



# Friends of Jesus and Mary

## Amigos de Jesús y María

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**Florida Center for Peace**

December 2016  
Miami, Florida

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

On the last Sunday of November, the preparation for Christmas began, with the first Sunday of Advent. We should tell our children that this is a special time to prepare our self to receive Jesus in our hearts. Enclose you can find some activities.

### IMPORTANT FEAST AND SAINTS:

December 03 Saint Francis Xavier  
December 06 St. Nicholas,  
December 08 The Immaculate Conception,  
December 09 St. Juan Diego  
December 11 St. Damasus,  
December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
December 13 St. Lucia, 20  
December 14 St. John of the Cross  
December 25 Christmas  
December 26 St. Stephen,  
December 27 St. John the Apostle,  
December 28 Holy Innocents

### Enclosed Materials:

- 1) Monthly Calendar
- 2) Sunday's Góspel activities
- 3) Christmas card
- 4) Jesus is the reason for the season
- 5) Advent calendar
- 6) How to make your own Nativity set

### Suggested DVD:

- 1) The day the Sun Danced
- 2) San Nicolas
- 3) Francis Javier
- 4) The birth of Jesus

The ministry of the Friends of Jesus and Mary wish all of you a wonderful and Happy Christmas, and a new year fill with happiness, peace and good health. May God Bless you all.

The Committee of the Friends of Jesus and Mary

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#### FLORIDA

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Friends of Jesus and Mary  
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

December 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Isaiah 26, 1-6 Psalm 117 Matthew 7, 21.24-27	2 FIRST FRIDAY Isaiah 29,17-24 Psalm 26 Matthew 9, 27-31	3 FIRST SATURDAY Isaiah 30, 19-21.23-26 psalm 146 Matthew 9, 35-10,1.6-8
4 2 SUNDAY OF ADVENT Isaiah 11, 1-10 Psalm 71 Ro 15, 4-9 Mathew 3, 1-12	5 Isaiah 35, 1-10 Psalm 84 Luke 5, 17-26	6 St Nicholas Isaiah 40, 1-11 Psalm 95 Matthew 18, 12-14	7 Isaiah 40, 25-31 Psalm 102 Matthew 11, 28-30	8 Immaculate Conception Genesis 3, 9-15.20 Psalm 97 Eph 1, 3-6.11-12 Luke 1, 26-38	9 Isaiah 48, 17-19 Psalm 1 Matthew 11, 16-19	10 Sirach 48, 1-4.9-11 Psalm 79 Matthew 17, 10-13
11 3 SUNDAY OF ADVENT Isaiah 35, 1-6a.10 Psalm 145 James 5, 7-10 Matthew 11, 2-11	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Ga 4, 4-7 Psalm 66 Luke 1, 39-48	13 SAINT LUCY Sf 3, 1-2.9-13 Psalm 33 Matthew 21, 28-32	14 Isaiah 45, 6-25 Psalm 84 Luke 7, 19-23	15 Isaiah 54, 1-10 Psalm 29 Luke 7, 24-30	16 Isaiah 56, 1-3a. 6-8 Psalm 66 John 5, 33-36	17 Gn 49, 2.8-10 Psalm 71 Matthew 1, 1-17
18 4 SUNDAY OF ADVENT Isaiah 7, 10-14 Psalm 23 Romans 1, 1-7 Matthew 1, 18-24	19 Jg 13, 2-7-24-25 Psalm 70 Luke 1, 5-25	20 Isaiah 7, 10-14 Psalm 70 Luke 1, 26-38	21 Co 2, 8-14 Psalm 32 Luke 1, 39-45	22 Isaiah 1, 24-28 Psalm/1S 2, 1-8 Luke 1, 46-56	23 Mi 3, 1-4.23-24 Psalm 24 Luke 1, 57-66	24 2S7, 1-5.8b 12.14a Psalm 1, 67-79
25 NATIVITY OF THE LORD Isaiah 52, 7-10 Psalm 97 He 1, 1-6 John 1, 1-18	26 Acts 6, 8-10; 7, 54-60 Psalm 30 Matthew 10, 17-22	27 1John 1, 1-4 Psalm 95 John 20,2-8	28 2 John 1, 5-2,2 Psalm 123 Matthew 2, 13-18	29 1 John 2, 3-11 Psalm 95 Luke 2, 22-35	30 Sirac 3, 2-6.12.14 Psalm 127 Col 3, 12-21 Matthew 2, 13-15	31 2 John 2, 18-21 Psalm 95 John 1, 1-18



