

Family Liturgy – 4th Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Sunday 20th December 2020

Preparing the prayer space

Place a purple cloth on the table or floor (purple, the colour for Advent)

Place a bible and four candles symbolising the fourth Sunday of Advent with some greenery around the candles. 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 candles or use battery-operated candles for safety. Place any other symbols relevant to your family.

Happy 4th week of Advent!



<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 4th Sunday of Advent Year B.

Advent is a time to prepare for 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 prepare well for your coming this Christmas. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (1:26-38)

All: Glory to you O, Lord

God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David.

The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."

Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant.

Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son.

His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High.

The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was.

He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married!"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God."

"Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. Nothing is impossible to God."

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said."

And the angel left her.

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

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the videos together <https://youtu.be/a1yOY62GFKU> (1.59 mins)
<https://youtu.be/aIb8szs0mzA> (1.29 mins)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder how Mary felt when the angel Gabriel appeared to her.
I wonder how Mary felt when the angel told her she was going to have baby Jesus
I wonder why God chose Mary
I wonder how we can say yes, like Mary, to God today
I wonder how the Holy Spirit can guide us to do this
I wonder what Jesus is saying to each one of us with this story today
I wonder how Jesus feels when we understand the real meaning of Christmas

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 to say yes to God.

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 of infinite tenderness, we believe in your love – in your love you created the world. We believe in your love – in your love you sent Jesus to live with us on earth. We believe in your love – in your love you gave us the Holy Spirit to breathe life in us. Amen.

Closing song: An angel came from heaven sing along <https://youtu.be/y4B1I3QK7-4> (1.32 mins)

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) and illustrate it.
- Draw a cartoon story of what happened in this gospel story with captions.
- Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S02KOlw7dIA> to discover what Advent is about.
- Go to https://sermons4kids.com/marys_song_crossword.htm?fromSermonId=572 to find a Wordsearch on today's Gospel.
- Go to <https://adelaide.catholic.org.au/schools/catholic-education-sa/family-and-parish-based-catechesis/resources> for more Advent & Christmas resources