

Family Liturgy – 3rd Sunday of Advent (Year B) Sunday 13th December 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a purple or pink cloth on the table or floor (the colour for third Sunday of Advent symbolising JOY). Place a bible and three candles symbolising the third Sunday of Advent with some greenery around the candle. Place a picture or a Christmas crib as a reminder of our preparation for the birth of Jesus. Place some holy water if you have some or a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Place any other symbols relevant to your family.



<http://clipart-library.com/>

Prepare materials

You tube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
Print out sheet if required

Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver:

Today, we come together to celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B.
This Sunday is a day of JOY as we come closer to the birth of Jesus at Christmas.
We ask God to help us today to pray together as one family looking forward to this time to grow closer to God.

Opening prayer: God of love and new life, help us to listen to you in the Gospel story and to follow you closely. Help us to use listen to the Holy Spirit who guides as we prepare for the coming of Jesus in our lives. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to John (1:19-28).

All: Glory to you O, Lord. “

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and temple helpers to ask John who he was.
He told them plainly, “I am not the Messiah.”

Then when they asked him if he were Elijah, he said, “No, I am not!”
And when they asked him if he were the Prophet, he also said “No!”

Finally, they said, “Who are you then?”
We have to give an answer to the ones who sent us. Tell us who you are!”

John answered in the words of the prophet Isaiah,
“I am only someone shouting in the desert, ‘Get the road ready for the Lord!’”

Some Pharisees had also been sent to John.
They asked him, “Why are you baptising people if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?”

John told them, “I use water to baptise people.
But here with you is someone you don’t know.
Even though I came first, I am not good enough to untie his sandals.”

John said this as he was baptising east of the Jordan River in Bethany.

The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully watch the video together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lyz8qtRNNC0> (2mins)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why John was asked who he was?

I wonder how we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus this Christmas?

I wonder how the Holy Spirit can guide us to do this?

I wonder what words you hear Jesus speaking to you in your hearts as you meet him in Holy Communion?

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

Yes Lord I Believe by John Burland <https://youtu.be/7MR2iGDyUtE> (3 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(*We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer'*)

1 We pray for Pope Francis, Archbishop Pat and all Church and world leaders: that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to help us to get ready during this Advent for Jesus to come to us.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for people in our world who are suffering in any way at this time especially during this COVID-19 outbreak: that they may feel the love and care of others who help to relieve their suffering and to know that they are deeply loved by God.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for all people in our parishes and in our communities: that together we can grow in love as we get ready this Advent for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pray for all people, especially for children, who have received the Sacraments for the first time: that they will grow in love of Jesus and be ready to do their best to live as members of God's family. Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

5 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*) Lord, hear us **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for all people who have died recently and especially for people we know and love: that they will now be united in God's kingdom of love and mercy.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: God who calls us to be close, we believe in your love - you are the Creator of the world. We believe in your love – you sent Jesus to show us how to live a life of faith. We believe in your love – because of the Holy Spirit who breathes life through us and guides us. Amen.

Closing song: *I Light a Candle* by Andrew Chinn
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nx3kDs1Jd4c> (4mins)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has come to a close.

- Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook) speaking to Jesus of how you can use get ready for his coming into our hearts and world this Christmas.
- Go to <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/files/f/25114/CHRISTMAS%20CANDLE%20HOLDER.pdf> to make a candle holder for Christmas.
- Go to <http://clipart-library.com/search2/?q=nativity#gsc.tab=1&qsc.q=nativity&qsc.page=1> to make some Christmas cards for your family or friends or make a poster for your home.