

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

19th December 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a purple cloth on the table or floor (purple – the colour for preparation)

Place a cross, bible, and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

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



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Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: In today's gospel, we hear that Elizabeth's baby leaps with joy at the presence of Mary who is carrying the baby Jesus in her womb.

Opening prayer:

Loving God, help us to trust in your plans and to remember that you will always keep your promises.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (1:39-45)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's home, where she greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her baby moved within her.

The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth. Then in a loud voice she said to Mary:

"God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have. Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, my baby became happy and moved within me.

The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise."

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

Story of Elizabeth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=490SDWdIG3U> (2:49-3:46min) or

The Messiah! Advent 4C <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BUb2dX2v-l> (1:58min)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder why Mary hurried to see Elizabeth...

I wonder how Mary may have been feeling while she was travelling...

I wonder how Elizabeth's baby knew...

I wonder what Mary and Elizabeth talked about after...

I wonder what great things God has done in your life...
I wonder how I can be like Mary and share joy with others...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVKGQ> (4 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 Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders that they will take time to be with those people who need them.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for all families who experience brokenness and separation, that they will find a sense of peace and hope this Advent.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for our Church to be missionary disciples like Mary and visit those who need us, especially the sick, lonely, and poor in our community.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 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 those who are suffering or experiencing big challenges, that the Holy Spirit will bring them comfort and peace.
Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

Closing prayer: We lift our hearts and the prayers of our community. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing song: Let it Be Done <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-72ZwsYj3w> (4:56min)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**
Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).
- **Colouring In**
<https://snowflakeclockwork.blogspot.com/2013/05/may-pages-and-visitation-coloring-page.html>
- **Advent prayer booklet**
Create your own prayer booklet to pray along with during this Advent season.
<https://catholicsprouts.com/advent-prayers-free-printable-booklet-children/>
- **Sunday Connection**
As you gather as a family...Observe that sometimes we need the help of others to recognize God's presence and action in our lives.
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-advent-cycle-c-sunday-connection/>