



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

December 2019

Miami, Florida

Dear Guides:

December 1st starts the season of Advent when we prepare to receive Jesus in our hearts on Christmas. We want to communicate much joy in this time of preparation. We also want the children to understand that what Jesus most wants as a gift is our love as reflected to our families and friends and to those most in need.

Important Feasts of the Month:

December 3 St. Francis Javier

December 6 St. Nicholas

December 8 Immaculate Conception

December 9 St. Juan Diego

December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 14 St. John of the Cross

December 25 Christmas

December 27 St. John, apostle and evangelist

December 28 Holy Innocents

December 29 Holy Family

Materials included this month:

Sunday Gospels with meditations and activities

The Immaculate Conception-explanation, activity, coloring

Solemnity of the Nativity – Puppet craft, narration for Christmas Story

St. John, apostle and evangelist - color

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for the interest and immense love that you've showed for the children in your countries and for your effort in continuing this beautiful ministry. On behalf of the Ministry Friends of Jesus and Mary we want to wish you a Merry Christmas with your families and that the New Year bring you abundant blessings and peace.

May God and the Virgen Mary always bless you,

Committee Friends of Jesus and Mary.

FLORIDA

45 SW 71st Avenue – Miami, FL 33144 – Tel: (305) 412-1700/Fax: (305) 412-1777

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December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 St. Francis Xavier, priest (memorial)	4	5	6 St. Nicholas, bishop (optional)	7 St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor (memorial)
8 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the most Holy Virgin Mary	9 St. Juan Diego (optional)	10	11	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe (optional)	13 St. Lucia of Syracuse, virgin and martyr (memorial)	14 St. John of the Cross, religious and doctor, (memorial)
15 3rd Sunday of Advent	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 4th Sunday of Advent	23	24	25 Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord	26 St. Steven, 1st martyr (feast)	27 St. John, apostle and evangelist, (feast)	28 Holy Innocents, martyrs (feast)
29 Feast of the Holy Family	30	31	Solemnity In the Catholic Church, a solemnity is the most elevated rank of liturgical celebrations, to commemorate an act of most importance for the faith.	[Memorial] A day of remembrance or commemoration of a saint(s). [Optional] An optional day of or commemoration of a saint(s).	[Feast] An annual religious celebration.	

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I Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019

Isaiah 2, 1-5; Psalm 121; Romans 13, 11-14a; Mathew 24, 37-44

Be Prepared

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Reflection

What season begins this Sunday? (Advent, a season to prepare our heart for the spiritual birth of Jesus on Christmas). In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to stay awake and prepare for the coming of the Lord. **When is the Lord coming?** (He comes to our heart when we call on Him. He will come to take us to Heaven or Purgatory at the end of our life; in the last days, He will come again to take His children to Heaven. On Christmas, He is spiritually born in our hearts. **How do we prepare our hearts?** (praying more, behaving well; sharing our things, our affection, our time; loving much; going to Mass; making small sacrifices...)



Activity

On the following pages, cut, color and glue to both sides of a rounded green construction paper. Talk about the purpose and the symbols of Advent. Copy the words below 3 times per child (total 24). Each day they can glue one word to a foot representing what they will be doing that day to prepare their hearts to receive Jesus.

Prayer

Baby Jesus, my King, you are a child like me; I love you so much and wish to give you my heart. Help me to prepare well this Advent so my heart will be a beautiful gift to you this Christmas. Amen

