



December 2012 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. Remember that is time to give love to those people that are alone and don't have a family near them. Share with them.

- December 3 Saint Francis Xavier
- December 6 Saint Nicholas
- December 8 Immaculate Conception
- December 9 Saint Juan Diego
- December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 13 Saint Lucy

Enclosed materials:

- 1. Monthly Calendar & Sunday Gospel
- 2. Christmas Card
- 3. Advent wreath

1. Saint Nicholas

2. Saint Francis Xavier

3. The Birth of Jesus

4. Immaculate Conception

- Suggested videos (All available in the video "Video Club") 4. Christmas
 - 5. Messenger of Guadalupe
 - 6. The Angel Song Cherub Wings

We would also like to thank you for the efforts you have performed to bring the word of God to the children, Friends of Jesus Mary.

In the Internet 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. May God's blessings shine upon you and your families during these special times.

5. Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 14 Saint John of the Cross

December 27 Saint John the Apostle

December 28 Holy Innocents Days

December 25 Christmas Day

December 30 Holy Family

- 6. Christmas
- 7. St. Leocadia
- 8. The Holy Mass Game





DECEMBER 2012

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Jesus is Born Merry Christmas Is 9:6				1 First Saturday Saint Eloy Rev 22, 1-7 Psalm 94 Lk 21, 34-36
s	1st Sunday of Advent Gaint Barbara Jr 33, 14-16	3 Saint Francis Xavier	4	5	6 Saint Nicholas	7	8 Gn 3, 9-15-20
	alm 24; 4bc-5 1Ts 3, 12-4 Lk 21, 25-28	Isaías 2, 1-5 Psalm 121 Mt 8, 5-11	lsaías 11, 1-10 Psalm 71 Lk 10, 21-24	Isaías 25, 6-10 Psalm 22 Mt 15, 29-37	lsaías 26, 1-6 Psalm 117 Mt 9, 27-31	lsaías 29, 17-24 Psalm 26 Mt 9, 27-31	Psalm 97 Eph 1, 3-6; 11-12 Lk 1, 26-38
9	2nd Sunday of Advent	10	11	12 Lady of Guadalupe	13 Saint Lucy	14 Saint John of The Cross	15
FI	Ba 5, 1-9 Psalm 125 p 1, 4-6, 8-11 Lk 3, 1-6	lsaías 35, 1-10 Psalm 84 Lk 5, 17-26	lsaías 40, 1-11 Psalm 95 Mt 18, 12-14	Ecl 24, 23-31 Psalm 66 Lk 1, 39-48	lsaías 41, 13-20 Psalm 144 Mt 11, 11-15	lsaías 48, 17-19 Psalm 1 Mt 11, 16-19	Ecl 48, 1-4, 9-11 Psalm 79 Mt 17, 10-13
16	3rd Sunday of Advent	17 Saint Lazaro	18	19	20	21	22
2	Sf 3, 14-18 Psalm/Is 12 2-3 Fp 4, 4-7 Lk 3, 10-18	Gn 49, 2-8-10 Psalm 71 Mt 1, 1-17	Jr 23, 5-8 Psalm 71 Mt 1, 18-24	Jg 13, 2-7 24-25/ Psalm 70 Lk 1, 5-25	lsaías 7, 10-14 Psalm 23 Lk 1, 26-38	Cantar de los Cantares 2, 8-14 Psalm 32 Lk 1, 39-45	1 Sam 1, 24-28 Psalm/1 Sam 2, 1-8 Lk 1, 46-56
23		24 Lk 1, 67-69	25 Nativity of the Lord	26 Saint Esteban	27 Sain John Evangelist	28 Holy Saints	29 Saint Thomas Becket
	Lk 1, 39-45	Jn 1, 1-18	ls 52, 7-10 Psalm 97 Juan 1, 1-18	Acts 6, 8-10; 7, 54-60 Psalm 30 Mt 10, 17-22	1 John 1, 1-4 Psalm 96 Jn 20, 2-8	1 Jn 1, 5; 2, 2 Psalm 96 Mt 2, 13-18	1 Jn 2, 3-11 Psalm 95 Lk 2, 22-35
Si	Holy Family 3, 3-7; 12-14 Psalm 127 Col 3, 12-21 Lk 2, 41-52	31 Jn 1, 1-18	NOTES:				

Message from Father Andrés

December 2012

Entering "the Year of Faith", we were able to renew and deepen our fraternal ties and receive formation as the ministry of "Friends of Jesus and Mary" during the Congress in Aruba.

