

# December

This month we celebrate Advent, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary & Christmas.



Be sure to join us each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm via Zoom for a brief (15-20 minute) but important Advent gathering. We look forward to seeing you!

Peace and all God's blessings.

## 5th Grade

**Week of December 2nd:** Before opening the workbook, ask your child if they have a favorite mystery book, story or movie. Is the main character able to solve the mystery on his/her own? Open your workbook to pg. 27. Read the paragraph in black and then the psalm in blue. Answer/discuss the question at the bottom of the page. Look at the picture at the top and tell the student about it: it's a celtic cross and part of an unbroken circle. Ask "what do you think this tells us about God?" Although we can never fully understand the mystery of God, we can grow in our understanding of who God is with help from other people. Now read the story of St. Augustine on pg. 28. Discuss what the point of the story is. How does this help our understanding of who God is? Read the Disciple Power and explain that wonder and awe help us to appreciate the mysteries in life. This week complete 2 of the choice board activities.

**Week of December 9th:** On pg. 29, read out loud the passage from Matthew. Have your child read silently the second paragraph, then ask him/her to share the most important concept from the paragraph. Read the Old Testament section of the page, then discuss what God revealed to Abraham & Sarah. Create a word card for Holy Trinity. Use the Faith Vocabulary section at the top of the page. Then, finish the activity at the bottom. Turn to pg. 30 & read the section, Mary, the Mother of God. Make a word card for Annunciation. Discuss why the Annunciation gives us a glimpse of the Holy Trinity. Adults read the next section, Jesus Christ, to your student. Explain that the church came to understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity gradually. Discuss the question at the bottom of the page. Complete 2 more choice board activities.

## 5th Grade (continued)

**Week of December 16th:** Begin by reading *Catholics Believe* on pg. 31. Read to your student about the Nicene Creed. Afterwards, point out that it was nearly 300 years after Jesus died that the Church defined its teaching on the Holy Trinity. Find a map and locate the areas of Nicea and Constantinople. Remind your student that in the Nicene Creed we profess we believe in "the life of the world to come." All those who die in God's grace & friendship will live forever in happiness with him & know him in a way we have never known him before. Do the activity at the bottom of the page - share your answers together. On pg. 32, read the paragraph & have your child create a symbol as directed in the activity. Choose 2 new choice board activities this week.

**Week of December 23rd:** Discuss with your child the traditions in your family that help us to remember Jesus' birth. Write them down in a journal or special notebook to keep. This year, will your family go to Mass in person or watch online? Be sure to dress up even if you aren't going to Mass in person. Read together the story of the Nativity from your family Bible (Luke 2:1-20) If you have a nativity set in your home, consider having your children place the baby Jesus in the creche on Christmas day. Perhaps this can be a new tradition for your family. What are the gifts of love your family gives to each other? How do we show our love for God at this special time of year?

**Week of December 30th:** Complete 2 more choice board activities.

*Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year to your family!*