

# Children's Liturgy of the Word



3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY ADVENT YEAR B JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

2-6YRS OLD

## BACKGROUND



This Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. The priest will wear a rose-coloured vestment; we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath in addition to the first two purple candles. Halfway through Advent we lift the penitential aspect of the season to enter into the joy of God's promise of a Saviour.

Today we break from the Gospel of Mark to hear from the Gospel of John, who talks about John the Baptist from a slightly different perspective. John the Baptist here is 'a witness to tell the world about the light'. He is 'sent by God' – a man with a mission, just as we have a mission. The passage calls us to recognise the light here in our world, and to testify in whatever way we are able to that light to others.

## PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer focus table with a pink 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
- Card for children to draw their hands on, or pre-cut hands.

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 three candle of the parish Advent wreath with the priest before coming to Children's Liturgy. The third candle is Joy. They will also put Jesse Tree decorations on one of the trees.*

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. (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, the candle of peace, and we are waiting for Jesus. John the Baptist said he was preparing a way for the Lord.) This week, we meet John again. Listen to what he says about Jesus today.

---

### 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*)

---

### GOSPEL

Remind the children to sit quietly so their parents can hear too. They need spiritual nourishment too!

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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)*



**Gospel** John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Please read from the Lectionary.)

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 River Jordan.
- What was he doing? Baptising people.
- The temple leaders sent some people to ask John who he was:
  - Was John the Messiah? (No!)
  - Was John Elijah? (No!)
  - Was John the prophet? (No!)
- So, who was John? Jesus' witness – telling others about Jesus.  
(John is a good man, Jesus' cousin, but Jesus is even better, the Son of God himself. Get ready. He's coming! And he loves us sooo much!

---

### RESPONSE – THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Help the children to understand that it is not only by our words, but more importantly by our actions that we give witness to Jesus. Show them some of the pictures of people and discuss what they are doing.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen to trace around their hand (younger children will need assistance). Encourage the children to write/draw ways they can use their hands to show be a witness to Jesus in their actions. Allow the children to come forward and announce what

they have put on their hands as they place them around the centrepiece. 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 water in your prayer space. Invite the children to make the sign of the cross with the water as they make a silent promise to God to be a better witness 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 and sent us his Son?
- And, do you believe in his son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of life?

---

## 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 to witness our trust in Jesus as 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 family and friends, that they may feel the love of Jesus this Christmas.
- We pray for our parents and teachers, that they help us to remember that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.
- We pray for Pa Peter, Fr George and Fr Tony, that they may be especially good witnesses to Jesus.
- We pray for people in the world who may not be able to come to Church on Christmas Day because of Covid-19.
- Lord, we know we may be the answer to someone else's prayer by doing the right thing. Let us help you answer prayers in all we do.

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 <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 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> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 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> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 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 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 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 he gives to me.	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;"><b>ADVENT 2020</b></p>						
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>LOYOLA PRESS.</b> A JESUIT MINISTRY Copyright © LOYOLA PRESS.</p>						