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## ADVENT CALENDAR

<p>Sunday First Week of Advent</p>  <p>Prayer: <i>To you, My God, I lift my soul. I trust in you</i></p>	<p>Monday Mary and Joseph lived happily at Nazareth, doing their daily work with joy.</p> <p><b><i>I will do my daily work well today, and with joy for God</i></b></p>	<p>Tuesday Joseph received the order from the Roman ruler to go to Bethlehem and register. He obeyed the order and got ready to go.</p> <p><b><i>I will obey my parents, teachers, and others in charge of me</i></b></p>	<p>Wednesday Mary got their house ready and began to pack what they would need for the trip. She did so without complaint.</p> <p><b><i>I will not complaint today, even if I must do things I do not like</i></b></p>	<p>Thursday Mary and Joseph traveled by donkey.</p> <p><b><i>I will be happy with the things I have and not ask my family for more or better things</i></b></p>	<p>Friday Mary and Joseph ate the food of the poor on their journey.</p> <p><b><i>I will eat healthful foods today rather than those that are not good for me. I will thank God for the food I have and pray for the hungry</i></b></p>	<p>Saturday After traveling all day, Mary made Joseph a meal, and he found her a resting place..</p> <p><b><i>I will do something special to bring joy to my parents and family today.</i></b></p>
<p>Sunday Second Week of Advent</p>  <p>Prayer: <i>Come, Lord Jesus, and save all the nations</i></p>	<p>Monday Mary and Joseph traveled with many different people on their way to Bethlehem. They were kind to all .</p> <p><b><i>I will be kind to all I meet today –and in a special way to someone I do not like.</i></b></p>	<p>Tuesday Mary and Joseph were very tired at the end of the day because travel was uncomfortable and hard .</p> <p><b><i>I will help my parents with some chores to give them time</i></b></p>	<p>Wednesday When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem, they were pushed and pressed by the crowd. They stayed calm.</p> <p><b><i>I will keep calm and not lose my temper when I am pushed or treated rudely</i></b></p>	<p>Thursday Joseph tried for Mary’s sake, to find a clean, comfortable place to stay.</p> <p><b><i>I will honor Mary in a special way today by being cheerful. I will pray the Joyful Mysteries rosary</i></b></p>	<p>Friday Joseph went from door to door, but in every place he heard “No room!”.</p> <p><b><i>I will make room in my heart for others and will try to show special love for someone who seems lonely or unhappy.</i></b></p>	<p>Saturday Mary felt sorry for those who had no room. She knew they would like to have helped.</p> <p><b><i>I will ask Mary to help me make room for Jesus in my heart by doing what he wants me to do</i></b></p>

## O Come, Jesus

<p>Sunday Third Week of Advent</p>  <p>Prayer: I will be happy, O Lord, for you are near!</p>	<p>Monday Mary and Joseph were offered only a poor stable to stay in. They accepted gratefully.</p> <p><i>I will excuse others when they are thoughtless, and I will try to be more thoughtful of others today</i></p>	<p>Tuesday The animals helped to warm the stable by being there.</p> <p><i>I will share the warmth of my friendship with others, especially with someone I do not like</i></p>	<p>Wednesday Joseph cleaned the stable for Mary and for Jesus, who would soon be born.</p> <p><i>I will keep my heart pure today by thinking and doing only pure things and by saying only kind things about others.</i></p>	<p>Thursday Mary put fresh straw in the manger to make a bed for the Christ Child.</p> <p><i>I will brighten the day for others by smiling and showing how happy I am that Jesus is coming.</i></p>	<p>Friday Joseph made a bed of clean straw for Mary to sleep on during the night.</p> <p><i>I will secretly do a kind act for someone who is not very friendly toward me</i></p>	<p>Saturday Mary unpacked the swaddling clothes that would keep the baby Jesus warm.</p> <p><i>I will warn my heart with love for Jesus by doing a kind act for each one in my family</i></p>
<p>Sunday Fourth Week of Advent</p>  <p>Prayer: Come, O come, Emmanuel; ransom captive Israel!</p>	<p>Monday Mary and Joseph waited patiently for the coming of Jesus.</p> <p><i>I will try to be patient today, especially when others keep me waiting or do things that bother me.</i></p>	<p>Tuesday Mary and Joseph thanked God to care for them.</p> <p><i>I will thank God for all he gives me. I will show my parents I am grateful for all they do for me</i></p>	<p>Wednesday Mary and Joseph were at peace because they trusted God to care them.</p> <p><i>I will trust God to help me today to be a peacemaker in school and at home</i></p>	<p>Thursday A beautiful, very bright star shone in the night sky over the stable.</p> <p><i>I will bring the brightness of joy to everyone I meet today.</i></p>	<p>Friday/ Saturday Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus with great love!</p> <p><i>I will be helpful at home these last days before Jesus' birthday</i></p>	<p>Christmas Day.</p> <p><i>I will welcome Jesus with great love also and offer him all my good acts and prayers during the weeks of Advent.</i></p>



