

Make-Up Packet for Day 2

of our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church † Erath, Louisiana

Our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program was cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic. Elementary families are encouraged to read through these make-up packets with their children.

This year's theme: Digging into Scripture

Theme song: "God with Us"

(You Tube link to theme song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DkoPQTHB1c>)

Bible Stories for Day 2:

- **Mary Visits Elizabeth** (Luke 1:39-45)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Luke 1:39-45 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

Brief background information: When Gabriel, the Archangel, appeared to Mary, he told her that God wanted her to become the mother of His Son, Jesus. Gabriel also told Mary that Elizabeth, her older cousin who had never had any children, was expecting a baby—even in her old age! Mary decided to go visit Elizabeth and help her for a while.

Mary arrived at Zechariah and Elizabeth's home, and when Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, the infant in Elizabeth's **womb** (*a special part of a woman's "tummy"*) leaped! (*Remember Gabriel's words to Zechariah in the temple: ". . . he (Elizabeth's baby) will be great in the sight of God . . . and will be filled with the Holy Spirit—even from his mother's womb."*) Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth exclaimed in a loud voice, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." (*Those words should sound familiar! They have become part of the **Hail Mary prayer**: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus."*) Elizabeth continued speaking, "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Humbled by Elizabeth's remarks, Mary then proclaimed the greatness of God in what has become known as **The Canticle of Mary** (Luke 1:46-55). Mary stayed with Zechariah and Elizabeth about three months before returning to her own home.

NOTES:

- Mary's visit with Elizabeth is now known as **The Visitation** and is often referred to as the **Second Joyful Mystery** when reciting the **Rosary**.
- We should all be grateful that Mary said "yes" to God's plan! We should also be as excited as Elizabeth and her infant when we are in close proximity to Jesus, our Lord and Savior! Do we look forward to entering the **church** (*God's house*) and going to **Mass** (*the public worship of the Jesus' sacrifice to give our souls the opportunity to spend eternity in Heaven*)? Remember: The Sacrifice of the Mass is the **biggest** celebration that we can attend each week! It should be the **source** (*the place, person, or thing from which something can be found*) and **summit** (*highest point*) of every Catholic Christian's week!
- Here's an even more important thought: When we reach an appropriate age, are we excited—each and every time—to receive Jesus, the Body of Christ, into our own body in Holy Communion? Are we excited to know that our own body becomes a "**living tabernacle**" for Him? (*In a Catholic church, the **tabernacle** is the sturdy, locked, sacred cabinet in which the **Body of***

Christ is placed for safekeeping. Once we receive Holy Communion, our own body becomes a “living tabernacle” and should be a safe, secure place where we keep and protect Jesus.)

- **John’s birth** (Luke 1:57-66)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Luke 1:57-66 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

When it was time, Elizabeth gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives had heard that the Lord God had shown great mercy and compassion toward her (by allowing her to conceive and bear a child), and they were very happy for her. When the baby was eight days old, neighbors and relatives gathered at the house to circumcise the child. They were going to name him Zechariah after his father, but Elizabeth said, “No. He will be called John.” *(Their friends and relatives were confused because Jewish traditions mandated (commanded) that children should be named after relatives.)* They said, “None of your relatives has this name,” so they made gestures to Zechariah, asking what he wished the baby to be named. Zechariah reached for a tablet and wrote, “His name is John,” and all were amazed! Immediately, Zechariah could speak, and he spoke blessings to God! Fear came upon all of the neighbors and relatives who had gathered with them, and all these details were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. Everyone who heard these details took them to heart, saying, “What, then, will this child be?” for surely, he would be special in the eyes of God.

- **The Nativity of the Lord (The Birth of Jesus)** (Luke 2:1-20)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Luke 2:1-20 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

Caesar Augustus, the Roman Emperor at that time, decided that he wanted to count all of the people who were living in his territory. In order to be counted, everyone had to go to their ancestor’s home town, so Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to **Bethlehem** (*often called “the City of David”*), because he was a descendent of King David. Mary, his **betrothed** (*financée*), who was with child, traveled with him. *(Remember: The people didn’t own modern hotels and motels at that time, but some business men did have simple inns with rooms for rent. Because people from other towns and cities were coming into Bethlehem to be counted in the census, all of the available rooms had already been rented. A kind innkeeper offered to let them sleep in his stable.)* While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth to her son. She wrapped him in **swaddling** (*loose cloth*) clothes and laid him in a **manger** (*a feeding trough in a stable*) because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now, there were shepherds who lived in the fields near Bethlehem. They were “**keeping watch**” (*staying awake to protect their flock of sheep from harm*). When an angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, they were struck with great fear! The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today, in the **city of David** (*Bethlehem*), a **Savior** has been born for you who is **Messiah** and **Lord**. You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the **heavenly host** (*more angels*) with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” *(Those words should sound familiar to us! We recite similar words when the Faithful Assembly—the entire congregation—prays the Gloria during the Mass: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.”)*

When the angels left the shepherds, the shepherds went to Bethlehem to look for the **Newborn King**. They found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger, and began to tell everyone about the message they had received from the angels about the Child. Everyone was amazed by what the shepherds reported. “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”

- **Finding Jesus in the Temple** (Luke 2:41-52)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Luke 2:41-52 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

Every year, the Jewish people would make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the **Passover Feast**. *(Remember: Jesus was born into the Jewish culture, so His family—Mary, Joseph, and Jesus—traveled to Jerusalem each year to participate in the Passover Feast. This feast is still celebrated in the Jewish culture every year! It reminds them that, following God’s plan, after the very first Passover Meal, **Pharaoh** was finally convinced to free the **Hebrew (Jewish) slaves**. **Moses** then led them out of Pharaoh’s territory as they walked through the “parted” **Red Sea**.)* The people from Nazareth (and many other towns) formed a **caravan** and walked to Jerusalem. *(They probably merged with other caravans from other towns along the journey.)* It took approximately two days for the people from Nazareth to arrive in Jerusalem. They stayed in Jerusalem for a few days to celebrate the feast. When it was time to return home, the large caravan of people began the long journey back to their homes.