Our faith, confirmed with acts of charity, must be the motor that moves our lives and all our pastoral activities.

Once again, we are at the door of the new year which begins with Advent, the **time that is totally ignored** by the world, and which <u>penetrates into our parochial activities</u>. How do you celebrate a party without preparation?

How do you receive a newborn baby without preparation? Jesus was born as a child to call our attention to the fact that he needs us, just as a newborn baby needs his mother – his parents, his family, his community. Hopefully, we will not ignore this season, but will prepare our hearts to receive each child of our ministry with the attention that newborn Jesus requires.

Hopefully, each child that is born and lives in our neighborhood can find a 'manger' under the blanket of our ministry and receive what is most essential to their life – Love and faith to give meaning to their existence.

No child should hear the voice: 'there is no room here'. We should be messengers 'pro life' and pro a worthy life – a life that finds fullness in Christ - God made man for our salvation.

During the beautiful season of Advent, let us live the emotion of <u>waiting</u> for a new life, of <u>cultivating</u> a new life, and of <u>preparing</u> the necessary conditions to receive each child in our ministry and each child that seeks our attention.

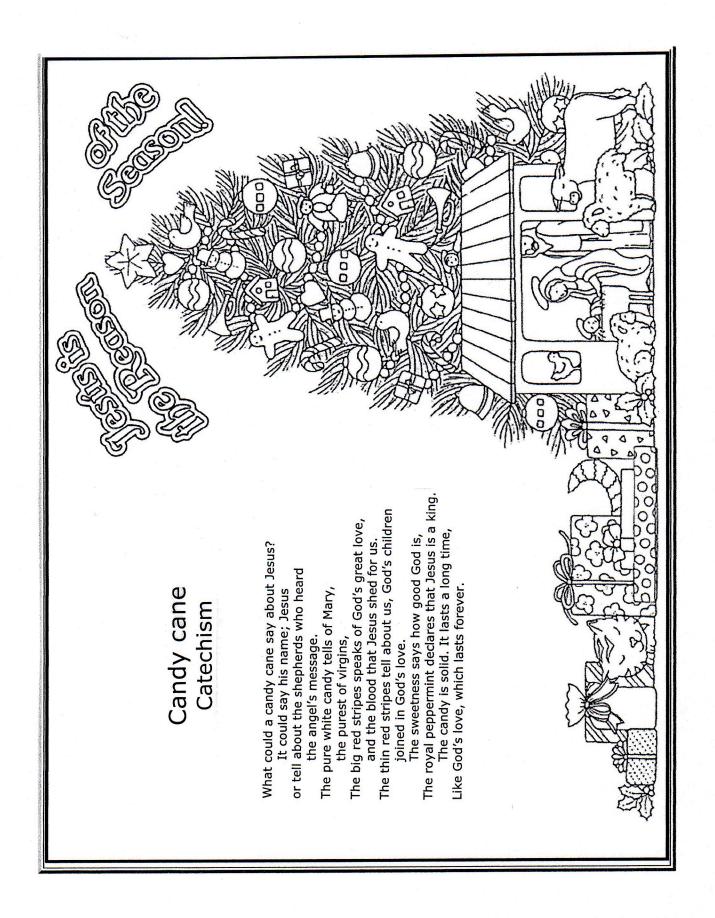
The commercial world does not know the season of Advent. It prepares us to receive presents from "Father Noel", to meet each other at the table, to sing Christmas carols, to assemble mangers. All seems good and pretty, but the <u>truth is another and much more profound</u>: God becomes man for our salvation. **God becomes human to make us more divine.**

