

Sunday Session 2-a for Grade 2

December

- Video [Join Brother Francis this Advent! | The Days of Advent with Brother Francis - Advent - Formed](#)
- Review Grade 2 prayers – focusing on Act of Contrition
- Review Advent and Key terms in lesson below
- Advent Christmas Game

Review

- Proper, respectful **Sign of the Cross** (words and actions).
- Every time we enter a Catholic Church, we dip one (or two) finger(s) in **Holy Water** and pray the Sign of the Cross while we focus our attention on the **Blessed Sacrament** (the **Real Presence of Jesus Christ**) in the **tabernacle**.
- Practice making a proper **genuflection**: Before we enter our pew in church, our right knee touches the floor as we focus our attention on the **Blessed Sacrament** in the **Tabernacle** (not in the pew looking for a place to sit).
- **Read over and review Act of Contrition prayer**

- **Advent** (*means “wait for the arrival”*): a season in the **liturgical** (*public work—worship—of the people*) calendar when we pray, prepare, and wait for the arrival of Jesus Christ; it should not be a season that we rush through!
- **“Happy New Year, Catholic Church!”** While everyone celebrates New Year’s Day on January 1, the **First Sunday of Advent** marks the beginning of the new liturgical year in the Catholic Church! Remind your students that, even though the Catholic Church doesn’t celebrate its New Year with a huge party, it is still a big deal because we begin the “new year” by making “preparations!”
 - Ask the children if they’ve ever had to “**wait**” for something special. Allow 2-3 children to share their stories.
 - **Explanation of the Advent Season:** A long, long time ago, God promised His chosen people (Israel) that He would send them a **Messiah** (a **Savior**) to lead them to **Heaven** (God’s home). Depending upon when they were born, the early generations of believers had to wait (and pray through) hundreds—or perhaps thousands—of years before **Jesus Christ** (God’s only Son, their Messiah) was born! *The Season of Advent gives us a sense of what it’s like to “wait” for something that has been promised!*
 - **Reminder:** We’re not waiting for Santa Claus to bring us presents! There’s much more to the Seasons of Advent and Christmas than receiving gifts on Christmas morning.
 - During the first two weeks of Advent, we pray and prepare for the **Second Coming** of Jesus. Before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus told His disciples that He would someday return. He died in the year 33 A.D., so, like those early believers, we’ve been waiting a long time, too! We really don’t know when He’ll return, so our mood is a bit grim (gloomy, sad) at Mass during those first two weeks of Advent. *After resurrecting from*

*the dead, in a visit with His Apostles, Jesus told them that He had to leave them to be with His Father in Heaven, but He would someday return. They were, no doubt, confused by His remarks because He couldn't provide an explanation that they would have understood. Even today, we still believe that, someday, He will come back! (We will expound on that topic when the children are older.) **Reminder for adult volunteers:** If we follow Christ's teachings and live our lives for the glory of God, we should eagerly await (not fear) the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!*

- During the last two weeks of Advent, we pray and prepare for the anniversary of Jesus' birth. Each year, we remember and celebrate His birth on Christmas Day. *Remind the children that we are only born once! After that, we celebrate the anniversary of our birth on our birthday! **QUESTION:** How long ago was Jesus born? **ANSWER:** Jesus was born approximately 2,015 years ago!*
- **Advent Wreath:** a circle (*representing God's unending love for us*) of green foliage, usually garland or leaves (*representing new life—God's life—within us*), three **violet** candles and one **rose-colored** (not pink) candle. *We will not use this as a craft activity for all of the children in Grade 1, but I will attempt to provide some sort of a simple Advent wreath for each classroom. If I can provide battery-operated candles, please light them to help explain the order in which the candles are lit throughout the Advent Season. **NOTE:** In the Catholic Church, the **violet** color expresses a gloomy anticipation (waiting) emotion. The **rose** (not pink) color expresses a sense of joy.*
 - We can find an Advent wreath in every Catholic church during the Season of Advent.
 - One violet candle is lit on the **First Sunday of Advent**.
 - Two violet candle candles are lit on the **Second Sunday of Advent**.
 - Two violet candles and the rose-colored candle are lit on the **Third Sunday of Advent**. On the Third Sunday of Advent, we begin to anticipate the anniversary of Jesus' birth and begin making plans to celebrate Christmas.
 - **NOTE:** *With the help of volunteers, the priest will not decorate the church until a day or two before Christmas Eve! Even though lights may be strung on Christmas trees in church by that time, they will not be turned on until the Faithful Assembly begins to gather for the Anticipated Mass on Christmas Eve.*
 - **FYI:** *Christmas is more than one day! It is an entire season! It begins with the Anticipated Mass on Christmas Eve and lasts until we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus Christ in January!*
 - Three violet (*somber, gloomy; waiting*) candle candles and the rose-colored (*joyful*) candle are lit on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**.
- Depending upon how long ago we discussed **John the Baptist** in detail at our summer program, John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth and a cousin of Jesus, who was only a few months older than Jesus, but grew up to live alone in the wilderness. Following God's plan for him, John began to preach to the people whom he encountered in the wilderness. He preached about the Messiah who would soon arrive. He said, "Repent! (*Change your heart and your ways.*) Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight the paths; raise the valleys; make the mountains low." (*In other words, the quickest way to get from one place to another is a straight line. We should clear out the busy-ness of our lives so the Messiah will be able to enter our lives quickly and easily.*) John also **baptized** those who desired to be baptized—including Jesus when he was approximately 30 years old! We hear/read about John the Baptist in the **Gospels** during Advent.

