Faith on Fire

Family Guide

Week of Nov. 21, 2021
1st Sunday of Advent
(Weekly dated November 28, 2021)

Opening Prayer

+God our Father,
Thank you for this special season of Advent. Help us to truly prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus.

Thank you for...
We are sorry for. . . and we ask for your help with . . .
In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen +

God Promises to Save Us - Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

(Overview for Adult Leader)

The Advent season prepares us for Jesus' first coming at His birth in Bethlehem, His Second Coming at the end of time and His continuing coming among us in the mystery of Christians gathered in his name.

The Church begins its new Liturgical Year by envisioning the ultimate fulfillment of the human race in the coming of Jesus at the end of time. This Sunday's Gospel tells us about Jesus' Second Coming, when He will come in glory to establish God's kingdom on earth.

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 many 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 we get ready for a special holiday, like Thanksgiving?*
- *Do you like mornings when we have everything ready for school the night before? Or do you like rushing around in the morning? Why?*

Discover the Gospel TOGETHER - 20 min

(Overview for Adult Leader) Advent is a season of hoping and waiting. The word Advent means 'coming.' Jesus promised to be with us always. We wait for Jesus to keep His promise to come again in glory. Sunday's Gospel tells us to be ready for that day when Jesus will come again. During Advent, we get ready for Jesus' return by showing his love to others. "the Church makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming" Catechism #524

Read the Gospel (find in their Bible) OR read/act out the Gospel Play from ONE of the printed Pflaum Weeklies - Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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

How do you want to be acting when Jesus comes? *Allow for all answers*
What does Jesus tell us will be good about His coming again in glory? *Jesus' coming will mean that God is near. Because they know that God, who is good to them, will save them. God's promise to save us will be fulfilled. Jesus will take his followers to Heaven.*
How can we be ready for Jesus, the Son of Man, to come? *We can be ready by always trying to live as Jesus did: We need to pay attention, make loving choices, share what we have, forgive one another, follow Jesus' teachings, show Jesus' love to others. We need to live thoughtfully, make each day important as if it were the day of Jesus' coming.*
How does Jesus help you get through times of troubles and fear? *Jesus promises to be with us always, giving us the love and support we need in times of crisis.*
How will you prepare during Advent for the birth of Jesus? *(see the front cover of the Gospel Weekly.*
How do we know that Jesus is with us today, just as He was with His friends? *We see Jesus in the loving, caring actions of others; during Mass; and through the Sacraments. We know through the witness of other Christians and prayer.*
What is scary in this Gospel? What is hopeful & comforting? *The sun, moon, and stars will change; nations will suffer; seas will roar. Jesus will come in glory to save his followers, who will stand up and welcome him.*
How is God good to you? *Allow for all answers.*
Why are beginnings so joyful How can endings be positive as well? *Beginnings are full of excitement & possibility, like a new baby. Even an ending can bring joy--think of a school graduation. Challenge them to name others.*

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 Holy Seasons: Advent, Christmas (p 18)
Good News students will do Church Year (p 57) Advent & Christmas (p18)
Venture students will do What is the Liturgical Calendar? (p 16)
Visions students will do Calendar of Worship (p 20)

Live the Gospel

Go Live It!! (10 min)

Take some time to look over the litrugical calendar that was in your packet. Discuss starting our new church year.

Don't forget to be sharing your highs & lows for the day. **Remember our newest question: What are you most thankful 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 !

You will notice our homework options include many different experiences. 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?

To receive weekly tips from Pflaum Weekly click here

Learn about the Eucharist

"But do we not have in the Eucharist the living, true, and real Jesus present before us? Why look for more?" ~St. Teresa of Jesus (Avila)

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 Chris tin 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. Cecilia

Younger Students

- What's Advent? (3 min)
- A journey through Advent in song (25 min)

Older Students

- Advent in 2 Minutes (Excellent!)

Adults

- Advent in 2 Minutes
- What is Advent?