Song: Emmanuel, GraceChild2012, <https://youtu.be/7ePJJ5Yuw8c>

PRAY HELP HUG FORGIVE SMILE SHARE SACRIFICE MASS



ADVENT



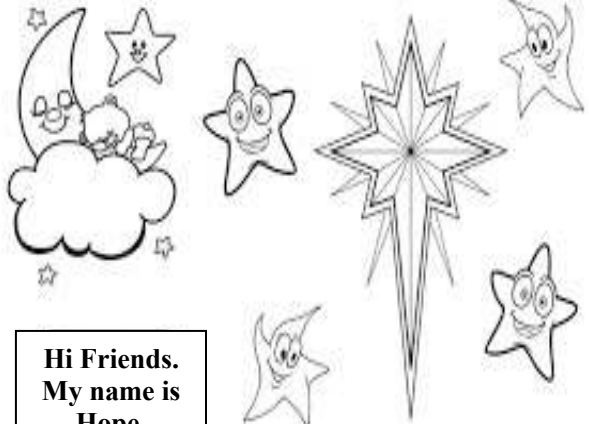
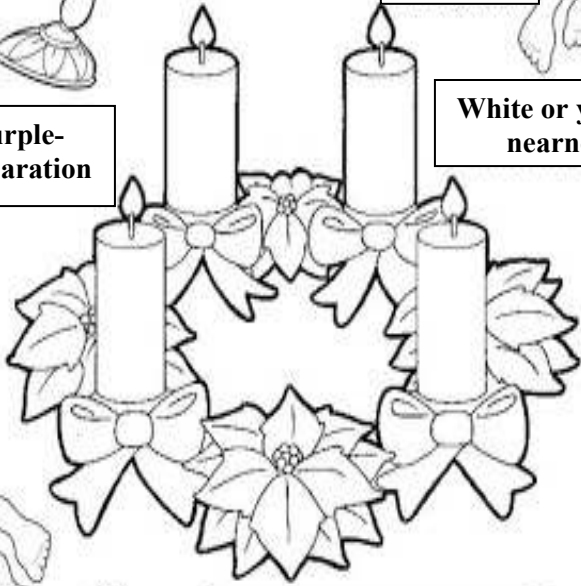
We place **Advent Wreaths** in churches and homes. It has four candles; each one lit each Sunday of Advent until all are lit. Three candles are purple, and one is pink. Do you know what the colors mean?

Green-hope

Red or pink -

Purple-preparation

White or yellow-nearness



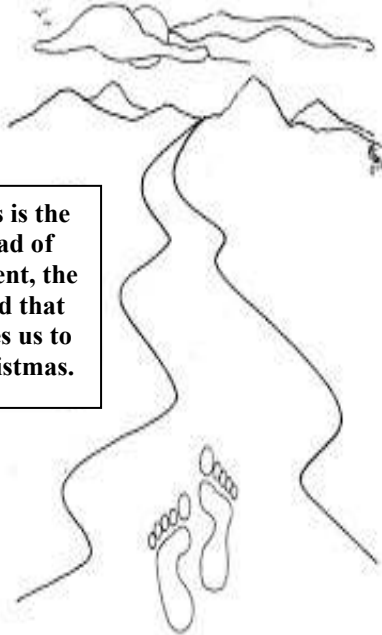
Hi Friends. My name is Hope.



Yes, my friend. When all the candles are lit, Jesus will soon be born in our hearts!



This is the road of Advent, the road that takes us to Christmas.

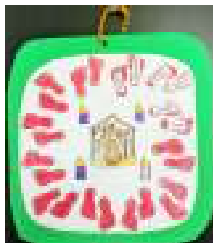


These are your footsteps. Can I accompany you and we can learn together?