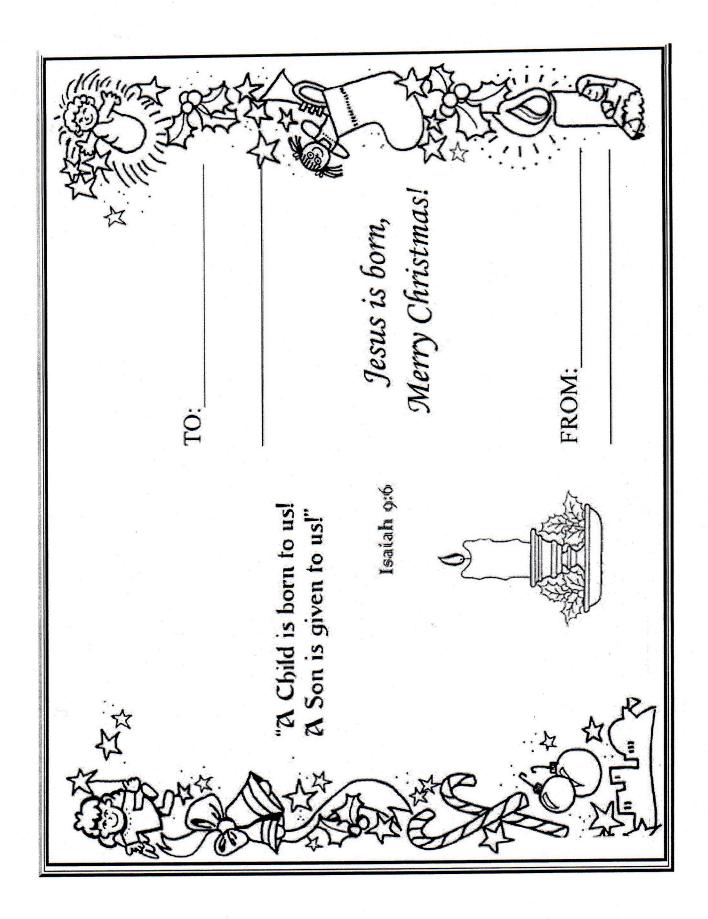
God starts his human life as a child to call our attention to the <u>value of life of each creature</u> <u>from conception</u>; to the <u>value and dignity of each pregnant mother</u>; and finally, to the <u>value</u> <u>and dignity of each child</u>.

The season of Christmas is very pretty and very celebrated, but so should be the time we share with pregnant mothers, and with each child from the moment of natural conception.

Celebrating this Advent of the 'Year of Faith', let us try to deepen our faith of the human and divine nature of Jesus, and give to our human life and apostolic service a more spiritual and divine character.

May God accompany you in this season of **ADVENT** in preparation for **CHRISTMAS**.









Florida Center for Peace

Friends of Jesus and Mary

First Sunday of Advent December 2 2012 Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Psalm 25; 1 Thessalonians.3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

There will be strange things happening to the sun, the moon, and the stars. On earth whole countries will be in despair, afraid of the roar of the sea and the raging tides. People will faint from fear as they wait for what is coming over the whole earth, for the powers in space will be driven from their courses.

Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near." "Be careful not to let yourselves become occupied with too much feasting and drinking and with the worries of this life, or that Day may suddenly catch you like a trap. For it will come upon all people everywhere on earth. Be on watch and pray always that you will have the strength to go safely through all those things that will happen and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36)

Reflection

Luke explains the signs of the coming of Jesus not as a treat of catastrophes, but as the fulfillment of God's promise of liberation for all.

What do they expect this Christmas? Are their families busy and anxious about buying gifts and spending money? Do they know what is being celebrated this Christmas? Good actions and sacrifices are the things Jesus likes. Meditate and share what they will offer in this Advent Season.

Activity

Explain the children the meaning of the Advent Wreath. There is information on the next page. Encourage them to do good deeds to prepare a manger for Jesus. Prepare a small basket to place the good deeds. This is a simple way to instruct them to grow in virtue. They will feel very happy to prepare with their good actions a nice manger to place Jesus.

Prayer

Jesus, you come to our family this Christmas, and we want to receive you with joy. During this Advent , help us to be attentive. Help us not to forget you, not to become distracted with other things while we await you. May you find us rich in love when you come. Amen

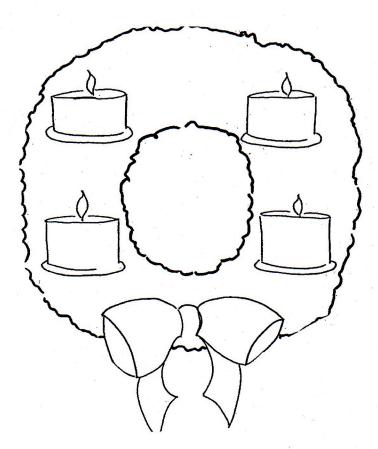


ADVENT WREATH

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.