***Friends of Jesus and Mary***  
***Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2016***

Reading: Isaiah 11, 1-10, Psalm 71, Romans 15, 4-9, Mathew 3, 1-12

***The Preaching of John the Baptist***

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! “It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”(Mathew 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, during 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





# *Friends of Jesus and Mary*

*Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2016*

*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 of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another? Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (*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







# *Friends of Jesus and Mary*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2016*

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

## *The Birth of Jesus Christ*

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means “God is with us. “When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

*(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, 2016*

*Readings: Isaiah 52, 7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1, 1-6; John 1, 1-18*

## *The Word of Life*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness, we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him. (*John 1, 1-18*)

### *Reflection*

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 make 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.





# JESUS

IS THE REASON

FOR THE SEASON



**IS THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS!!**

**LET'S OFFER HIM OUR SMALL SACRIFICES  
AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT .**





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

Isaiah 9:6



TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Jesus is born,  
Merry Christmas!*

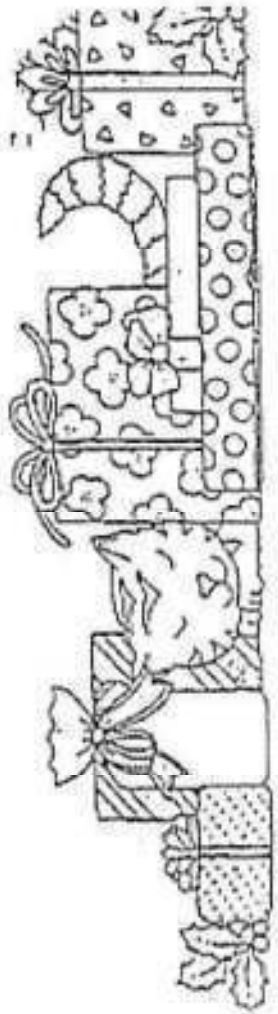
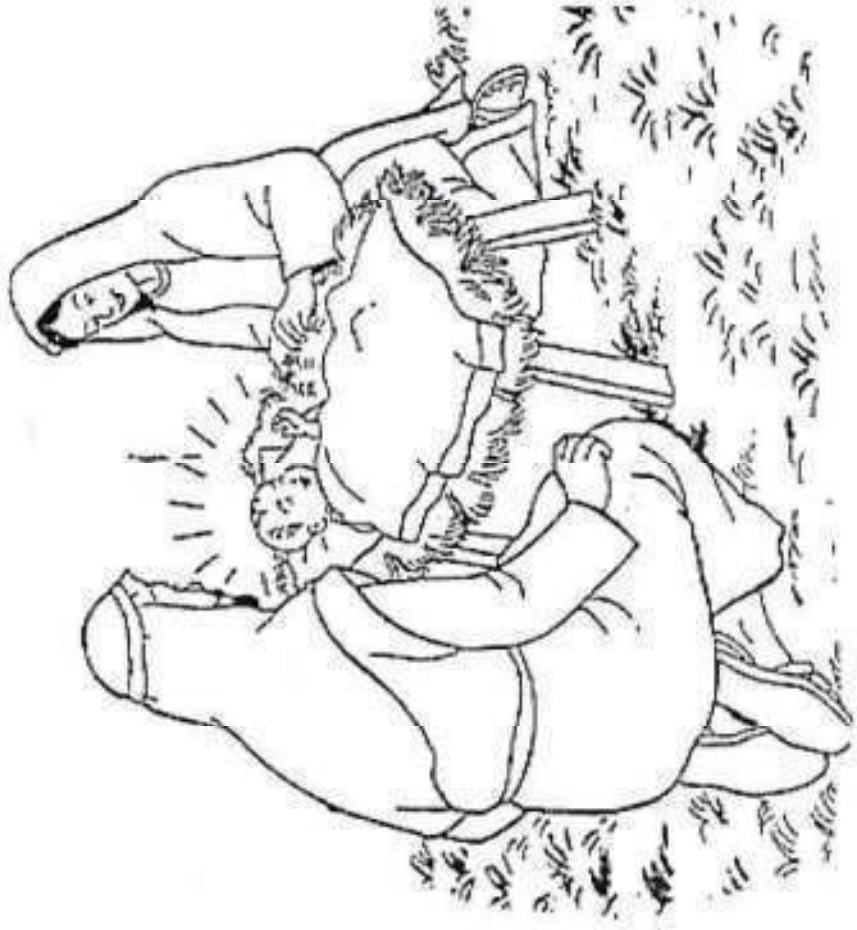
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# JESUS

FOR THE SEASON

IS THE REASON



IS THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS!!

