

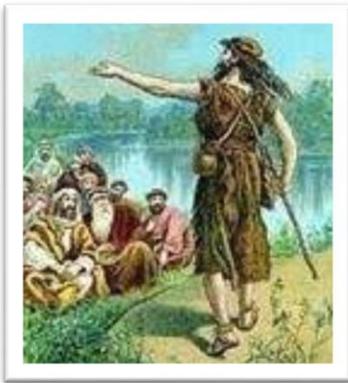
Children's Liturgy of the Word



2ND SUNDAY ADVENT YEAR B MARK 1:1-8

2-6YRS OLD

BACKGROUND



Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

Last week, Jesus told us we would find him in the unexpected – while serving the least among us. The theme today is ‘Prepare the way of the Lord!’

The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented and were baptized as a sign of God’s forgiveness. In Baptism, we are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, during Advent we have a chance to review and renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the

way for Jesus. What are examples in others that has called you to be a follower of Jesus?

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. You may like as a family, identify at least one action to take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. May God receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus.

PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer focus table with a purple cloth (Advent) and Advent wreath to receive the Children’s Liturgy Candle and the Children’s Lectionary.

- Pope Francis’ five-finger prayer card,
- Liturgical Calendar Year B on the wall,
- Advent Calendar chart
- A string and two stones (or two items to represent ourselves and God)
- Bowl of water

Worksheets are in the folders and coloured pencils and craft materials are in the cupboard.

A selection of Jesse Tree decorations will be available for the children to hang on one of the Trees in the Sanctuary before Children’s Liturgy.



SETTING THE SCENE

The children will light two candles of the parish Advent wreath with the priest before coming to Children's Liturgy. The second candle is Peace. They will also put a couple of Jesse Tree decorations on one of the trees.

For the activity described below you will need a length of string, and two stones (or other objects) to represent God and a person.

Help the children remember they are still part of the Mass by asking what color the priest was wearing, and if they remember anything that he said before they came into the room. Introduce them to the Liturgical Calendar, Year B.

You may like to remind them of last Sunday's Gospel. (Advent, we are waiting for Jesus. We remember to also stop and pray and help others, even if it interrupts our Christmas.)

This week, John is in the desert, telling everyone to get ready for Jesus, and baptising them.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise the Lord (*If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord (*clap, clap*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord (*clap, clap*)

As we listen to the story

let us praise him for his glory

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord (*clap, clap*)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Remind the children to sit quietly so their parents can hear too.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Sign of the Cross on the forehead (God be in my mind)

sign of the Cross on the lips (God be in my words),

Sign of the Cross on the heart (God be in my heart)

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION ON THE READING

You may like to retell the Gospel reading. Let the children respond in their own words and then build up a discussion from there. Some of these questions below may be helpful.

- Where was John (in the desert)?
- What was he doing?
- Who was he asking people to get ready for?
- How can we 'prepare a way for the Lord?'

RESPONSE – MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAYS OF THE LORD

Show the children the two stones, one that represents a person and the other that represents God. What is the most sensible way for one to reach the other? By going straight, of course. But sometimes the way between people and God gets blocked; sometimes we forget God. We forget that Christmas is waiting for Jesus' birthday!

Place the string, crumpled up, with the two ends at the stones, representing the winding way that sometimes exists between God and a person. Encourage the children to imagine that they are the stone representing the person, ask them what good action they could do to 'make the path straight'. Straighten the string as each one gives an answer, crumpling it again each time. It may help to use the Advent Calendar as a guide, asking the older children to take turns reading out one of the suggestions.

As they give an example, encourage them to persevere in practising one good thing for Jesus each day. What we practise we get better at.

Conclude in prayer together for the strength to prepare the way for Jesus by staying faithful to our Baptisms. Place the bowl of holy water in your prayer space. Invite the children to make the sign of the cross with the holy water as they make a silent promise to God to be a better follower of Jesus.



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WE BELIEVE

Relating to the Creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father who loves us more than we can possibly imagine?
- Do you believe in Jesus, who came to bring us back to God?
- Do you believe in Holy Spirit, who helps us to keep returning to God's love?

WE PRAY

- We also use the gifts of our hands for prayer. Show them the Pope Francis five-finger prayer. Using their 'hands', lead them in composing prayers. Again, try to relate the prayers to the reading by saying, '**John the Baptist reminds us that you are coming, and so we now pray...**'

Respond to each prayer with:

- *Leader: We Pray to the Lord.*
- *All: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Here are some suggestions:

- We pray for our families, that we don't get too busy to pray and care for each other.
- We pray for our teachers, that they find quiet times in these last weeks of the Term.
- We pray for leaders of countries, that they help people to serve God.
- We pray for people who are in countries which are still in Covid-19 lockdown, may all be safe and well.
- We pray for each other, that we may show kindness and forgiveness in the week ahead.

Lord, help us to be true to our word and make the path straight between us and You.

