

St. Laurence Catholic Parish
Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)
Week 10 Lesson Plan



Liturgical Season of Advent Lesson

Essential Question ("EQ"):

Why and how do Catholic Christians celebrate the Season of Advent?

CATECHIST PREPARATION

To prepare for this week's lesson:

- Prepare your adult heart and mind ahead of the lesson by watching [THE TRUE MEANING OF ADVENT](#) by Fr. Mike Schmitz or [REFOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS](#) with Sr. Miriam.

Also, take a peek at [ADVENT IDEAS FOR CATHOLIC FAMILIES](#), [MAKING ADVENT REAL FOR CATHOLIC KIDS](#) or [HIDING BABY JESUS](#) for ideas on how you and your family can more intentionally celebrate the *Season of Advent* together this year. Perhaps take time in setting up your family crèche (manger) by beginning with a [BLESSING OF A MANGER SCENE](#) and staggering the 'arrival' time of its key personalities. Consider establishing one or more of the [MANGER MOMENTS](#) traditions as you wait for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) posted on the Catechist website at <https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist> for your age group. Keep these targets in mind as you prepare for and progress through the weekly lesson, making discussion points based upon these specific age-appropriate targets.
- Reflect upon a favorite Bible passage that you would like to share with your children about waiting for Our Lord and why it is important to you, or consider any one of the following:

[PSALM 33: 20-22](#), [ISAIAH 7:14](#), [JOHN 1: 9-12](#), [LUKE 1: 14-17](#), [LUKE 1: 26-38](#),

- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a special corner of the classroom. Keep a Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks. This gives them the sense that this is not just any book.
- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.

Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:

- A *Catholic* family or children's Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the [ST. MARY'S PRESS CHILDREN'S BIBLE](#), a classroom set of which is located in the "CCE" storage cabinet.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access (i.e. an in-class mounted TV or TV cart if a video will be watched as part of the lesson)
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the "CCE" storage and your class bin)
- (*Optional*): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson



[OPENING PRAYER](#)

Begin your discovery session today with the children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite family prayer, choose one of the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#), pray the Our Father, or sing [THE ADVENT SONG FOR KIDS](#) together. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

[ENGAGE](#)

(Mental warm-up)

Say, "Today, we are going to learn about *Advent*, which is a special season celebrated by the Church. I want to begin today by sharing with you one of my favorite scripture passages from the Bible about God's promises to us and why Jesus is our hope and salvation..." (*Read your favorite passage from the Bible and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage*)

[EXPLORE](#)

(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)

Ask/Discuss, "What do you know about the Liturgical Season of Advent celebrated by the Catholic Church?"

- ❖ As the children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your classroom space. (For younger

children, you may have to act as the 'scribe'). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what the children already know or don't know. This will be helpful as you move along in your lessons.

- ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion use some of the following questions: What is Advent? When do we celebrate Advent (i.e., when does it occur in the Church or Liturgical calendar and in what month)? When does/did Advent begin this year? What does the word *Advent* mean? How long do we celebrate Advent? Why is Advent important to most Christians, but especially to Catholic Christians? Who are we waiting for during Advent? What is the Liturgical color used by the Church during Advent and why? What are some special things that we see in church during Advent? What are some of the things we do individually and as a community during Advent and why? How can celebrating Advent help us prepare ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and his Second Coming at the end of time? *Plus, any others you can think of...*

EQ "Essential Question"

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for the children – i.e., it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented. If your learners can articulate a relevant answer to this question by the end of the session, you have done your job. 😊)

Share and post the physical representation of the lesson's EQ in your classroom

(Note: Each classroom is equipped with a set of *EQ posters* corresponding to those posted on the weekly *Lesson Schedule*):

Why and how do Catholic Christians celebrate the Season of Advent?