➤ **Christmas:** the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the "Newborn King" and Son of God

- **God** is Jesus' **Father**.
 - **Mary** is Jesus' **Mother**.
 - Mary was living in **Nazareth** and engaged to be married to **Joseph** when the angel visited her. An angel visited Joseph, her finance, in a dream and explained that he should not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. They were married before Jesus was born. Joseph is known as Jesus' **foster father** on earth.
 - Before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to **Bethlehem**, the hometown of Joseph's family, so they could be counted in the census. Because so many people had traveled to Bethlehem for the same reason, there were no vacant rooms in the inns (*hotels*). Seeing that Mary was very pregnant, the innkeeper offered to let them stay in his stable with his animals. Jesus was born in that stable.
 - An **angel** told the **shepherds** in the field outside of Bethlehem about the birth of the Newborn King, then a **multitude of angels** joined the angel in singing "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will." (*We sing/recite those words at Mass in the Gloria through most of the year!*)
 - The "family" of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit is called the **Holy Trinity** (or Blessed Trinity).
 - The family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is called the **Holy Family**.
- **New information for Grade 2:**
- A long distance from Bethlehem, three **Magi** (*"Wise Men"*) saw an unusually **bright star** in the sky on the night when Jesus was born. These "Wise Men" were probably scientists "from the East" who had studied the early Jewish Scriptures as well as astronomy (*the study of the stars and planets in the sky*). They knew that the bright star would lead them to the "Newborn King," so they packed gifts for the Baby and followed the star to find Him.
 - **We won't frighten our young children with "scary" details, but teen and adult volunteers are old enough to understand the following information:** The Wise Men traveled on foot and by camel—not by car or jet! It took several—or many—weeks or months for them to arrive in **King Herod's** territory. Welcoming them as overnight guests, **King Herod** was surprised (and jealous) at the news of a Newborn King. (*He wanted to be the only king in his territory!*) Hiding his jealousy, he encouraged the Magi to continue their journey, find the Newborn King, and return to the palace on their way home so they could tell him where he could find and adore the Newborn King. (*Actually, he wanted to kill the Newborn King!*) Baby Jesus was kept safe from harm because an **angel** had appeared to **Joseph** in a dream telling him to leave Bethlehem immediately and flee with his family into **Egypt**. They lived in Egypt for a long time until an angel appeared to Joseph (again) telling him it was safe to return to Nazareth. An **angel** also appeared to the **Magi** in a dream telling them not to return to King Herod because of Herod's plans to harm Baby Jesus. After months had passed, when it became obvious that the Magi were not going to return to King Herod's palace, Herod issued an order that all boys under the age of two must be killed. (*Because Herod issued the order to kill boys under the age of two, several months must have passed since the Magi had left Herod's palace. As a result, we're not sure where the Magi found the Newborn king or how old He was when they finally arrived to adore Him and give Him gifts. Nonetheless, we*

*continue to remember the Magi's journey (and the gifts they presented to Him) when we celebrate the **Feast of the Epiphany** on January 6 or, most often, on the Sunday before January 6. We also remember the young boys whom Herod killed on the **Feast of the Holy Innocents** on December 28. Both feasts are celebrated each year during the Christmas Season.)*

- Probably because they were familiar with the ancient Sacred Scriptures of the Jewish faith, the Magi brought prophetic gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Baby Jesus:
 - **Gold:** a gift for royalty (*because He was the Newborn King*)
 - **Frankincense:** incense for a priest (*because Jesus Christ was our first priest*)
 - **Myrrh:** a burial ointment (*because in ancient Scriptures, it was foretold that the Messiah would die to save us from our sins*)
- **Epiphany** means “to reveal or to make known.”
 - Each year, when we celebrate the **The Feast of Epiphany** in early January, we remember that the presence of **God** in this world was revealed to us as **Baby Jesus**.

If you ever have any questions or concerns (or emergencies),
Please call, text, and/or email me.