We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

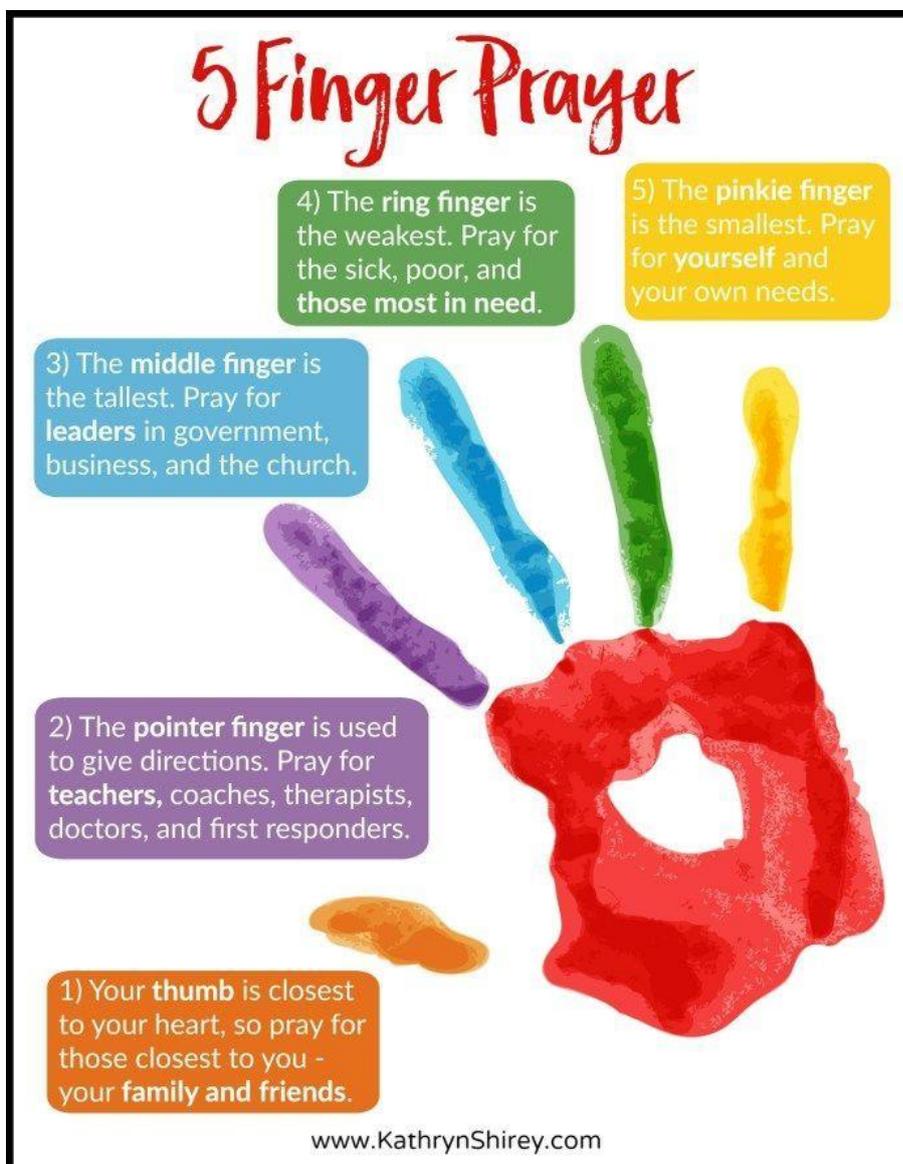
All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

The children join the main assembly during the Offertory. Record the number of children who attended Children's Liturgy, and clear the floor and return to Mass yourselves to prepare for Eucharist.

Join the Entrance and Exit processions – as Ministers of the Word for children.

After Mass, please return and tidy the room for the next Mass.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 First Sunday of Advent I will spend a few extra minutes in prayer today.	30 I will do my work well today and with joy for God.	1 I will be kind in a special way to someone I do not like much.	2 I will obey my parents, my teachers, and others in charge of me.	3 <u>St. Francis Xavier</u> I will secretly do a kind act for someone.	4 I will try to show special love for someone who seems unhappy or lonely.	5 I will keep calm and not lose my temper when I am pushed or treated rudely.
6 <u>St. Nicholas</u> Second Sunday of Advent I will donate like-new toys and books I've outgrown to needy families.	7 <u>St. Ambrose</u> I will work hard today and do my best.	8 <u>Immaculate Conception of Mary</u> I will honor Mary in a very special way today by being cheerful.	9 I will do some work for my parents to help them rest after a day of work.	10 I will eat more of what is good for me today and less of what is not.	11 I will be satisfied with the things I have instead of asking my family for more.	12 <u>Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</u> I will ask Mary to help me make room for Jesus in my heart.
13 <u>St. Lucy</u> Third Sunday of Advent I will find a quiet place and sit for a few minutes, just letting God love me.	14 <u>St. John of the Cross</u> I will try to be more thoughtful of others.	15 I will try to be patient today.	16 I will make a special effort to be kind to those I find it hard to like.	17 I will speak kindly to all I meet today.	18 I will be helpful at home these last days before Jesus' birthday.	19 I will not complain today, even if I must do things I do not want to do.
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent I will thank God for all he gives to me.	21 <u>St. Peter Canisius</u> I will give a smile to all I meet today.	22 I will be grateful and thank God today for all the good things I have.	23 I will do a kind act for each member of my family.	24 I welcome Jesus with great love and offer him all the good acts I have performed and the prayers I have said during Advent.	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	
		Rotate Clockwise				
		Rotate Counterclockwise				
<p><i>May Christ our Savior bring light into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.</i></p>						
<p style="text-align: center;">ADVENT 2020</p>						
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