Happy Christmas Eve



Merry Christmas

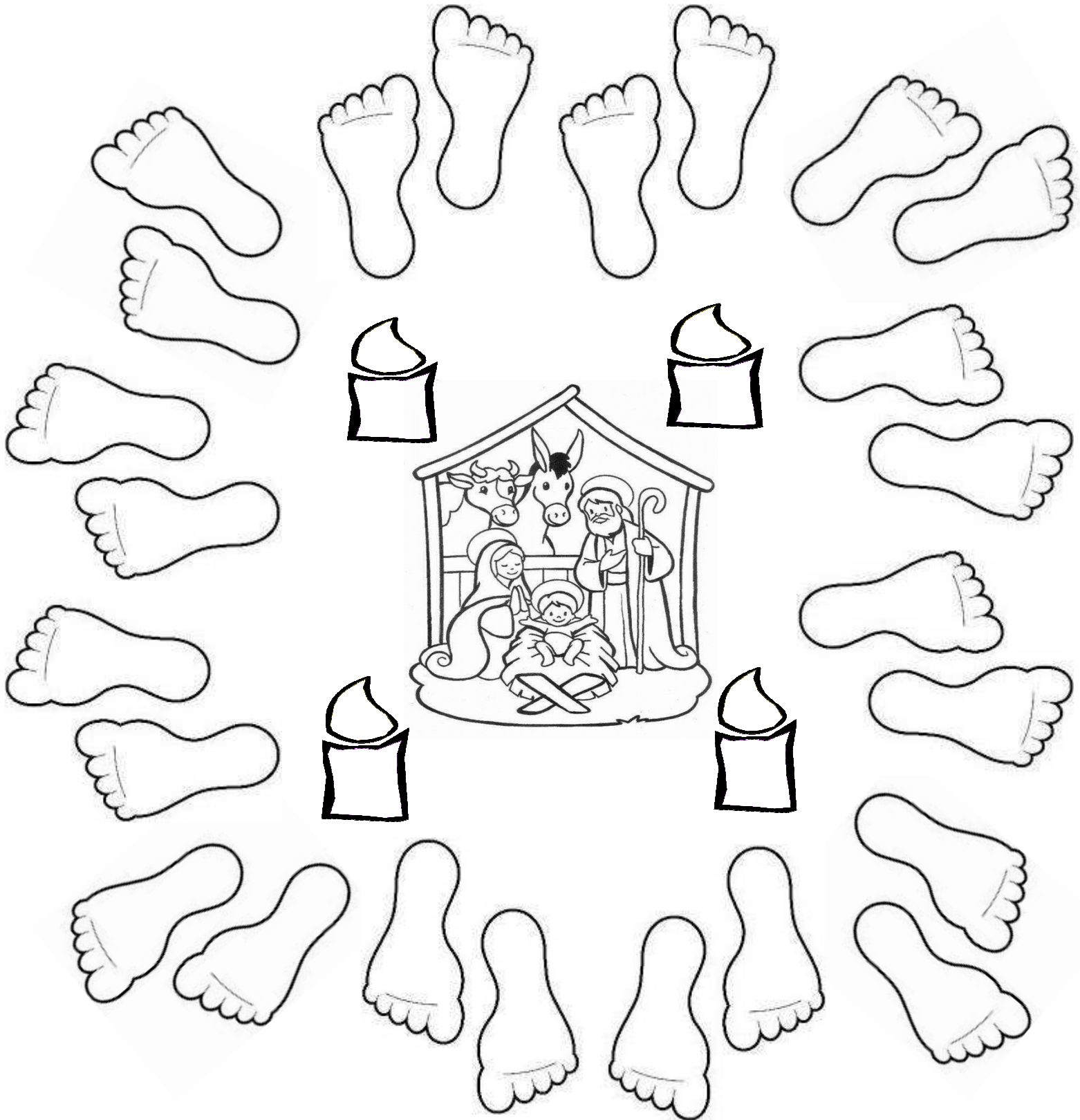




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II Sunday in Advent, December 8, 2019

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

A Voice of One Crying Out in the Desert

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."

Reflection

Who was John the Baptist? (Jesus' cousin, son of St. Elizabeth and St. Zachariah; jumps in his mother's womb in the Visitation) **Why did he wear clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt and ate locust and wild honey?** (He did not care about his appearance; he dedicated all of his life to getting closer to God, praying and sacrificing and later preaching to all to prepare the way of the Savior.) **How does he tell them to prepare?** (Confess their sins and be baptized.) When we sincerely confess our sins, God forgives us and cleans our hearts to receive Jesus, our King, with love. **Why did he speak so harshly to the Saducees and Pharisees?** (Even though they were leaders of the Jewish faith, their hearts were full of sin. **What did he mean by, "Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees ..."?** (God would soon remove them as spiritual leaders of his chosen people and extend the invitation to enter in relationship with Himself to the whole world, not just the Jewish people.) **Why does he say, "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."?** (John the Baptist's baptism was solely symbolic of conversion, but Jesus, our Savior's baptism had the power to give Eternal Life.)

