

# Faith in the Home



December 2021

# December 5, 2021 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

We Need to Make a Straight Path for Jesus to Come to Us

## LEARN

**Read Bible:** Luke 3:4,6 – Catholic Children’s Bible p. 1580



As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

“Someone is shouting in the desert:  
‘Get the road ready for the Lord;  
make a straight path for him to travel!’”



## **Did You Know?**



In this Bible passage, Luke goes back in time and uses words from the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah was one of the most famous prophets who lived around 800 years before Jesus was born. A prophet is a person that God chooses to announce his message to others. There was another famous prophet who lived during the time of Jesus. His name was John the Baptist. In this passage from Luke, John is the one who is shouting in the desert, telling people to get ready because Jesus is coming.

## **DISCUSS & DO**



The “straight path” in the Bible passage above is a visual description for us to understand how Jesus can enter our hearts. The goal is for us to prepare ourselves (change behavior) to allow Jesus to work in us. Explain to your children that traveling on a straight path is much easier than a crooked one. Setup your home for this activity:

In an open area, use painter’s tape to outline a path for your children to walk. Set up obstacles with pillows, chairs, etc. After each child walks the path, ask them what got in the way and how they overcame the obstacles. Afterwards, use tape to lay a new path without any obstacles. Discuss how much easier this was.

### For Preschool-K

**ACTIVITY:** After the activity, explain how Jesus wants us to be good so he can have a straight path to come to us.

### For Grades 1-5

**ACTIVITY:** After the activity, remind your children that we are preparing for Jesus to come at Christmas. Tell them that spiritual obstacles are like physical ones – they get in the way. Ask and discuss what spiritual obstacles they choose that get in the way of Jesus coming into their hearts (e.g., fighting with friends, disobeying parents, not sharing toys, etc.) Ask them to work one of these obstacles this week.

### Additional weekly activities for all ages can be found online:

- Catholic Icing – [catholicicing.com](http://catholicicing.com)
- Catholic Mom – [catholicmom.com/sunday-mass-activities](http://catholicmom.com/sunday-mass-activities)

**PRAY**



“Dear Jesus, help me to do good things, so we can make an easy path for you to come to us. Amen.”

December 12, 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Advent  
Jesus Wants Us to be Joyful Whether We Are Happy or Sad

**LEARN**

**Read Bible:** Philippians 4:4-7- Catholic Children's Bible p. 1857



4 May you always be joyful in your union with the Lord. I say it again: rejoice! 5 Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. 7 And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.

Don't Worry  
Be Happy



**Philippians 4:4-7**

**Did You Know?**



"Lord" in the Bible passage above refers to Jesus. The passage is part of a letter that Saint Paul wrote to the Philippians about 50 years after Jesus was on earth. The Philippians lived in Greece and helped Saint Paul spread the good news about Jesus.

**DISCUSS & DO**



Explain that Jesus wants us to rejoice in him and be full of joy all the time, no matter if we are happy or sad. That does not mean we cannot have tears when sad things happen, it means that inside our hearts we are still have joy and peace because we know that Jesus loves us.

**For Preschool-K**

**ACTIVITY:** Ask your child what makes them happy (e.g. puppies, ice cream etc., then ask what makes them sad (e.g. broken toys, getting in trouble, etc.. Tell them that whether they are happy or sad, Jesus still loves them.

### **For Grades 1-5**

**ACTIVITY:** Have your child make a list of those things that make them happy (e.g. puppies, ice cream etc. and put a big smiley face beside each of them. Then, have them make a list of those things that make them sad (e.g. broken toys, someone is sick, etc. and put a sad face beside each of them. Discuss how they and others can have God's peace no matter whether they are happy or sad.

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### **PRAY**



“Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us peace when we are afraid. Help us to not to worry about anything and be okay whether we are happy or sad, because we know that you love and care of us. Amen.”

# December 19, 2021 – 4th Sunday of Advent

## Mary Visits Her Cousin, Elizabeth

### LEARN

**Read Bible:** Luke 1:39-45 - Catholic Children's Bible p. 1572



39 Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. 40 She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? 44 For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. 45 How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"



### **Did You Know?**



Both Mary and her cousin, Elizabeth, were going to have babies. After Mary learned that Elizabeth was pregnant, Mary hurried to visit her. When Mary arrived, John, the baby inside of Elizabeth, knew that Jesus was inside of Mary and began jumping for joy inside of his mom's tummy. Both women praised God. Elizabeth knew that God had blessed Mary, who would give birth to our savior, Jesus.

### DISCUSS & DO



Talk to you children about how babies can feel certain emotions in utero. Moms: Talk to them if/when you felt them moving inside when you were pregnant, especially when you were feeling joyful.

#### **For Preschool-K**

**ACTIVITY:** Tell your child that God gave Mary a lot of joy when she was carrying Jesus in her tummy. Jesus wants you to have a lot of joy too.

#### **For Grades 1-5**

**ACTIVITY:** Tell your child that God gave Mary a lot of joy when she was carrying Jesus in her tummy. Jesus wants you to have a lot of joy too. Then, ask them:

Who is Mary? The young woman chosen to be Jesus' mom

Who is Elizabeth? An older woman, Mary's cousin, who is pregnant with John

What did Elizabeth do when she was happy about Mary's news? She shouted blessings

What did Mary do when she was happy? She praised God for all that He was going to do

What do you do when you are happy? Praise God for all he has given you

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**PRAY**



“Dear God, help me to be patient while we wait for your Son, Jesus, to come. Help me to remember how much you love us, so I can be joyful and show your love to others. Amen.”