LET'S OFFER HIM OUR SMALL SACRIFICES  
AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT .

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

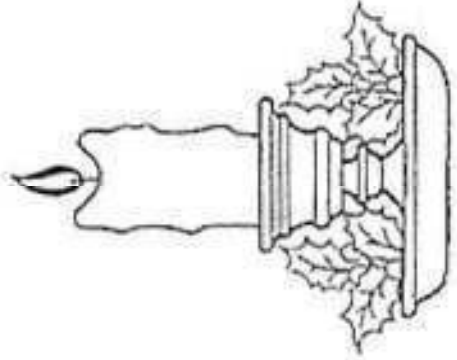
*Jesus is born,  
Merry Christmas!*

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Isaiah 9:6





# Paper Bag Manger Scene

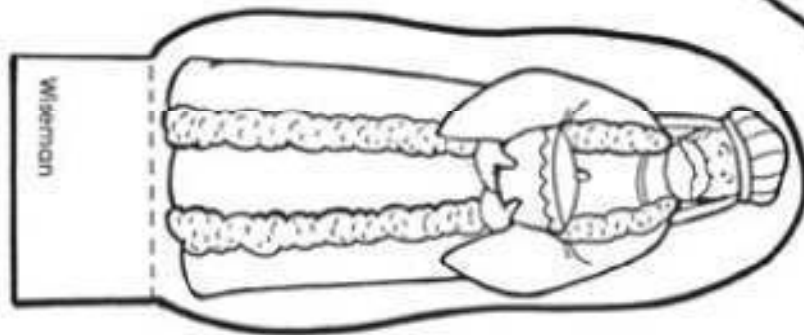
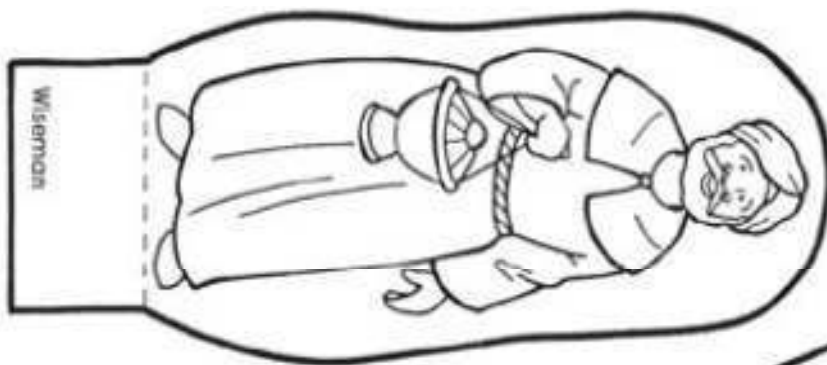
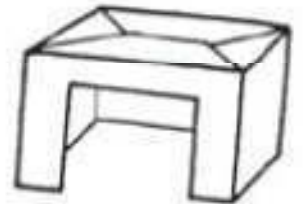
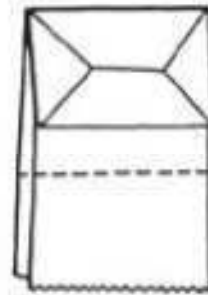
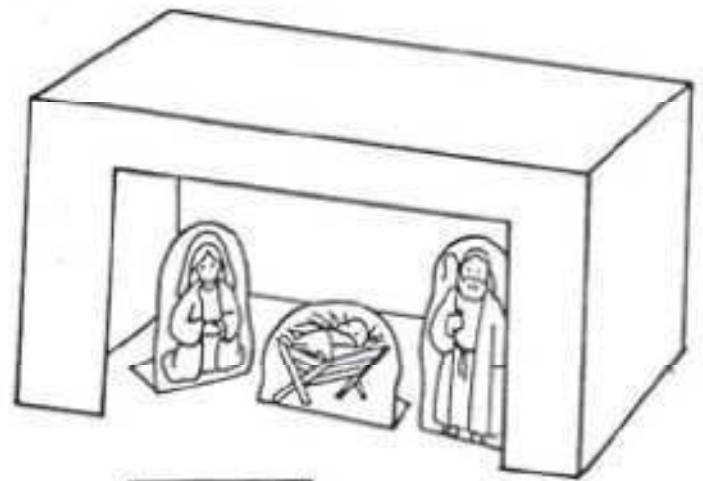
The children will love to make their own manger scene to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

