

# Meet You at the Altar Mass Journal- Grades 7-9

12/4/2022- Second Sunday of Advent

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Formation Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Small Group Leader Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. At which church did you attend Mass?
  - a. St. Anthony
  - b. St. Patrick
  - c. St. Elizabeth Seton
  - d. Other
2. At what time did you attend Mass? (Write your response in the space below)
3. Did you attend Mass in person or online?
  - a. In person
  - b. Online
4. Who was the priest that celebrated the Mass that you attended?
  - a. Fr. Steve
  - b. Fr. Matt
  - c. Other
5. We are getting very close to Christmas! We celebrate Christmas because it is when Mary gave birth to Jesus. Before we celebrate this special day, we have to get ready. The Church helps us prepare for Christmas by celebrating a special season of preparing the four weeks before Christmas. These four weeks are called Advent. We are halfway through Advent, so Christmas is in just a few more weeks!  
**How can you prepare your home for Christmas?**

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6. During Advent, we also prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus' coming. Many years ago, John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. John the Baptist tells us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We do this when we repent, or turn away from sin and back toward God. We can reflect on any poor choices we have made and ask God for forgiveness. We change our behavior by making good moral choices. In this way, we prepare our minds and hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas. **One way we can repent and show we are sorry is by asking God for forgiveness. Why do you think we ask for forgiveness before Christmas?**
  
7. Our psalm today has the refrain, "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever." Our God is a God of justice and peace, but that can be hard to remember when we see violence and sadness in our world around us. We ask God to give us peace, and we know He will answer us, especially through Jesus, who is also known as the Prince of Peace. **Think of one person or group of people who need peace. Write a short prayer asking God to give them peace.**

## Parent Question

1. We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. **What is a tradition you have in your house leading up to Christmas?**

Continued on Reverse □