and Mary? What excuses would you give to tell them to go to another place? Mary and Joseph did not find a place to stay. Do you know someone whom everyone rejects (for instance, someone at school who has no one to play with, or someone who is never invited to parties)? What can you do? **Share***

Activity

Do a living nativity scene. Distribute papers with the different characters. Dramatize the story. If possible invite the parents and made a celebration. Encourage them to give Jesus the gift they prepare for him during Advent.

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. Teach us to share your love, to change the world with you. **Amen.***





*“Glory to God in the highest
And peace on earth”*

Luke 2:14



Merry Christmas to

*With Love,
From*





Friends of Jesus and Mary

The Holy Family December 26, 2010

Readings: Sirach 3, 2-6; Psalm 127; Colossians 3, 12-21; Matthew 2, 13-15

The Escape to Egypt

After they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died. This was done to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, "I called my Son out of Egypt." (Matthew 2, 13-15)

Reflexion

Jesus suffered a forced migration, like many of us. Imagine the many difficulties Joseph had to go through, traveling with a baby and trying to avoid danger. Have you ever heard stories about your parents or grandparents when they left their countries to reach the U.S.? What were their difficulties? Why do they go through so many risks? How were they treated when they got here? What signs of care and protection do your own families give you?

Share

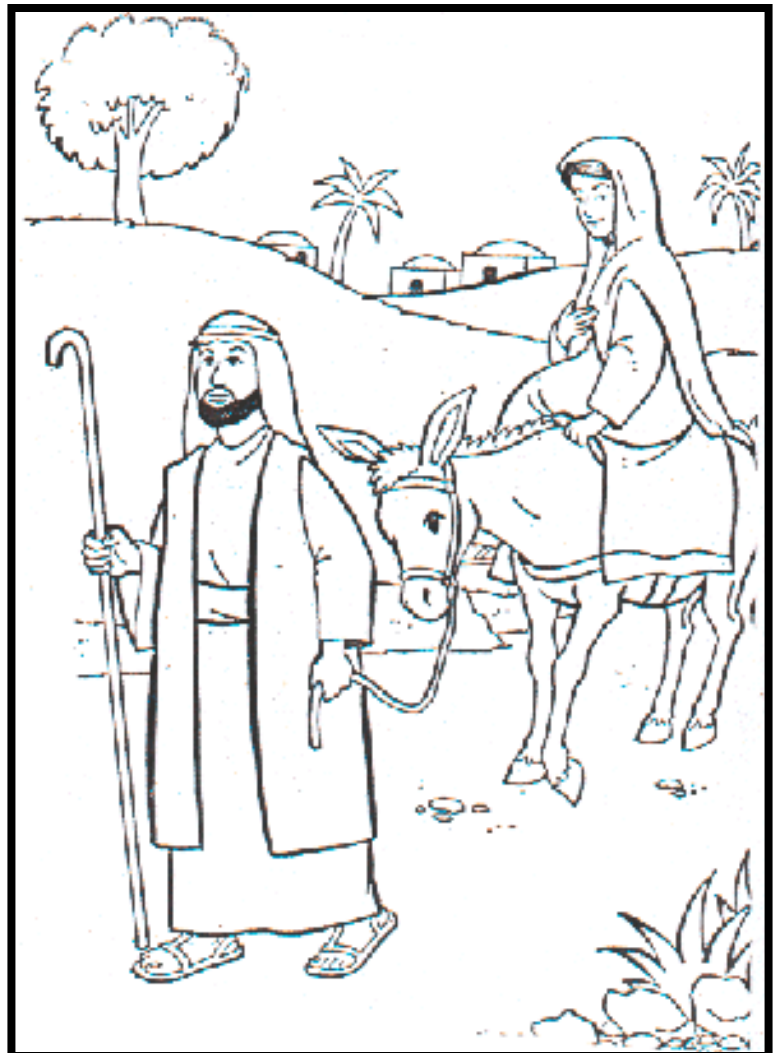
Activity

Dramatize the scene of the flight into Egypt imagine some of the adventures they went through. How might the Egyptians have treated the Holy Family?

Do the Family Tree of Jesus, that is on the next page.