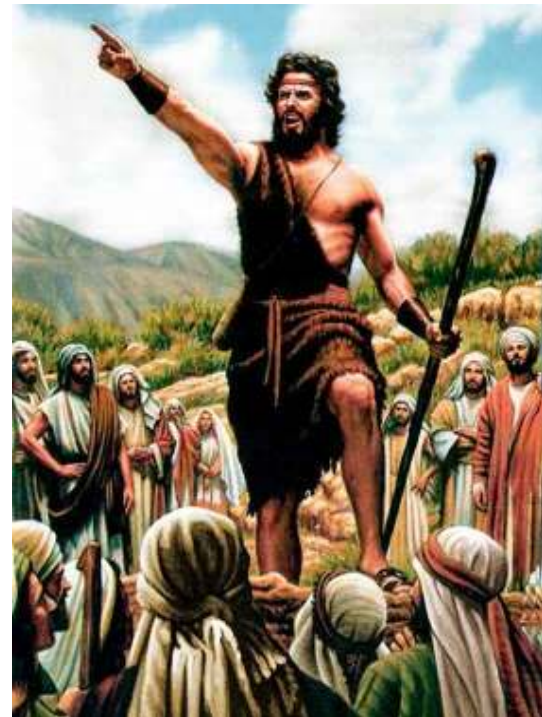
Activity

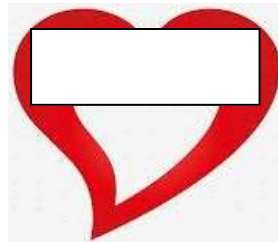
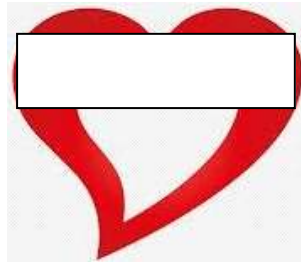
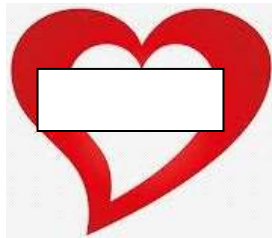
On the following page, write on the red hearts the opposite of the sins written on the black hearts. Talk about these virtues and how to practice them. Glue the red hearts onto a green construction paper cut in the shape of a Christmas tree representing the preparation for Christmas. Glue the star to the top and color. Decorate.

Prayer

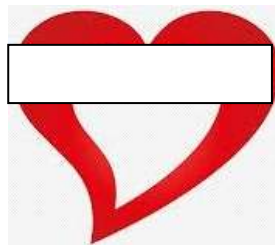
Lord, give me the grace of repentance of my sins and the desire to only want to please you and love you. Help me to forgive those that hurt me as you always did. Amen.

Song: A Gift to You, KWSCM, <https://youtu.be/n3iG1gkW9R0>





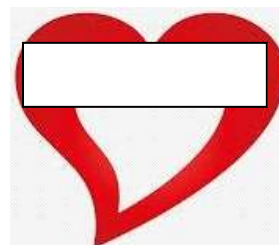
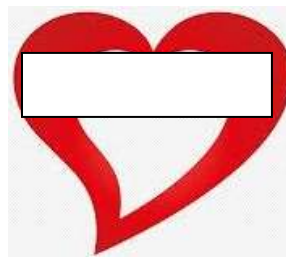
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"



The following words are the opposite of the sins on the black hearts. Write them on the corresponding red hearts:

EFFORT
HUMILITY
LOVE
CHARITY
GENEROSITY
SERENITY

Glue the red hearts onto a green construction paper cut in the shape of a Christmas tree representing the preparation for Christmas. Glue the star to the top and color. Decorate.





Friends of Jesus and Mary

III Sunday of Advent, December 15, 2019

Isaiah 35, 1-6^a. 10; Psalm 145; James 5, 7-10; Mathew 11, 2-11

My messenger... he will prepare your way.

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."

Reflection

What is a prophet? (God's messenger) St. John the Baptist was God's Messenger who came to prepare the hearts of His people to receive Jesus, the promised Savior. **What was John the Baptist's message?** (Stop sinning; love God and your neighbor, change your life.) The emperor Herod jailed him because his wife did not like how John the Baptist insisted Herod had to change his life and stop sinning. St. John the Baptist sent Jesus a message, asking Jesus if He was the promised Savior. **How did He answer?** (He described all the miracles and Good things He was doing.) **What miracles did Jesus do?** (The blind see...) Another prophet, Isaiah, who had lived many years before had said about the Savior, " *Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy...*" (Isaiah, 35, 5-6) St. John the Baptist would have understood this response. Jesus also told his apostles that the poor have the Good News proclaimed to them. **Does this mean that the message is not for the rich?** (No, Jesus speaks of a poor heart; a humble heart that needs the mercy and love of God.) Jesus hints that He is the Savior when He says, "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.*" (Malachi 3:1) St. John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Activity

On the following page, color and write the messages of St. John the Baptist.