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Advent/Christmas Review

Advent questions:

There are ___ Sundays in the Season of Advent.

4

The word Advent means “___.”

“arrival”

In Advent, we prepare for the ___ Coming of Jesus.

Second

When does the Catholic Church year begin?

The Catholic Church year begins on the First Sunday of Advent.

What is the primary (used most often) liturgical color of the Advent Season?

violet

Advent wreath questions:

What color are the candles on an Advent wreath?

There are three violet candles and one rose candle on an Advent wreath.

NOTE: We often see pictures that include a white candle in the center of the wreath. The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the world, but because, in Advent, we are focused on “preparing” rather than celebrating His birth, the Catholic Church uses only four candles.

Which candle(s) do we light on the First Sunday of Advent?

We light one of the violet candles.

Which candle(s) do we light on the Second Sunday of Advent?

We light two of the violet candles.

Which candle(s) do we light on the Third Sunday in Advent?

We light three candles on the Third Sunday of Advent: two violet candles and one rose candle.

Which candle(s) do we light on the Fourth Sunday of Advent?

We light all four candles: the three violet candles and the rose candle.

The Advent wreath helps us prepare for ____.

Christmas

There are ____ candles on an Advent wreath.

4

John the Baptist questions:

____ encouraged God’s people to “prepare the way of the Lord.”

John the Baptist

John the Baptist was Jesus’ ____.

cousin

The family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is called the ____ Family.

Holy

General Christmas questions:

Who is the Newborn King?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God

On which day do we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus?

Christmas

How long ago was Jesus born?

Jesus was born in the year 0 A.D., so He was born approximately [insert the current year here] years ago.

(Reminders: That number will change each year! "A.D." stands for "Anno Domini," which is Latin for "Year of our Lord.")

After Joseph and Mary were married, they had to travel to Bethlehem. Why?

They had to travel to Joseph's family's hometown so they could be counted in the census.

Once they arrived in Bethlehem, did Mary and Joseph stay in a hotel?

No. There were no empty rooms because of the huge number of visitors to Bethlehem. An innkeeper offered to let them stay in his stable.

*(NOTE: The pictures and images we often see of the **Nativity** aren't accurate! Because there were few trees in Bethlehem and the surrounding area, the stable was probably a cave in a hill rather than a wooden building! Jesus grew up to become a "carpenter" with Joseph, but they worked with rock much more often than wood!)*

Where was Jesus born?

Jesus was born in an innkeeper's stable because "there was no room for them in the inn."

(Refer to note in answer above.)

Christmas questions about shepherds and angels:

To whom did the angels tell of Christ's birth?

shepherds

Where were the shepherds when Jesus was born?

The shepherds were tending their sheep in the fields.

Who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus?

An angel appeared and said, "Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy for all people.

Today, in the city of David (Bethlehem), a savior has been born. He is the Messiah and Lord.

You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

How many angels appeared to the shepherds on the night that Jesus was born?

One angel appeared first to share the news of Jesus' birth. Then a multitude of heavenly hosts

joined the angel praising God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests." (At every Mass, we still say "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to people of good will.")

Christmas questions about the Magi:

The "Wise Men" are often called the ____.

Magi

How many “Wise Men” brought gifts to the Newborn King?

3

How did the Wise Men travel?

They traveled by foot and by camel.

How many “wise men” traveled to visit the Newborn King?

Three “wise” men (probably astronomers or scientists) traveled from the East to visit Jesus after His birth.

How did the Magi know where to find the Newborn King?

They followed a very bright star.

What does the word “Epiphany” mean?

“Epiphany” means “to reveal or to make known.”

What gifts did the “wise men” bring to the Newborn King?

They brought gifts of gold *(for a king), frankincense* *(used by priests as incense or perfume as a symbol of our prayers going up to Heaven), and myrrh* *(incense or perfume used to cover up bad odors when burying the dead).*

Jesus’ Family:

Who is Jesus’ father?

God

Who is Jesus’ foster father?

Joseph

Who is Jesus’ mother?

Mary

God is Jesus’ ____.

Father

Joseph is Jesus’ ____.

foster father

Mary is Jesus’ ____.

Mother

Parents/Guardians:

Please read and sign below. Return it to Mrs. Nicole DesOrmeaux (by USPS mail or scan or take a snapshot of it and text/email it) at your earliest convenience

Church Office mailing address: 700 S Broadway, Erath LA

Email address: lolchurcheducation@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 337-224-9465

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Nicole can update our attendance records to indicate that you have helped your child make up the work that he/she missed during Sunday Session in December.

My child, _____ (currently in Grade ____) and I have read and discussed all the information included in this make-up packet for Sunday Session in December for Grade ____.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date