## Materials:

- 1 brown paper bag
- markers
- construction paper
- scissors

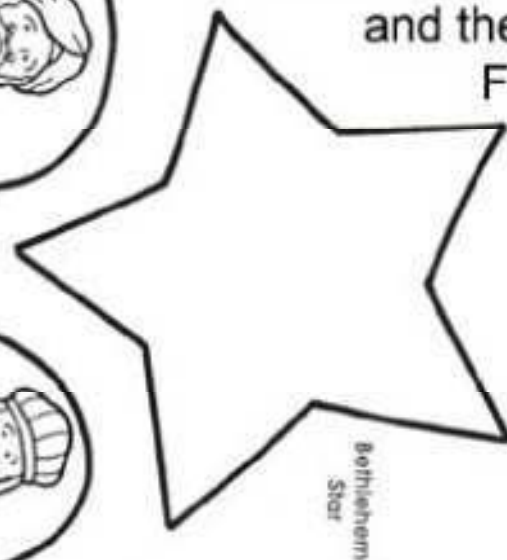
Fold the paper bag until it is flat, then cut it in half.

Open the bag and cut an opening to make the entrance of the manger.



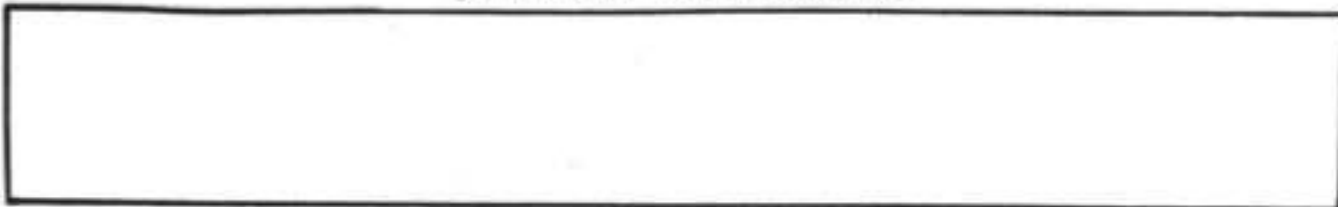
Color all the figures you plan to use for your manger scene, and then cut them out.

Fold them on the dotted line so that they can stand up on their own.



