

# ABSOLUTELY ADVENT!

GETTING READY  
FOR CHRISTMAS  
2019 ★

For Intermediate Grades





# FIRST SATURDAY of ADVENT

December 7

SAINT AMBROSE

★ **Today's Gospel** » **MATTHEW 9:35–10:1, 5A, 6-8** ★

*Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and sickness (10:1).*

Of the Twelve Apostles, some of their names are pretty familiar. For instance, we all know Peter, who was called Simon before Jesus renamed him. Peter had a brother, Andrew, who was another disciple. Another set of brothers was James and John. And who can forget doubting Thomas or the betrayer, Judas?

**In addition to those six Apostles, there were six others.**

To discover their names, complete this exercise. Refer to the number and arrow direction above each line. Find the corresponding letter in the list of letters and write it on the line.



(son of Alphaeus)



(the Cananean)





# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 9

★ Today's Gospel » LUKE 1:26-38 ★

*An angel named Gabriel... was to deliver God's message to a woman engaged to a man named Joseph. The woman's name was Mary (1:26-27).*

Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. It is a season that gives us a special opportunity to think about Mary. She is, of course, a key person at the birth of Jesus!

Although the Immaculate Conception of Mary is not a Holy Day in 2019, there are usually six Holy Days of Obligation celebrated in the United States (but only two in Canada). Below are four out of six. Each of these Holy Days involves Mary. **See if you can match the date and the feast with the reason it is celebrated.**

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| <b>1</b> Mary is the Mother of Jesus, who is the Second Person of the Trinity. | <b>A</b> <b>AUGUST 15</b><br><i>Assumption of Mary</i>     |
| <b>2</b> Mary was taken into heaven body and soul.                             | <b>B</b> <b>DECEMBER 8</b><br><i>Immaculate Conception</i> |
| <b>3</b> Mary was sinless from the very beginning of her life.                 | <b>C</b> <b>DECEMBER 25</b><br><i>Nativity of the Lord</i> |
| <b>4</b> Mary gave birth to Jesus, Our Lord and Savior.                        | <b>D</b> <b>JANUARY 1</b><br><i>Mary, Mother of God</i>    |

In addition to these four Holy Days, there are two more celebrated in the United States. **What are the feasts and when are they celebrated?**

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# THIRD SATURDAY *of* ADVENT

December 21

SAINT PETER CANISIUS

★ **Today's Gospel** » **LUKE 1:39-45** ★

*In those days Mary went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth (1:39-40).*

The trip to see Elizabeth could not have been easy, but Mary wanted to help her cousin. This is the first example we have of Mary following through on being a “servant of the Lord.”

When you help someone, you are also a “servant of the Lord.” This weekend will be very busy with last-minute preparations for Christmas.

**Decide how you could be of service in these examples.**

**1** A notice in the bulletin asks for help decorating the church for Christmas.

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**4** Your little sister is having trouble making her gift for Mom.

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**2** Your father is having trouble untangling the lights for the tree.

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**5** While setting up the crèche, your brother dropped lots of packing material on the carpet.

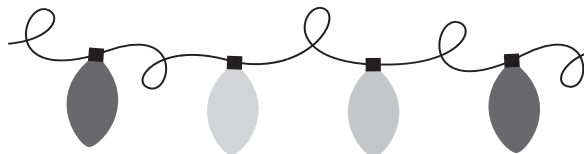
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**3** Your neighbor needs to finish Christmas cards and get them to the post office.

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# ADVENT SAINTS



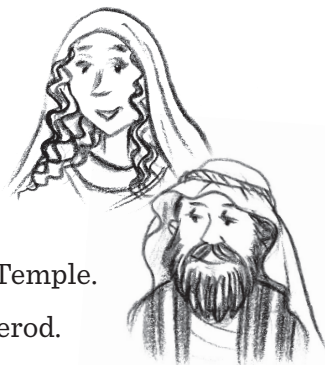
## **MARY AND JOSEPH** (*Matthew and Luke, Chapters 1 and 2*)

Mary has 333 titles and is celebrated on 54 feast days around the world each year! She is honored by many nations and denominations and is especially beloved by Catholics.

When we first learn about Jesus, we also learn about Mary, his mother. From the Gospels, we know that Mary was important to Jesus throughout his life.

Here is what we learn about Joseph from the Bible.

- He was descended from the royal line of David.
- He was a righteous man and the husband of Mary.
- He was present at Jesus' birth.
- With Mary, he presented baby Jesus to God in the Temple.
- He took Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod.
- He took them back to Nazareth when it was safe.
- He shared Mary's worries when Jesus was presumed lost on a journey home from Jerusalem.
- He cared for and protected Jesus as he grew into adulthood.



Joseph is the patron for many, including carpenters, fathers, farmers, the dying, engineers, the family, and house hunters. He is revered and honored by all for his faithfulness to God, Mary, and Jesus.

**How do we know Joseph was a carpenter? Write your answer here.**

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**HINT:** *If you don't know, look at Matthew 13:55.*