

*Jesus calling...*

**Advent** *is the time for us to hear the call*

**WELCOME TO THE ADVENT SEASON!**

ADVENT IS THE FIRST SEASON OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR. IT IS A TIME OF WAITING AND PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S COMING AT HIS BIRTH AS WELL AS HIS SECOND COMING AT THE END OF TIME. ADVENT BEGINS 4 SUNDAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND ENDS AT THE CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASS. COME AND JOIN US AS WE TRAVEL THROUGH ADVENT AND MEET THE DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO ARE HIGHLIGHTED DURING THIS SEASON OF WAITING.

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**MY CHRISTMAS VALUES**

**I believe Christmas is a time to...**

- Be a peacemaker in my family and the world at large
- Spend enjoyable time with my immediate family
- Reunite with my relatives
- Celebrate the birth of Christ
- Create a festive, beautiful home environment
- Show my love and generosity through gifts
- Remember the poor, lonely and needy
- Be active in my church community
- Celebrate with friends
- Relax and be renewed



Make sure you check off each area you visit.

## CHURCH: Walk with John the Baptist

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Matthew 3:1-3)

**John was a prophet who called people to repentance to prepare for God's kingdom**

- Advent is a time when we prepare our hearts again for the coming of God's kingdom
- Prophets are people who tell messages from God. John's message was

***"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"***

- Prophets told others God's message -- shining a light into the darkness
- We can tell others God's message too -- we are children of light!



**Learning Station: 1. Read the posters 2. Pray any blessing at the Baptismal Font 3. Bring your candle to the altar and place it around the Nativity scene.**



## CHURCH HALL

### **The Jesse Tree and the Symbols of Advent**

Use the handout on the table to start your family tree. Follow the directions at the top of the page.

In the supply box at the center of the table you will find shapes to decorate to correspond to the different symbols on the tree. There is a booklet that includes the stories of the people and events your table will be making.

When you are finished making your symbol, gather in the hallway from the Church Hall to the Faith Formation Hallway. The next part of the journey begins there.

## FAITH FORMATION HALLWAY

### **The Ancestors of Jesus**



The story begins with Creation and the story of Adam and Eve and how sin was brought into the world. The pictures will be our guide through the Old Testament to the birth of Jesus. Each of these people played an important role in our faith history. If they hadn't listened to God's call to do something out of the ordinary, our faith story would be a very different one in-



# ATRIUM - The Liturgical Year

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. During Advent, we remember how the people of Israel awaited the Messiah, the anointed one. We also prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is a time of joyful anticipation for the day Christ will return in glory.

At Christmas, we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to send to the world a savior. We know this Savior to be Jesus, God's own Son. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem brings to the world God's promise of peace and salvation. The Christmas Season starts on the Christmas Eve Vigil and ends on the Baptism of the Lord.

Ordinary Time is not about common, boring or regular times. It comes from the word 'ordinal' as in 'ordinal numbers', first, second, third etc. This first period of Ordinary time starts on the Monday after the Baptism of Jesus and ends the day before Ash Wednesday.

The Liturgical Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time when the whole community is lead by the Holy Spirit to pray and prepare for Easter. Lent is a season of repentance and renewal. We turn away from our sinfulness and recommit ourselves to following Jesus. Just as Jesus fasted and prayed in the desert for 40 days before beginning his ministry, we spend 40 days fasting and praying. During this time, we prepare ourselves to celebrate—at Easter—Jesus' Resurrection.



## Sacred Paschal Triduum

On Palm Sunday we remember Christ's suffering and death. This is the first day of Holy Week.

On Holy Thursday we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, when Jesus' instituted the Eucharist and the call to service of others.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion is a day to recall Jesus' suffering and death to save us from sin. Traditionally a quiet, meditative day.

Holy Saturday is the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord. The tomb is empty. Jesus has risen from the dead.

Easter Sunday starts the Easter Season and concludes on Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate in joy and praise as one feast day, one "great Sunday", the Resurrection of our Lord for 50 days. On the 40th day after Easter Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord.

On Pentecost we remember the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles, recall Jesus' promise to not leave them, or us, alone. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. We receive the power of the Holy Spirit at baptism.

Ordinary Time continues until the beginning of Advent. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time, take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion, reflecting and celebrating the events of Jesus' life. This is living the life of Christ. It is a time of growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is calling us to more deeply into relationship with our Creator, our Brother and our Advocate.

# Chapel: Mary said “yes” to God



## The Magnificat

*Can you rewrite the words of Mary's famous hymn of praise, using your own words?*

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.