glue behind star—mount on back of bag

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Crafts



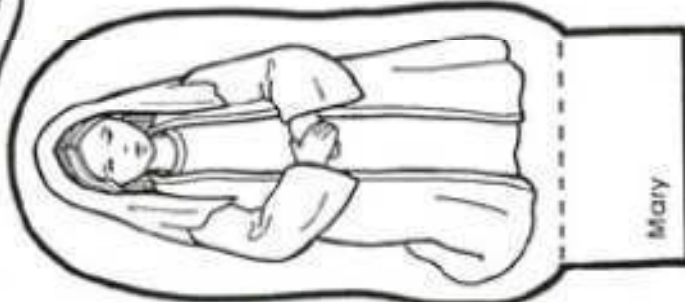
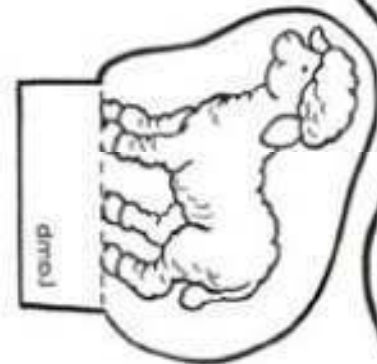
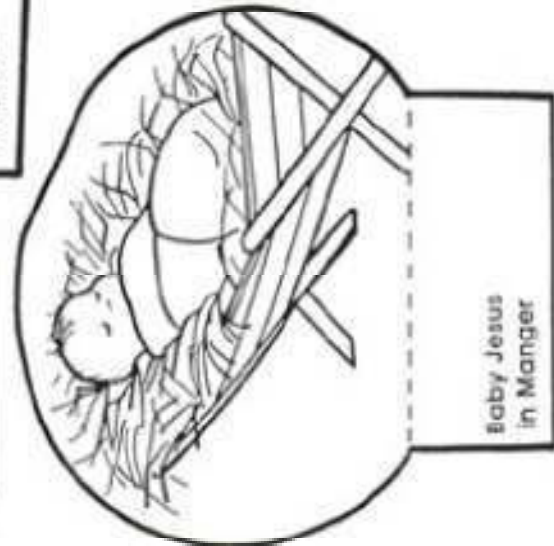
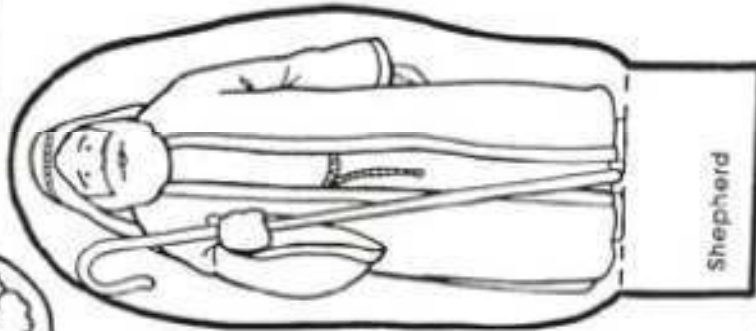