Prayer

Lord, give me a humble heart so I may always seek you, always love you, always seek your forgiveness. Thank you, for becoming small so we may better understand the great Love God has for us. Amen

Song: Oh What a Special Day, Animated Praise, <https://youtu.be/duzZ-p6rYNI>

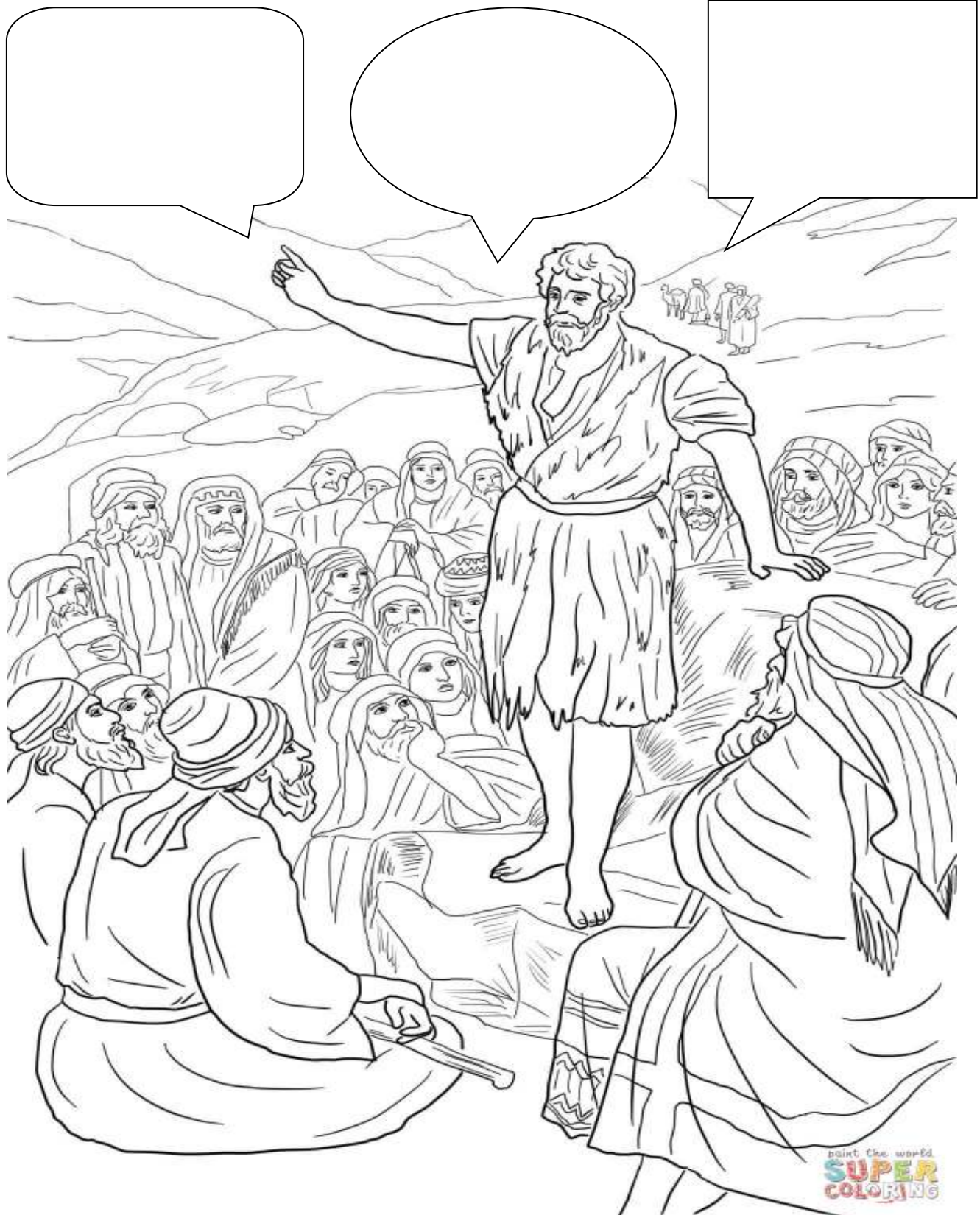




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IV Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019

Isaiah 7, 10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1,1-7; Mathew 1, 18-24

“The virgin shall conceive and bear a son.”

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.

Reflection

Christmas is almost here!! Today the Gospel tells us about a man named Joseph. **Who was Joseph?** He was a carpenter, descendant of King David, a just man, husband of the Virgin Mary, and adoptive father of Jesus. **How did Joseph feel when he found Mary, to whom he was engaged, was with child?** Joseph loved Mary very much, but on finding out she was pregnant, he was distressed since they had not yet been married. **What did the Jewish law say about these cases?** Joseph could accuse Mary for adultery, and she could be stoned to death. **What does Joseph do?** Joseph was just and knew that Mary was innocent and good. He decided to remain silent and leave everything in God's hands. God listened to his pleas and spoke to him in a dream telling him to not fear taking Mary as his wife. Thanks to Joseph's voluntary decision to accept fathering God's son, in Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, child God. During Advent, do you spend some time during the day in prayer? Do I offer up my activities and worries to God and let Him help me? Let's imitate Joseph's example by praying and asking God to fill our hearts with faith. God wants us to receive Jesus with a happy and pure heart desiring to receive Him.