Prayer

Lord, we have come this far going through difficulties and successes in order to protect our families. You walked with us. Continue with us on our journey through life. Give us your feelings of compassion, generosity and forgiveness. Unite us in your love, which is the strongest bond. Amen



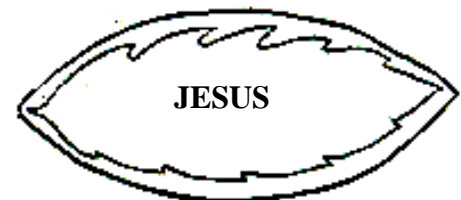
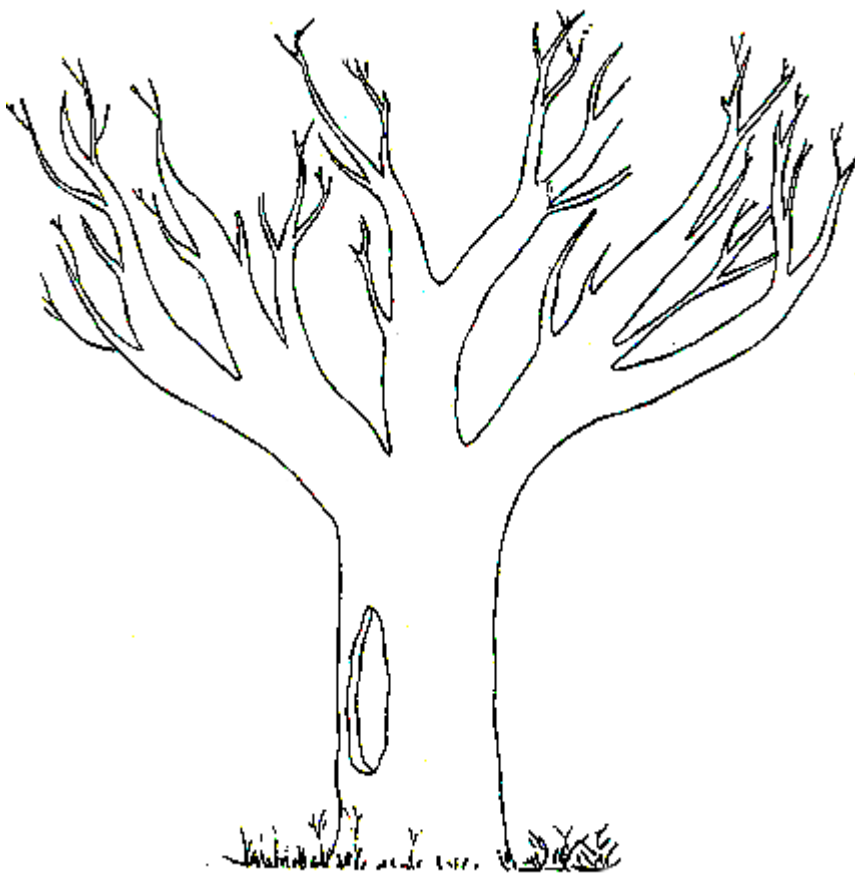
Name: _____

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

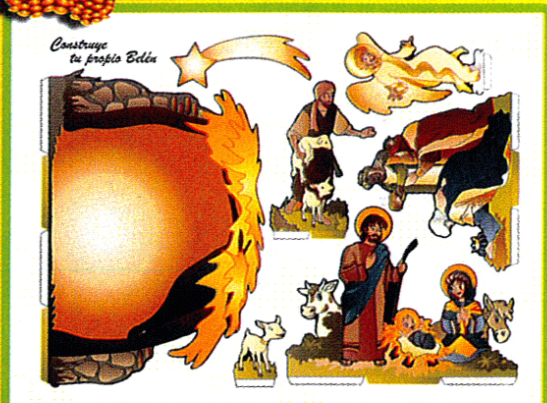
The Holy Family

Build Your Own Nativity Scene



Here you have a Nativity scene to cut out. Do you like it? If you want to give one to a friend, make sure to make a color photocopy before cutting it out.

VERY EASY TO SET UP



See the next page.



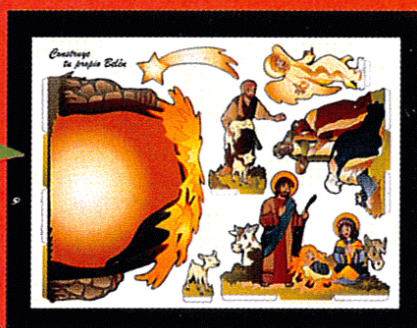
YOU'LL NEED:

- * Black and green poster-board or construction paper
- * Pencil, glue and scissors

2 Then cut the figures along the black edge. That way the figures will last longer.

3 Fold the flaps, the white ones behind and the greens in front.

1 Glue the fold of the paper to the black poster-board.



4 Calculate where you are going to put the different figures on the green poster-board and mark it with a pencil. Cut the edges of the green poster-board in a little bit of an irregular shape, as if it were a paint spill.



That's all? Great, all you have left to do is to glue each figure in its place and sing a Christmas Carol to such a beautiful Baby that has come to save you. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

*Build Your Own
Nativity Scene*