# December 25, 2021 – Christmas

## The Birth of Jesus



### LEARN



**Read Bible:** Luke 2:1-14 - Catholic Children's Bible p. 1576

2 At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. 3 Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.

4 Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. 5 He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, 6 and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. 7 She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger —there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

8 There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, 10 but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. 11 This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! 12 And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

### **Did You Know?**



The Christmas season begins today on Jesus' birthday. It is a season full of joy. The church is brightly decorated, and the priest wears gold or white. At Mass, we celebrate that God son, Jesus came 2000 years ago to save us from sin so we could live with him forever. Jesus is still with us today, even though we cannot see him. Jesus is the best gift that God gave to the world! This is the real meaning of Christmas.



## **DISCUSS & DO**



Take your family to church and spend some quiet time in prayer in front of the nativity scene. Reflect on this day and praise God for sending his Son, Jesus, to us!

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## **PRAY**



"Dear Jesus, thank you for being with us and for sharing your love with our family this Christmas season. Show us how to be good, kind, and generous as you are. Amen."

# December 26, 2021 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

## Jesus is Found in the Temple

### LEARN

**Read Bible:** Luke 2:41-52 - Catholic Children's Bible pp. 1577,1580



41 Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. 42 When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. 43 When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; 44 they thought that he was with the group, so they traveled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. 46 On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. 47 All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers.



48 His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you." 49 He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand his answer. 51 So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favor with God and people.

### **Did You Know?**

Mary and Joseph along with other Jewish people went to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Passover. The Passover happened when God freed the Israelites who had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. The Jewish people celebrated then that God rescued them and gave them their freedom. Their story is told in the Book of Exodus in the Bible.

**Watch Video - Jesus is Lost** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WtVZe5gc7w>

### DISCUSS & DO



Discuss with your children: That the Bible story says that Jesus went back with His parents and obeyed them, following the fourth Commandment to honor your father and mother. That when Jesus did these things, he grew in wisdom and in favor. When we do what is right, God and others will be happy with us.

#### **For Preschool-K**

**ACTIVITY:** Tell your children that, as their parents, you love and care for them very much and that Jesus wants them to obey you. How? By telling the truth, doing nice things for you, etc.

## For Grades 1-5

**ACTIVITY:** Tell your children that, as their parents, you love and care for them very much and that Jesus wants them to obey you. How? Have them list as many ways as they can to obey you (tell the truth, do nice things, etc.). Challenge them to do one of these ways this week.

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## **PRAY**



“Dear God, help us to be more like your Son, Jesus. Help us to obey our parents, who love and care for us just like Mary and Joseph did with Jesus. Amen.”

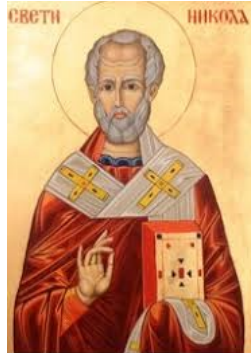
# MORE Faith in the Home

## FEAST DAYS THIS MONTH

### Week of December 5

#### **St. Nicholas - December 6**

St. Nicholas was born in Turkey about 400 years before Jesus. His family was very wealthy. He was very generous and gave most of his money away. Once there was a man who could not take care of his family. So, Nicholas left money in the children's shoes that were drying outside. This began the tradition of leaving shoes by the door for St. Nicholas to fill. "St. Nicholas, pray for us."



#### **Feast of the Immaculate Conception - December 8**

Mary was visited by an angel who told her she would be the mother of Jesus. Mary was very special and pure. She was free of the original sin caused by Adam and Eve. We celebrate and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary for being so holy. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us."



#### **St. Juan Diego - December 9**

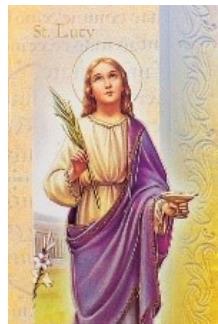
St. Juan Diego was a poor man who lived in Mexico about 500 years ago. One day, Mary, the mother of Jesus, appeared to him on a path. She told him to go to the bishop and tell him to build a church on that spot where others could worship God. St. Juan Diego had lots of faith; he was a humble and quiet person. The church was built and is still there today. "St. Juan Diego, pray for us."



### Week of December 12

#### **St. Lucy - December 13**

Saint Lucy lived a long time ago. She was very generous in bringing food and blankets to people in prison. Her name means "light". Saint Lucy looked to the light of Jesus for strength, guidance, and hope. She is the patron saint for people with eye diseases. "Saint Lucy, pray for us."



### Week of December 26

#### **St. John the Apostle - December 27**

St. John the Apostle was a fisherman and was one of the first men called by Jesus to be an apostle. An apostle is one who was sent to spread Jesus' teachings. In the Bible, he wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. He is known as "the Apostle of Love" and was the only apostle with Jesus when he died on the cross. "St. John the Apostle, pray for us."