EXPLAIN

(Either as a class guided with your assistance, or working independently - or in groups - have the children review their relevant grade-level material listed below and complete the workbook activities, where applicable):

- Grade 1:** * *Alive in Christ*, pgs. 19-22 (*Waiting for Jesus*)
- Grade 2:** *Alive in Christ*, pgs. 19-24 (*Change Our Hearts*)
- Grade 3:** *Alive in Christ*, pgs. 19-22 (*Our Lady of Guadalupe*)
- Grade 4:** *Alive in Christ*, pgs. 15-20 (*Prepare for Jesus*)
- Grade 5:** *Alive in Christ*, pgs. 15-18 (*Get Ready!*)

***NOTE:** We are aware that some of our lower Elementary learners have been delayed and are not all reading ready. As the Catechist or class facilitator, your role is to help your learners understand or connect with the *content* of the weekly lesson. You can convey the assigned weekly content from the *Alive in Christ* textbook in a variety of creative ways that are appropriate and effective for your learners and does not involve the class taking turns reading from the student text. Review the content *beforehand*, and feel free to introduce other methods of conveying it or more specifically adapting it to your learners. Some suggested ideas

can include the use of any of the following, many of which are available on campus. Just ask a staff member. These are:

- *Story Books*
- *Felt Board Creation Figures* to tell the stories
- *Role-playing/Skits*
- *Manipulatives*
- *Costumes/Dress-up*
- *Puppets*

If you have any questions or need suggestions, be sure to reach out to a staff member. Be sure to also check out the supplemental resources at the end of this Lesson Plan outline for additional ideas.

EXTEND

(Gather back together and invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about Advent. Affirm positive answers and interject grade-level learning targets into the discussion, where applicable. As a class (or in groups), come up with a list of *at least three new things* that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about this Liturgical Season of the Church. Then, *extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities* provided below).

Lower Elementary

- Video [BROTHER FRANCIS: INTRO TO ADVENT](#) or [WHIRL KIDS CELEBRATE ADVENT](#)
- Craft/Activity
 - Create a [KID'S ADVENT WREATH](#) (scroll to the bottom for the free the printable), [PAPER PLATE ADVENT WREATH](#), [RIP ART ADVENT WREATH](#) or a [NATIVITY DISCOVERY BOX](#)
 - Have the children [RETELL THE STORY OF JOSEPH & MARY](#) or complete the [PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS ACTIVITY](#)
 - Play the [ADVENT JOURNEY GAME](#) or [ADVENT BINGO](#)

Upper Elementary

- Video [ADVENT IN 2 MINUTES](#) or [WHAT IS ADVENT FOR KIDS](#)
 - Craft/Activity
 - Create an [ADVENT WREATH](#), [SEEKING OUR SAVIOR](#), [MARY & JOSEPH TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM](#) or [GOOD DEEDS MANGER](#) craft
 - Play the [ADVENT WREATH GAME](#) or [ADVENT BINGO](#)
 - Share an [ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE](#) with your learners or have them conduct a [JOHN THE BAPTIST SPECIAL NEWS REPORT](#)
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EVALUATE/REFLECT

Restate today's Essential Question (EQ) – *Why and how do Catholic Christians celebrate the Season of Advent?*

- **Say**, “Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. What do you think it tells us about the Season of Advent? (*Discuss together, affirming and reinforcing appropriate answers/teaching points*).
- **Summarize what's been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above and keeping a mind's eye on the grade-level learning targets for this topic.**

Say, “In today's lesson, we learned about the Liturgical Season of Advent and how we, as Catholic Christians, use this time to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, at Christmas. The word *advent* (*adventus* in Latin) means “coming.” Advent is the first season of the Church calendar, or *Liturgical year*, and begins a cycle which is repeated every year by remembering how Jesus' work on earth during his lifetime led to the Salvation of all people. People waited many years for God to send someone special to save the world from darkness and sin. During Advent, we think about the *Incarnation*, or when God sent his only Son, Jesus, to become one of us; born as a tiny and helpless human baby, and destined to be the Savior of all people for all time.

Advent always begins on the Sunday closest to November 30th. Advent marks the four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas. During Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus by remembering him in *three* special ways. We remember Jesus' birth in Bethlehem in the *past* (which we celebrate on Christmas Day), we anticipate his coming in glory in the *future* (as he promised his return at the end of time) and we celebrate his coming to us in word and sacrament in the *present*, as we experience him in our daily lives through Mass, the Bible, prayer, the Sacraments, etc. It is a time to reflect on Jesus' love for us and for the whole world.

In the church, we see special signs and symbols during the Advent season. The color displayed on the priests' vestments and decorations around the church is always purple. The color purple reminds us of the coming of *the King* (i.e., it is a royal color), but also reminds us to change our hearts for Jesus and repent (or be sorry for our sins). During Advent, we can help our hearts change and seek forgiveness through prayer, small acts of sacrifice or penance and charity directed towards others. In many churches and homes, an Advent wreath or an Advent calendar may be used as signs of the season which help us count down the weeks until Christmas. The candles of the Advent wreath remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World and of our lives.”