When Jesus was approximately 12 years old, at the end of the first day’s journey back to Nazareth, Mary and Joseph noticed that Jesus was not in the caravan, so they walked all the way back to Jerusalem! *(How do you think our parents would feel if they couldn’t find us? Mary and Joseph must have been very worried about Jesus!)* Once they arrived in Jerusalem, it took them three days to find Jesus in the city! When they finally found Him, He was speaking with the Jewish priests in the Jewish temple. Although Mary and Joseph could see that the priests seemed to be amazed at Jesus’ knowledge and understanding of Scripture, Mary and Joseph were not happy with Jesus. *(After all, wouldn’t our parents be highly upset with us if we decided not to follow them home from a big event in a distant city?)* They had been very worried about Him! Mary asked, “Son, how could you do this to us?” Jesus answered, “Didn’t you know that I would be in **my Father’s house**?” *(Although the Scriptures share very little information of Jesus as a young boy, we really don’t know how/when Jesus first “knew” that He was God’s Son. It’s highly probable that He knew it since the moment He was born! This is the first Scripture passage in the Bible that tells us that Jesus knew that He was God’s Son!)*

As expected, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, **obediently** returned to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. And as Jesus grew older, He advanced in wisdom and favor before God and man.”

Today’s Catechism Lessons: Students in Grades 2-5 should have already received these textbooks. If necessary, they may borrow a textbook from our office. If a Grade 1 student doesn’t have access to a blue/white textbook yet (possibly from an older sibling or friend), he/she may borrow one from our office. *(Students typically receive/use their blue/white First Communion textbooks in Sacramental Prep classes in Grade 2 and bring them home just before receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist (Holy Communion). The red/white textbook is usually distributed to students in Grade 3 Sunday Sessions.)*

Grade	Textbook	Please read and discuss these lessons:
1	Blue/white F.C. textbook	Lesson 2 (God is Great)
2	Blue/white F.C. textbook	Lesson 2 (God is Great) and Lesson 3 (The Blessed Trinity)
3	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 3 (The Unity and Trinity of god) and Lesson 4 (Creation and the Angels)
4	Red/white B.C. textbook	Quick review of lessons read in last year’s summer program; re-read the “ opening explanations ” of: Lesson 11 (The Catholic Church), Lesson 12 (The Marks of the Church), Lesson 13 (The Communion of Saints and Forgiveness of Sins), and Lesson 14 (The Resurrection and Life Everlasting)
5	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 24 (Baptism)

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you for taking time to work through this packet with your child!

Please **sign** the **next** page of this packet to indicate that Day 2's work has been made up and **mail or deliver** it to Mrs. Frances at our church office. She will make the necessary notes on your child's attendance record and will file the signature sheet in your family's registration folder.

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our records to indicate that you have helped your child read/discuss the Bible stories and Catechism lessons that would have been introduced and discussed on **Day 2** of our 2020 Summer Religion Program.

My child, _____, in **2019-20** grade level _____, and I have read and discussed the enclosed Bible stories and catechism lesson(s) for **Day 2** of our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Optional family activity:

Because this summer's theme was going to focus on the life of Jesus in the New Testament, when your schedule permits, please make an effort to visit **FORMED.org** to view, at least, the **first** of three animated episodes of *The Witness Trilogy*:

- *God with Us* (1:28:34)
- *The Messengers: The Birth of the Early Church* (1:10:45)
- *To Every Nation* (1:09:45)

All three episodes are recommended for ages 7+. Obviously, each episode is more than one hour long. You'll be able to start/stop the videos at any point and return to them when your schedule permits. Pop some popcorn, sit as a family, and enjoy an animated movie depicting the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

- **Disclosure:** Three scenes, in particular, may be a bit confusing and/or distressing for some children: a few seconds depicting Judas hanging from a tree at 1:08:34, a few seconds of Jesus being scourged at the pillar at 1:10:10, and approximately 40 seconds depicting the crucifixion of Jesus beginning at 1:15:17. A few years ago, when we previewed a very similar animated movie (*Jesus: He Lived Among Us* by the same production company), our pastor (at the time) reminded us that this is the truth of what happened during Christ's Passion and gave us permission to use the video "with a fair warning to the children." As we did in 2015, we suggest that, if/when children feel uncomfortable with any images, they should simply close their eyes and listen for a while rather than watch.

NOTES to help parents find these videos on FORMED.org:

- As long as our church parish continues to pay for the parish subscription to **FORMED.org**, access to most of its Catholic resources will be **free** to our parishioners. (Some associated titles are for rent/purchase.) Parents and/or children may find other videos, talks, eBooks, documentaries, and/or movies about the saints that will interest them! Visit www.formed.org and use our **zip code** to find the name and address of our church parish. After entering your name and email address to create a simple profile, you will probably have to check your email for a link to finish the "sign in" process for the first couple of viewings, but at some point, clicking on the "sign in" button should immediately display a "Start Watching" button.
- Once you have access to FORMED's home page, scroll down to find the "Kids" stripe, then use the right arrow at the right edge of the screen to find *The Witness Trilogy* (or scroll through the other stripes to find something that may interest you and/or your child)!