Activity

Complete the activity on the next page to discover more on the Gospel.

Prayer

My God help me to accept your plans; I want to imitate St. Joseph, responding always to what you ask of me. Teach me to rise above my fears and insecurities leaving all in your hands and always united to you in prayer. Help me to be just, prudent and good. I want you to be born in my heart and stay with me always.

Song: Joseph's Song, https://youtu.be/9p_yGHsdPkM



4th Sunday of Advent - Mathew 1: 18-24

Do do not be afraid to take Mary
your wife into your home.



Discover in each stable the names of the Child God and its significance.

Replace each symbol with the corresponding.



Referencias:

A... ☒ E... □ L... ◆ J... ☄ U... ↑ MM ... ● N... % S... ◆

Solucion: Jesus-Emanuel



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Feast of the Holy Family, December 29, 2019

Ecclesiastics 3, 3-7. 14-17a; Psalm 127; Colossians 3, 12-21; Mathew 2, 13-15. 19-23

The Holy Family

When the magi had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, *Out of Egypt I called my son*. When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, *He shall be called a Nazorean*.

Reflection

Today we celebrate the Holy Family. **Who is the Holy Family?** (The family formed by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) They are clear examples of what a family should be, with great faith, and united, ready to always respond YES to God. **Who was Herod?** (He was King of Judea. Upon hearing rumors that a King would soon be born, he ordered the killing of children under 2 years to safeguard his power and the future power of his children. **How is Jesus saved?** (An angel appears to Joseph in a dream telling him to flee to Egypt until further notice.) **Do you think it was easy to flee to Egypt?** (Definitely not! It was a long and dangerous trip with a newborn. Also, they would arrive to a new place where they knew no one and would have to start their life from scratch. They put themselves in God's hands and trust completely in Him, even in the most difficult situations of their life. **What can we do to be a better Christian family?** **What can I do to be a better son or daughter?** (We need to reflect our love for each other with actions: obeying our parents, helping with house chores, talking as a family, being tolerant with our sisters/brothers, forgiving, being patient...



would have to start their life from scratch. They put themselves in God's hands and trust completely in Him, even in the most difficult situations of their life. **What can we do to be a better Christian family?** **What can I do to be a better son or daughter?** (We need to reflect our love for each other with actions: obeying our parents, helping with house chores, talking as a family, being tolerant with our sisters/brothers, forgiving, being patient...

Activity

Color the activity on the following page and find the path that leads to Egypt.

