

ABSOLUTELY ADVENT!

GETTING READY
FOR CHRISTMAS
2020 ★

For Intermediate Grades





First Tuesday of Advent

DECEMBER 1

★ Today's Gospel » Luke 10:21-24 ★

Jesus told his disciples, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! Many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it" (10:23-24).

If someone tells you something that sounds hard to believe, you would probably ask, "**HOW DO YOU KNOW?**"

Look at these possible responses to your question. Rate each one with **B**, **N**, or **D**.

B=I'd believe it. **N**=I wouldn't believe it.

D=It depends.

- ☐ "I saw it in on the Internet."
- ☐ "It's in today's paper."
- ☒ "It was on TV last night."
- ☐ "I heard it on the radio."
- ☐ "Somebody told me."

It is very important to get your information from a reliable source. So, "It depends" is a good answer if you mean "It depends on how reliable the website is, or the newspaper reporter, or the television or radio program, or the person who said it."

It was important for those who followed Jesus to know for sure that he was who he said he was. They were people of the Jewish religion. They had prayed to God for centuries, asking for a Savior—a Messiah. Jesus was that Messiah, but people weren't just going to take his word for it. Anyone could say, "I am the Messiah."

Those who believed in Jesus had seen the power he had. They had heard his words. They had asked him questions and had gotten answers they could understand. They were blessed with faith.



First Saturday of Advent

DECEMBER 5

★ Today's Gospel » Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 ★

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (9:36).

Jesus knew that many, many people needed help. But he couldn't personally get around to all the people who needed him. So he sent his Twelve Apostles out to help. He gave them instructions. **Unscramble the words in each of his instructions so his apostles will be sure to understand what to do.**

1

O A I R P M L C _____ the good news
that the **M G N K I O D** _____
of **A V E E H N** _____ has come near.

2

E R C U _____ the sick.

3

I A E S R _____ the dead.

4

N L C E E A S _____ the lepers.

5

S T C A _____
T O U _____ demons.





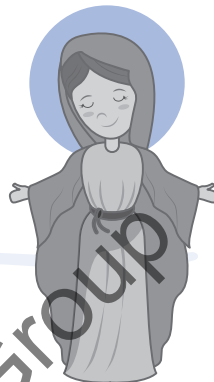
Immaculate Conception *of the* Blessed Virgin Mary

DECEMBER 8

★ Today's Gospel » Luke 1:26-38 ★

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth (1:26).

Today's feast celebrates Mary's sinless life and her faithfulness to God.



Fill in these blanks to tell the story of what happened that day. If you need help, re-read the Gospel verses.

1. An angel named _____ was sent by God.
2. The angel was sent to a town called _____.
3. The virgin's name was _____.
4. She was engaged to be married to a man named _____.
5. The man was of the house of _____.
6. The baby would be named _____.
7. The baby was conceived through the power of the _____.
8. He would be called the _____ of _____.
9. He would reign over the house of _____.
10. A relative named _____ was also expecting a baby, even in her old age.
11. Nothing is impossible with _____.



Second Thursday of Advent

DECEMBER 10

★ Today's Gospel » Matthew 11:11-15 ★

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you,...no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (11:11).

There is a long tradition of people going ahead of someone and preparing the way. Jesus had John the Baptist. Without John, people might not have been ready to listen to Jesus' message of good news. Today, a person who prepares the way for another is called an **"ADVANCE PERSON."**

For instance, if the president is coming to your town, the advance people contact local dignitaries to welcome the president. They will set up security and plan traffic routes. They will talk with the media about what message the president wants to give to people.

Not all of us are presidents, but we all have something to say. We say it by the way we live and by sharing our gifts and talents with others.

Pretend you need an advance person to prepare people for the message you want to give. Make a plan by answering these questions.

1 Who do you pick as your advance person and why do you pick him or her? _____

2 What message do you want to give to people? _____

3 What is the most important thing you want people to remember about your visit? _____

The Jesse Tree



After reading the brief descriptions of these ancestors of Jesus, write the correct name on the appropriate ornament. To learn more about each ancestor, read the cited Scripture verses.

SAMUEL, having been dedicated to the Lord by his mother at a young age, grew up in the temple at Shiloh. He became a trustworthy prophet and a light of God to the Israelites. (1 SAMUEL 3:19)

The greatest of Jesse's sons was **KING DAVID**, who as a young boy killed the Philistine Goliath. A six-pointed star is the emblem of the Royal House of David. Christ was born of the House of David. (1 SAMUEL 17:12-51)

SOLOMON, the heir to the throne of his father, King David, asked God for the gift of wisdom so he could rule with justice, and God granted it to him. Solomon needed this wisdom when confronted by two women, both claiming to be the mother of the same baby. Solomon built the great temple of Jerusalem. (1 KINGS 3:5-28; 6:1, 38)

ELIJAH challenged the priests of the false god Baal to start a fire to sacrifice a bull just by calling on their god. When the priests could not get the fire started by invoking Baal's name, Elijah built an altar and called out to the Lord God. The fire started and consumed the bull and the altar. (1 KINGS 18:17-39)

ISAIAH was a great prophet who had a vision of the Lord sitting on a throne being attended to by angels. One of the angels flew to Isaiah and purified him by touching his lips with a live coal held by a pair of tongs. (ISAIAH 6:1-13)

