



A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE KIDS OF ST. AMBROSE

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Advent is a time of penance, of turning away from sin and hopeful, joyous preparation for the coming of the Savior. This is what makes Advent special for Christians: the recognition that **Christmas is not just “the birthday of Jesus,” but a celebration of his coming into our world today, here and now.** How does he come into the world today? Jesus is “born”—becomes physically tangible—through the celebration of the sacraments. It is by eating the Eucharist, washing in the waters of Baptism, being anointed with the oil of Confirmation and so on, that Jesus’ friends become part of the living Body of Christ (the Church) in the world today. **For Catholics, then, every celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments is like a little Christmas.** During Advent, Christians prepare for this here-and-now coming of Christ by **remembering the long years during which Israel waited for the coming of the Messiah, and by looking forward to the final coming of Christ at the end of time.** You will hear both themes reflected in the Church’s readings during Advent. How does your family prepare during Advent?



Family Advent Wreath - © TheCatholicKid.com

(Source: Teaching Catholic Kids)

FAMILY TIME

*At the dinner table,
in the car,
we talk about our faith,
wherever we are!*



In this week’s Gospel, John the Baptist told the priests and the Pharisees that the Messiah was coming and that many wouldn’t recognize him. John went into the wilderness to prepare a path for others to recognize and follow the Lord.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: In a way, we live in a wilderness, too, where many people don’t recognize Jesus as our Messiah, our Savior. We are baptized priests, *prophets*, and kings; being a *prophet* means being a witness of the truth, in word and deed.

- How can we be prophets of the truth in the wilderness of our modern world?
- How do we, as a family, help others recognize Jesus by our words? By our deeds?

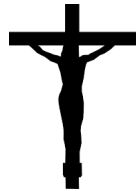
Luke 1: "My soul rejoices in my God."

L B S S O U L L O W L Y W G U F R S
 B L E T G R E A T O O H T E L Z E C
 K G R E A T N E S S J I X N O P J G
 N B Y C S P I R I T O W D E X C O M
 A L Z H W F S E R V A N T R S P I I
 M E V L E T M M Q L X F W A E R C G
 E S L M O W Y V E S V E C T R O E O
 E S Q W Z D R S L R M A F I V M S L
 R E M E M B E R E D C R K O A I J O
 A D R Z H O L Y F B X Y C N N S C R
 G R C R I C H S A V I O R S T E C D
 W F I L L E D S P R O C L A I M S E

BLESSED
 FEAR
 FILLED
 GENERATIONS
 GREAT
 GREATNESS
 HOLY
 LORD

LOWLY
 MERCY
 NAME
 PROCLAIMS
 PROMISE
 REJOICES
 REMEMBERED
 RICH

SAVIOR
 SERVANT
 SOUL
 SPIRIT



Let us prepare...



Looking for more great resources about Advent? Check out the links from Formed below:



KIDS: The Days of Advent with Brother Francis



PARENTS: Making Advent Great for Kids



Saint Mary Praying - © TheCatholicKid.com

Today's Responsorial Psalm is Mary's Magnificat. Read Mary's prayer and color her picture.

The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.