Prayer

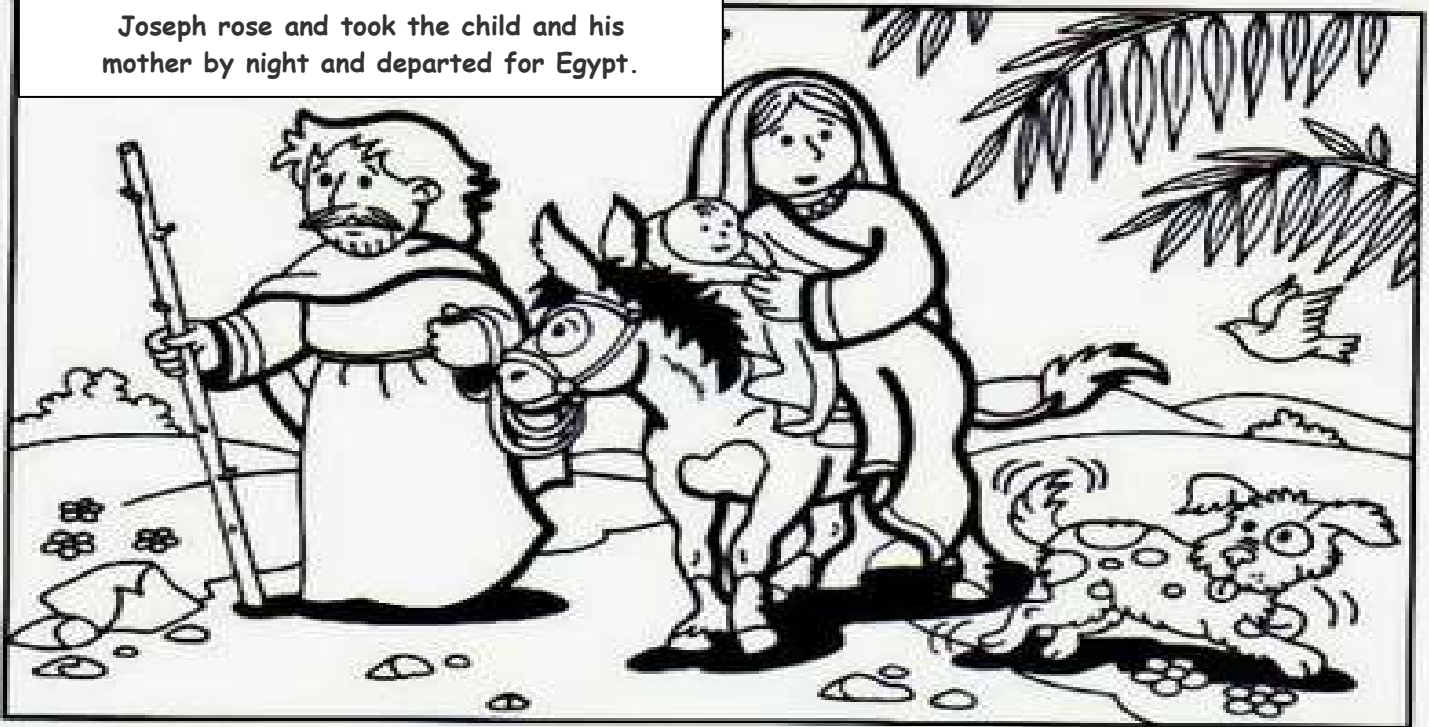
Lord, thank you for my family, my parents my brothers and sisters, my grandparents...I ask you to always be present in my home, and that we remain united in prayer, love and faith.

