

# Faith on Fire

Family Guide

Week of Dec. 5, 2021

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday (Rose Candle)

(Weekly dated December 12, 2021 )

Gaudete means 'to rejoice' or 'be filled with happiness.' This Sunday we light the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath. It urges us to be filled with joyful anticipation for the Lord's coming.

## Opening Prayer



+Oh God thank you for this joy filled Sunday half way through our waiting for your Son's coming. As we wait for Jesus, help us to spread joy to all of your people.

Thank you for...

We are sorry for. . . and we ask for your help with . . .

In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen +

## John the Baptist Prepares for Jesus - Luke 3:10-18

(Overview for Adult Leader)

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist raises our hopes for being ready for Jesus' coming, as he once raised the hope for a Messiah in those who flocked to hear him.

John gives some concrete, practical suggestions about how to live as God expects. He tells them to be good to other people by being kind, generous and fair. He warns people that the Messiah will winnow the harvest and save wheat but let chaff blow away. By comparing the wheat and the straw, John encourages us to be like wheat, which will be gathered and saved.

## QUICK CONNECT (10 min)

Begin by each child completing the front cover of *their* Gospel Weekly (3 min)

**Catholic Faith Word:** A great way to start your Scripture time together is to do hangman with the Catholic Faith Word. Choose one word if you have multiple children or if time permits do multiple words!

**NOTE:** Families with **ONLY PROMISE** children, please go [HERE](#) for your Parent Teaching Guide which includes opening story, Gospel, & questions. You may look at this Family Guide for extra resources.

**DO ALL TOGETHER - READ A OPENING STORY & Do the Questions** This is a quick opportunity for everyone to listen to ONE story which will prepare them for the Gospel. (If you have students in different levels, pick just one story.) Promise found at **RED** link above.

**Short on time?** Skip the story & pick from the discussion starter questions below to make a quick connection with family members & move on to the Gospel Reading.



**Questions:** Pick 1 or 2 that apply to your child(ren)

- How do you share with others who don't have as much as you do?
- How do you feel when you see someone being a bully?
- Can you tell me the difference between a sin and a mistake?



## Discover the Gospel TOGETHER - 20 min

*(Overview for Adult Leader)* Anything given as charity to those most in need is a work of justice. Any work of justice, anything we do that promotes the reign of God is pleasing to God our Father. The corporal works of mercy are direct actions we can take that assist people with *physical needs*. We need to make sure people have enough to eat and have shelter before we expect much else from the. Loving our neighbor by attending to their basic needs shows our desire to truly witness to the Gospel. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #2447)

**Read the Gospel (find in their Bible) OR read/act out the Gospel Play from ONE of the printed Pflaum Weeklies - Luke 3:10-18**



**TOGETHER** do the Gospel Reflection Questions found in *your child's Weekly* (in yellow boxes), except Promise & most explained below.

**Who is giving gifts this Christmas? Who are you giving gifts to? How do you feel when you get a gift?**

**Why did John the Baptist think that sharing our things & behaving kindly and honestly were good ways to get ready for God's coming among us?** *Accept all answers...but those are the ways God has always taught his people to behave..way back in the Old Testament.*

**Why did people come to John the Baptist?** *John was a holy man. People wanted him to tell them how to get ready for god's coming. People wanted to show God they were sorry for their sins. John was baptizing them to help them do that.*

**What did John tell them to do?** *John told people with two coats to share one, people with food to share with the hungry, tax collectors to be honest and fair, soldiers not to bully or make trouble for other people.*

**Why does John the Baptist need to remind the people to share what they have and treat each other fairly?** *Like us, the people in Sunday's Gospel can become comfortable when they want for nothing. Most people need reminders to watch out for those who are in need.*

**Who is the one mightier than John the Baptist who is coming?** *Jesus*

**When have you shown mercy to someone? When have you acted justly?** *Accept all answers but remind children that even small kindnesses are important and can have an impact on someone's life.*

**Read John's commands to the crowd, the tax collectors, and the soldiers. How can you obey these rules?** *Open ended; in general, we can be content with what we have, care for our things and use allowance money carefully.*

**What are you hopeful about this Advent season? How can you bring hope to those who have none? How can we keep the Christmas spirit going beyond the season?** *Accept all answers.*

Have each child work on **their** pages in What the Church Believes & Teaches (WCBT)  
**Each child will work individually in their book as they may not be covering the same content.**

**Promise** students will do God Asks Us to Love (p 11)

**Good News** students will do Sin (p 30) Conscience (p52)

**Venture** students will do Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching (p 51)

**Visions** students will do Following the Moral Law (p 30)





## Go Live It!! (10 min)

As a family find some way to care for the physical needs (corporeal work of mercy) of someone outside your family. (Ex: donating food or clothing to a local agency)

Don't forget to be sharing your highs & lows for the day; what you're thankful for AND our latest question: **What are you sorry for today?**



### Closing Prayer:

Use the prayer found in your Gospel Weekly to close your time together. It can be found in the Family Corner (Promise/Good news) or With My Family & Friends section (Venture/Visions).

Show us what you've learned or how you've lived your faith this week!

Together, let's take one step closer to God!

Find the Assignment Form [HERE](#).  
Due Next Sunday

### Car Rides Review Questions!

Can you tell me what the Gospel was about?  
Why do you think this story is in the Bible?  
What did we learn from the Gospel?

INTERESTED IN A LITTLE MORE  
ADVENTURE?! CHECK OUT  
THESE ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES!!



To receive weekly tips from Pflaum Weekly click [here](#)

### Learn about the Eucharist

"The Holy Eucharist is, indeed, 'Jesus Christ, yesterday & today, and the same forever' (Hebrews 13:8) In this Sacrament He glorifies all the mysteries of His life and prolongs, as it were, the exercise of all His virtues. The Eucharist is, in a word, the great Mystery of our faith to which all catholic truths lead." ~St. Peter Julia Eymard

We live in a world where people always seem to want more--more money, more fame, more power, more material possessions. Humans seem to have a hard time being satisfied. Our spiritual life is no different. We often look for signs & messages from God, or we look for him to solve all our problems. Saint Teresa reminds us that if we have the real, true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, we really don't need anything else. The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist gives us the strength to deal with whatever may come up in life. If Jesus is in our soul through our receiving Holy Communion, there really is nothing else that we need.

### Saint of the Week - St. Lucy

Check [HERE](#) for fun Lucy crafts/foods!

### Younger Students

- [The Bible Bag Story](#)
- [A Journey thru Advent w//song](#)

### Older Students

- [Advent: Waiting for Jesus](#)

### Adults

- [Tour of Temple Mount](#)