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 o 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, brightness 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 helps 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 Lor 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)

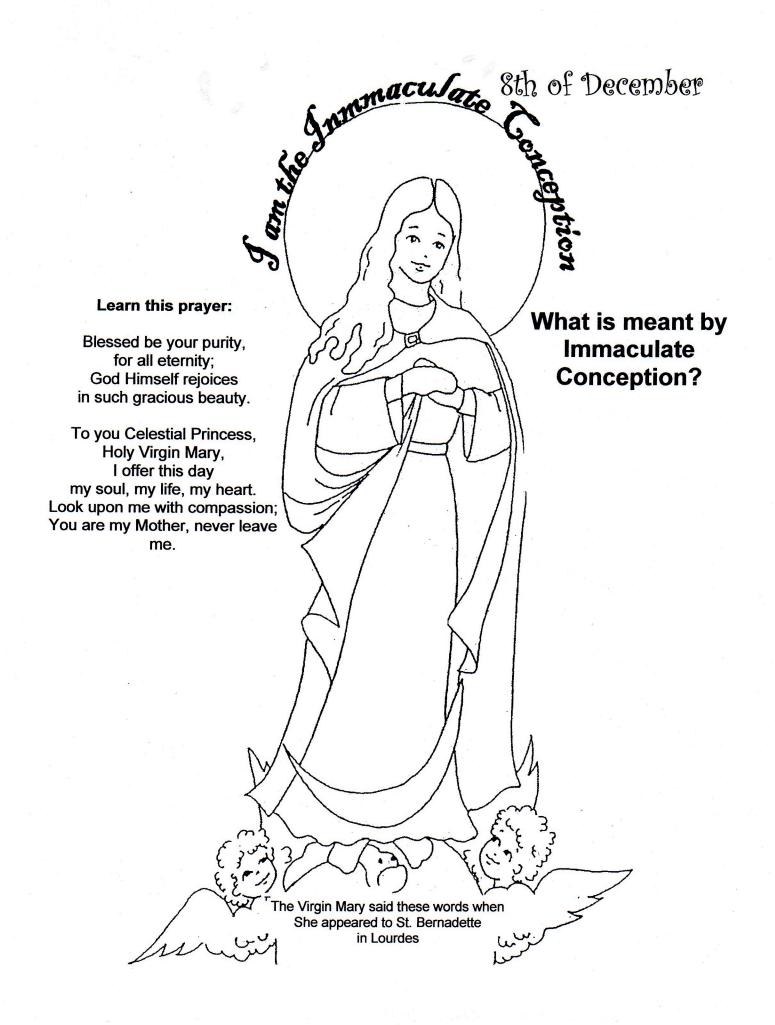
Week 4 (Light 4 candles) Quiet the worries and fears in our hearts, Lord. Give us your peace. Thank you for the life you share with us. Help us to share that life with others. Come, Lord Jesus! (Pause for silent prayer)

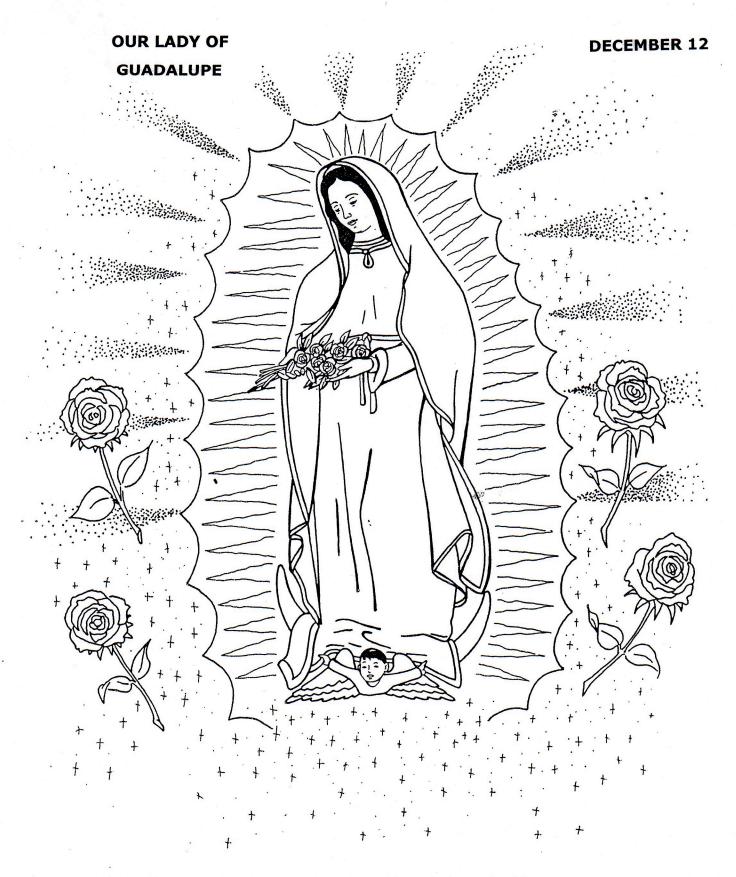
Make an Advent Wreath

- You can make an advent wreath for each child of your group Materials needed:
- 1) One small paper plate 2) One donut for each
- 3) Four birthday candles three purple and one pink
- 4) A small green doilet How to prepare it:

Place the donut in the paper plate over doilet. Open the holes for the candles on the donut.