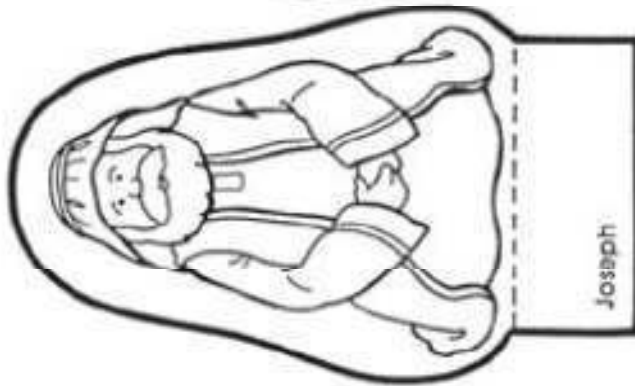
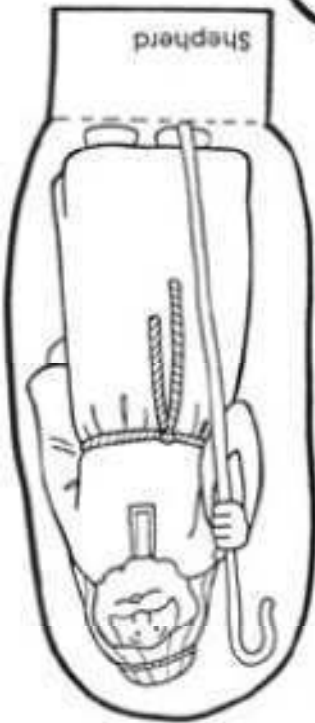
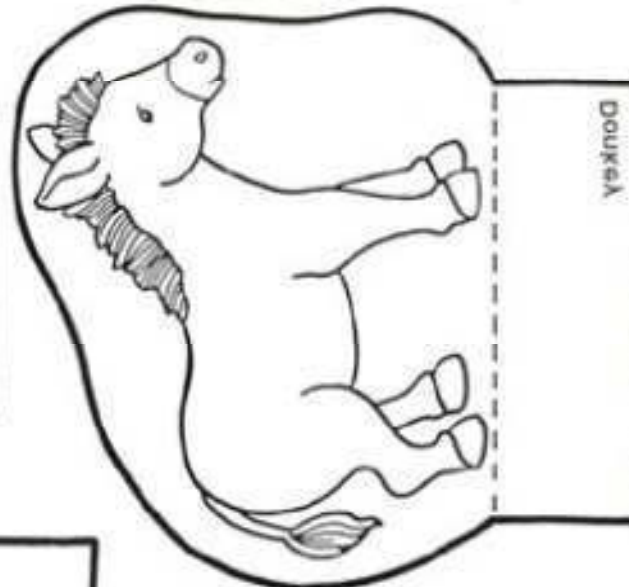
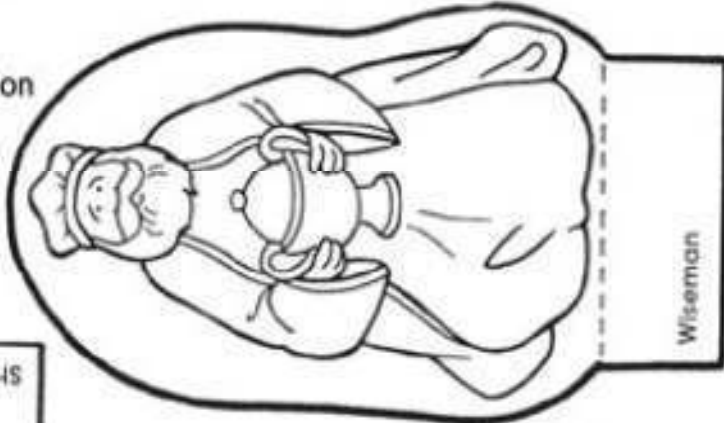
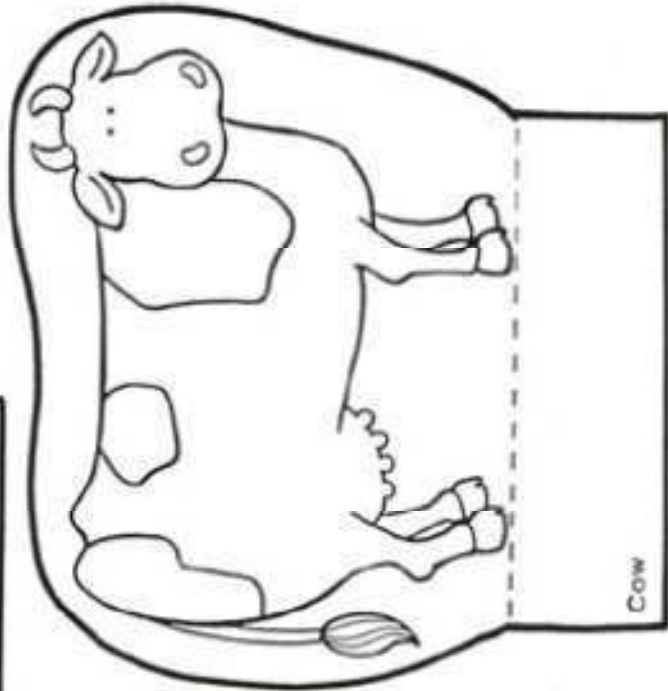
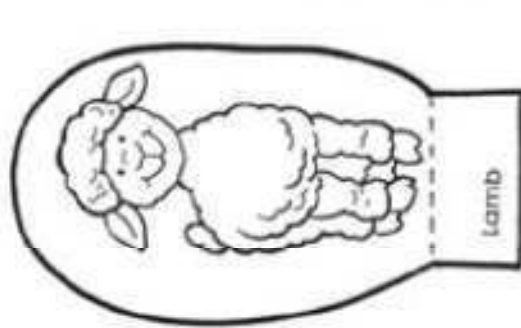