Song: Mary did you Know? Doctorforgood- <https://youtu.be/JPsglhYQmM>

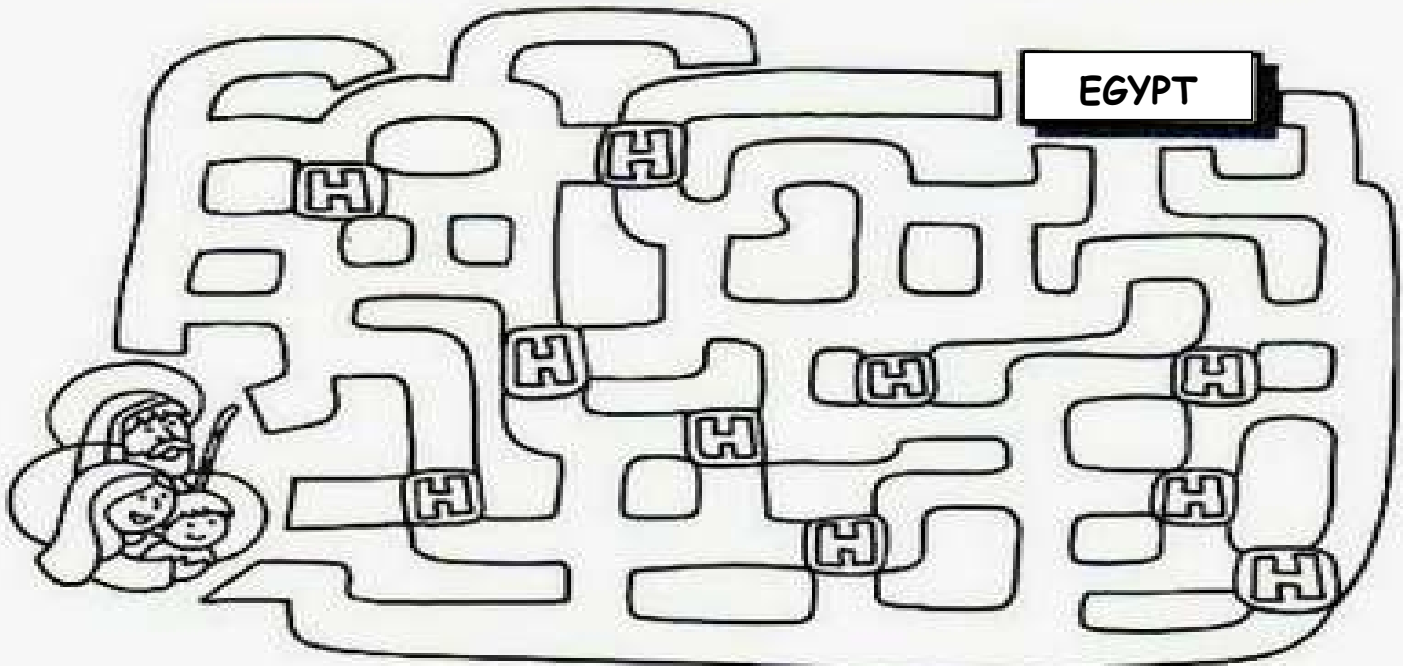


Mathew 2: 13-18

Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.



Help the Holy Family to reach Egypt finding the way while avoiding Herod's soldiers marked with an H.





December 8

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF MARY**

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is the dogma of faith that declares that, by God's grace, Mary was preserved from all sin, since her conception.

WHAT DOES CONCEPTION MEAN?

Conception is the moment in which God creates a soul, infusing it into the organic matter from the parents. It is the moment human life starts. When we speak of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, we are not referring to the conception of Jesus, who was also conceived without sin. The dogma declares that Mary is "full of grace" since her conception.



In Luke 1:28, what did the angel Gabriel, sent by God, say to the Holiest Virgen Mary? (unscramble words)

alhi yram, lufl fo aegr;
het odlr si hwti oyu.

Interesting Fact:

The words "Full of Grace" in the Greek text is "kecharitomene" and means an insurmountable abundance of grace, a supernatural state of the soul in union with God.



Did you know?

Dogmas are doctrines or truths of faith that the Church requires to be believed as formally revealed by God.

What other dogmas do you know?

Fuente-adaptación: corazones.org

As a craft, enlarge drawing in right corner above; color and glue to construction paper; glue cotton on sheep, and glitter on heart and on Holy Spirit. Glue form above to other side.





Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25



Instructions:

Cut and color the figures. Glue onto craft sticks. Act out the Nativity on the following page.



THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Narrator: The roman emperor passed a law in order to count all its citizens which required them to go to their native town to be registered. Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth but were originally from Bethlehem, the city of King David, for they belonged to the house and line of David. They travelled by donkey and arrived late at night to the small town.

Joseph: The town is full, and I could only find a stable for us to sleep.

Mary: We must stay there. I feel the child will soon be born.

Narrator: That night, the baby was born, and they named Him Jesus as the angel had said. Mary gazed at her beautiful baby and remembered the words of the angel:

Angel: “He will save the world”.

Narrator: That same night, some shepherds watched over their sheep in a nearby Pasture. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and a resplendent light shone all around them. Frightened, they knelt down and the angel said to them:

Angel: Do not be afraid. I bring you great news which will cause great joy for all people. Today, your Savior is born in Bethlehem. You will find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Narrator: Later, many angels appeared in the sky, singing and praising God for the marvelous gift of baby Jesus. They sang:

Angels: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth, peace and goodwill to men on which His favor rests.

Narrator: The shepherds left immediately to search for the child and found Him lying in a manger. When they found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, they knew the angel’s words were true and they knelt and adored the child God.

Soon after Jesus was born, three wise men were travelling on camels following a bright star in the sky. They knew this star meant the King of the Jew; the Savior of the world would be born. They followed the star which led them to the stable. Upon seeing baby Jesus, they knelt and adored Him the newborn King.

Later the wise men gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, costly gifts one would give a King, not a baby.

Mary and Joseph: Thank you for your generosity and kind attention to our child.

Narrator: The wise men departed to find a place to sleep.

Song: O Come Let Us Adore Him, Bethel Music Kids, https://youtu.be/X_n2eUUn9oY



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Christmas Card: Print, color, and write a Christmas message.



Made by [PtPuz.com](http://www.PtPuz.com)



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Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist – December 27

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN



St. John was born in Galilee. He was the son of Zebedee and brother to St. James the Great.

His profession was a fisherman. He was one of the first disciples of Jesus, together with Andrew.

He, Peter, and James were part of the small group that Jesus took with Him everywhere and they witnessed all His great miracles.

John was the only apostle that was present at Calvary. Before dying, Jesus entrusted him to take care of Mary as his own mother.

St. John the Evangelist is pictured with an Eagle at his side because his Gospel has the most elevated thoughts and spirituality.