Spray it to preserve it. When they are dry, place the candle on the donut and decorate it with a ribbon.





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."

La Virgen cogió las flores con su mano y le dijo; "Hijo mío, el mas pequeño, esta diversidad de rosas es la prueba y señal que llevarás al Obispo."





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Friends of Jesus and Mary

Second Sunday of Advent December 9, 2012 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, Herodwas ruler of Galilee, and his brother Phillip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Anna's 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

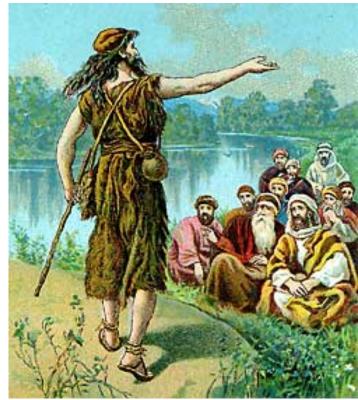
John calls for a change of life to prepare the way of the Lord. We must straighten what is crooked in our lives, remove the obstacles and walls built by selfishness. John says that obstacle must be overcome so that Jesus can be with us. Is there anything in your home and family that you think is not 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 and 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**







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Friends of Jesus and Mary Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2012

Readings: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm Isaiah 12, 3.4b 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.

Praver

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







Florida Center for Peace

Friends of Jesus and Mary Fourth Sunday of advent December 23, 2012 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?

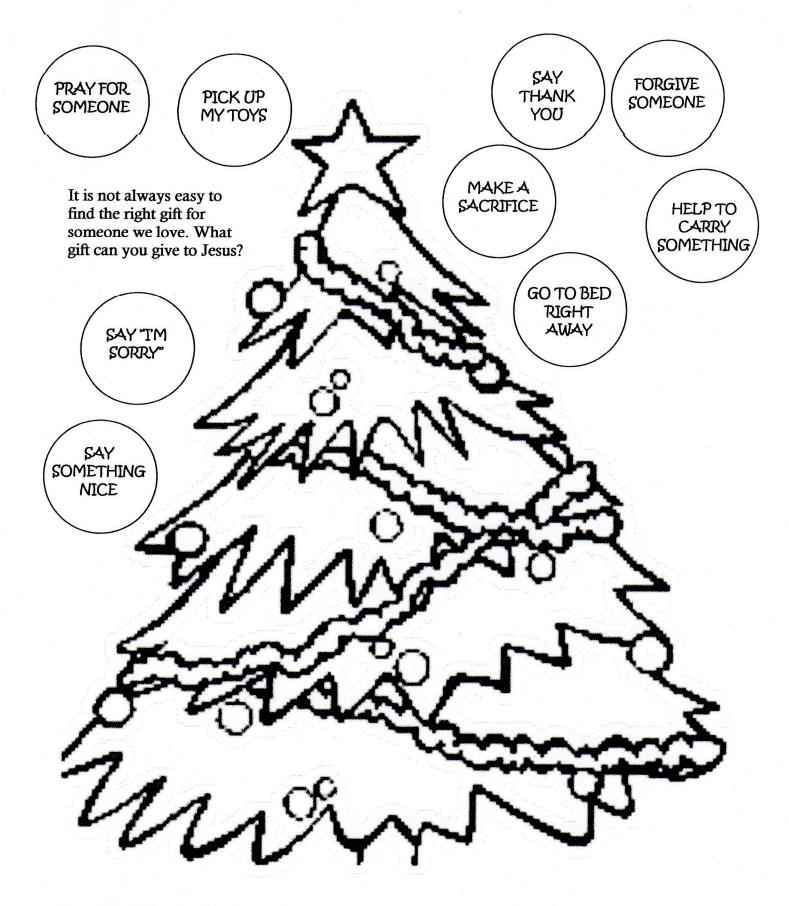
Activity

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 the joy and why. Collect the toys or gifts they pledge to bring last week for the children who do not have any.