# Figures for the Paper Bag Manger Scene

Color all the figures you plan to use for your manger scene, and then cut them out.

Fold them on the dotted line so that they can stand up on their own.

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Preschool  
Christian  
Crafts

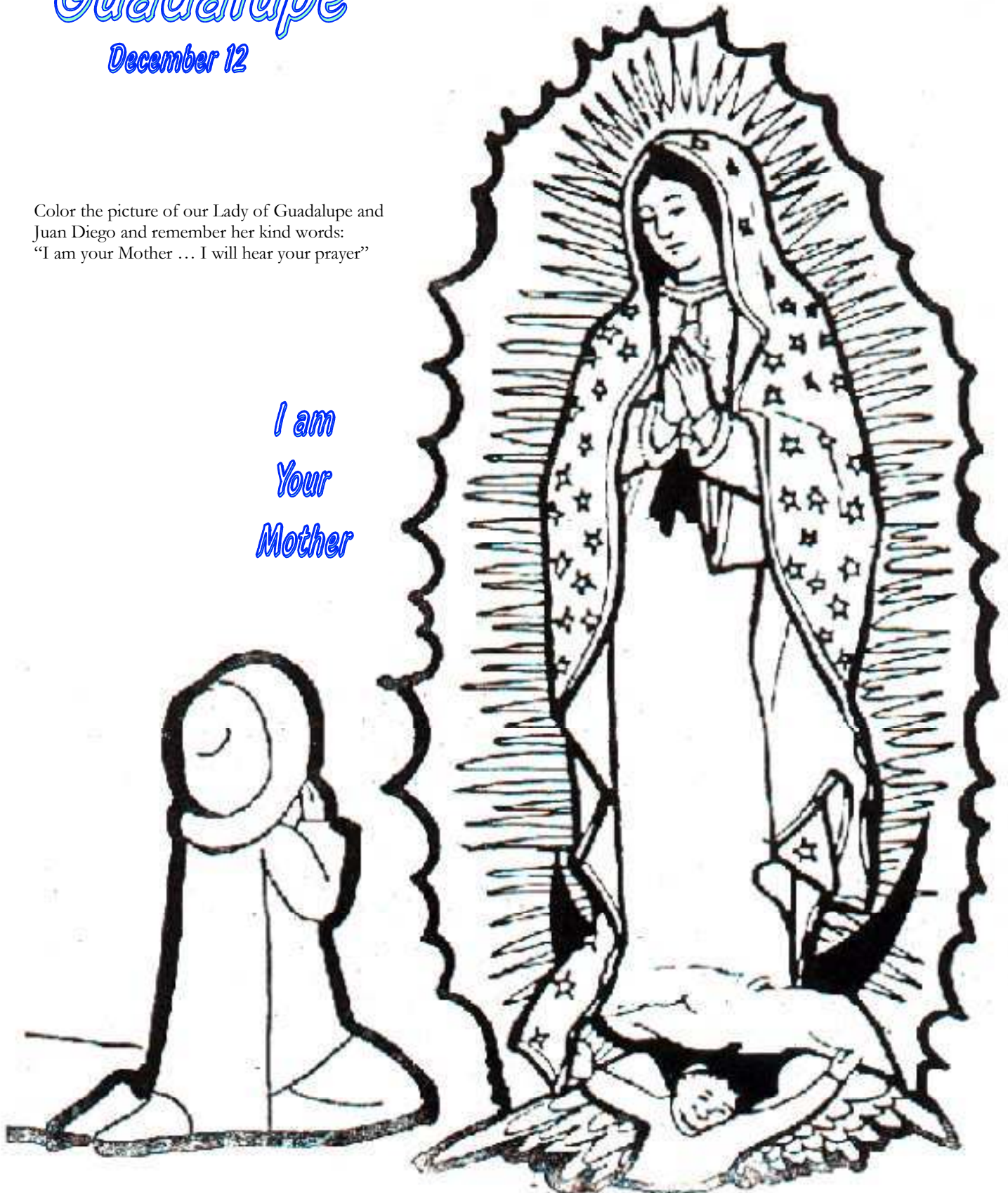


# Our Lady of Guadalupe

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*





8th of December

*"I am the Immaculate Conception"*

**Learn this prayer:**

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

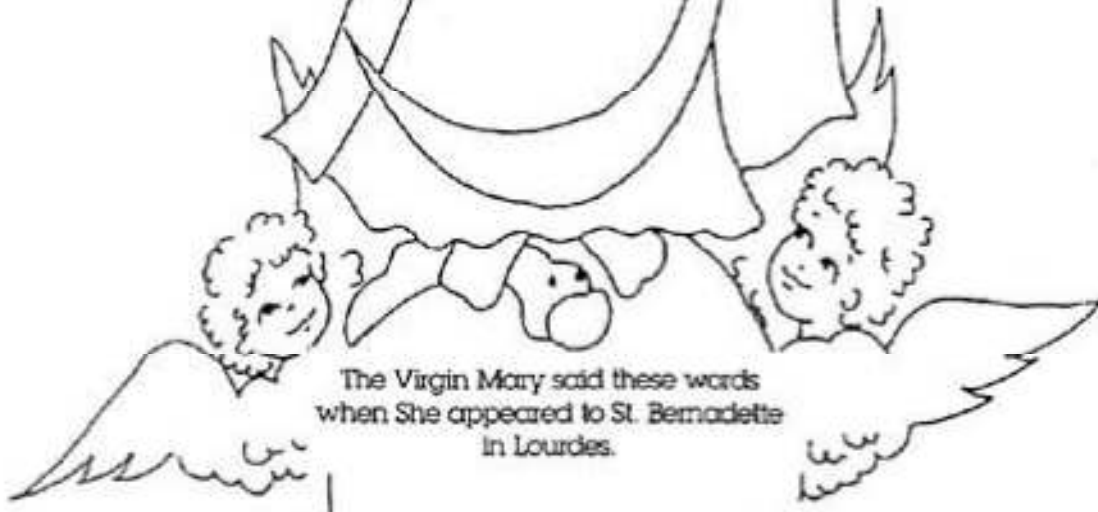
To You Celestial Princess,  
Holy Virgin Mary,

I offer this day  
my soul, my life, my heart.

Look upon me with compassion:  
You are my Mother, never leave  
me.

**What is meant by  
Immaculate  
Conception?**

.....  
.....  
.....



The Virgin Mary said these words  
when She appeared to St. Bernadette  
in Lourdes.