Prayer

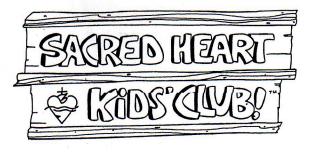
Loving Jesus. True God and true man, we thank you for becoming one of us. Teach us to share your peace in our family, neighborhood, city and country. **Amen**





Your Good Deeds of Welcome For Jesus

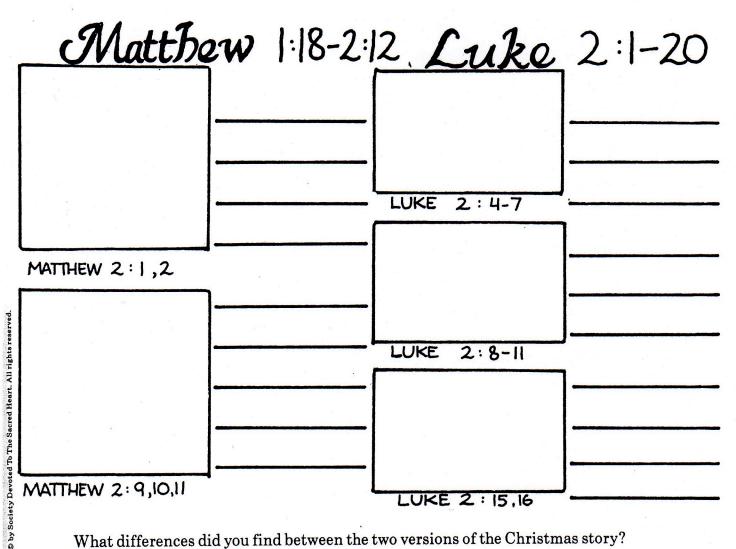
Hang this tree where you will see it. Each time you help someone, color a part of the Christmas Tree branches green. When you say a prayer for someone, color a bulb. On Christmas day, after Mass, color the star.



Christmas

Search The Scriptures

The Birth of Jesus is an important and joyful event in our lives as Christians. Read the story in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Draw a picture of each passage in the squares and write next to them what you read. Then think of the answer to the question below and discuss.



What differences did you find between the two versions of the Christmas story?





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Friends of Jesus and Mary Holy Family December 30, 2012

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**



THE HOLY MASS CENTRAL GAME EXPLANATION

Using the board provided in the next page This game is played like a typical board game, with dice and tokens.

Each player must respond to a question and if they respond correctly, they can go again. The first player to reach the last space wins.

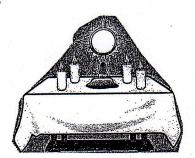


If you fall on a Paschal Lamb. You jump to the next Lamb and roll again.

Paschal Lamb: Symbol of Christ, who died and rose again, who was sacrificed on the Cross for our salvation.



If you fall on the wolf, enemy of the lamb, go back three spaces.



If you fall on Eucharistic, Adoration, move forward Three spaces.

Answers:

- 1. The Jewish Passover
- 3. It is a type of bread God sent the people of Israel! when they were traveling towards the promised Land. It is a symbol of the Eucharist because Jesus is the living bread come down from heaven that nourished us on our way to Heaven.
- 7. Priest, Altar and Victim.
- 8. In Body, soul, Blood and Divinity.
- 10. St. Tarcisius
- 12. 1. Be in the state of grace, without mortal sin.2. Be aware of whom I am about to receive.
- 3. Keep the Eucharistic fast.
- 13. Purity
- 14. Monstrance, for Eucharistic Adoration
- 16. The bread is transformed into the Body of Christ and the wine into the Blood of Christ
- 18. Pope Benedict XVI
- 19. Go to Mass on Sunday and Holy days of obligation
- 21. Alb, chasuble, cincture, stole
- 23. a sacrilege is committed.
- 24. The multiplication of the loaves and fish
- 26. Tabernacle
- 27. Kneeling down.
- 29. Prayer of Thanksgiving

30. Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me Blood of Christ, inebriate me, Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Separated from you let me never be, from the malignant Enemy, defend me, at the hour of death, call me. To come to you bid me, That I may praise you in the company of your saints, for all eternity. Amen

- 32. Ambo
- 33. Sacrilege: treating holy objects without respect
- 36. There is no consecration.
- 37. O my God. I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all ,my sins, because they of your punishments, but most of all because they offended you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve. With the help of your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen
- 38. It indicates Jesus presence in the Tabernacle.
- 39. I commit mortal sin.
- 41. Because it is the day we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection.
- 42. a moment to dialogue with Jesus, pray to Him. Give Him thanks, offer Him something...
- 43. He is in heaven and in the Blessed Sacrament.