- **Separately reflect on these questions:** During Advent, we are called to clean out the “stables” of our minds, hearts, homes and lives to ‘make room’ for Jesus. Think about the Virgin Mary as she awaited the coming of her baby – Jesus - that first ‘advent’ season, knowing that He would eventually save her and the entire world. How do you think she might have prepared to receive him? ***What is one way in which you could better receive Jesus and grow closer to Him during Advent? How can you and your***

- **Saints of the Season:** **Saints Nicholas** (Feast Day, December 6), **Juan Diego** (Feast Day, December 9) and **Saint Lucy** (Feast Day, December 13) are all Saints who are celebrated during the season of Advent. Research at least one of these Saints, and discuss what they did during their life (i.e., what they are known for) and why you admire them, as well as how they lived for Christ and drew people closer to God. Write a short biography about your chosen Saint, or draw a picture reflecting what they are known for.

Want to extend your lesson in class or at home about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Catechist's discretion, if desired:

- **Catechist Preparation Videos/Resources:** [THE TRUE MEANING OF ADVENT](#), [WHAT DID MARY DO FOR ADVENT?](#), [REFOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS](#), [ADVENT: MORE THAN A CHOCOLATE CALENDAR](#), [THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AND ADVENT](#), [FOR YOU, O LORD, MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS](#), [WHAT IS ADVENT FOR CATHOLICS?](#), [HIDING BABY JESUS](#)
- **Lesson Plans:** [ADVENT CONVERSATION STARTERS & PRAYERS](#), [LOYOLA PRESS GRADES 1-3](#), [LOYOLA PRESS GRADES 4-6](#), [CATHOLIC TOOLBOX](#), [EQUIPPING CATHOLIC FAMILIES FOR ADVENT](#)
- **Videos:** [THE LITTLE DOUGLINGS ADVENT](#), [LITTLE DOUGLINGS EPISODE 2](#), [LITTLE DOUGLINGS EPISODE 3](#), [WHAT IS ADVENT?](#), [WHAT IS ADVENT? GANGNAM STYLE](#), [ADVENT IN 2 MINUTES](#), [WHAT'S WHAT IN THE CHURCH: THE ADVENT WREATH](#), [WHIRL KIDS CELEBRATE ADVENT](#), [LORD JESUS COME ADVENT SONG](#), [CATHOLIC KIDS HOMILIES: ADVENT](#), [CATHOLIC KIDS: ADVENT](#), [WHAT MORE COULD HE GIVE](#), [BROTHER FRANCIS: INTRO TO ADVENT](#), [MY TIME WITH JESUS: ADVENT](#)
- **Crafts:** [CATHOLIC ADVENT CRAFTS](#), [JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM](#), [ADVENT SAINTS ORNAMENTS](#), [ADVENT CRAFTS](#), [ADVENT COMIC-STRIPS](#), [PRINTABLE ADVENT WREATH](#), [GOOD DEEDS MANGER](#), [PREPARING THE MANGER WITH GOOD DEEDS](#), [SEEKING OUR SAVIOR](#), [NATIVITY DISCOVERY BOX](#), [MARY & JOSEPH TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM](#), [CATECHIST ANGEL POP UP AND PLAYDOUGH ADVENT WREATHS](#)





- **Activities & Games:** [8 PRACTICAL WAYS TO GET READY FOR ADVENT](#), [ADVENT ACTIVITIES](#), [CATHOLIC MOM](#), [CATHOLIC TOOLBOX](#), [CATHOLIC SPROUTS](#), [NATIVITY OBJECT LESSON](#), [LEGO NATIVITY INSTRUCTIONS](#), [ADVENT WREATH GAME](#), [ADVENT BINGO](#), [NATIVITY GAME](#)



- **Picture Books and manipulatives: (Just ask a staff member!)**
 - *The Shepherd on the Search* by Josh and Lindsey Helms (x1) – includes a stuffed shepherd and lamb
 - *The Shepherd on the Search* Floor Puzzle (x1)
 - *The Legend of St. Nicholas* by Dandi Daley Mackall (x1)
 - *The Legend of the Candy Cane* by Lori Walburg (x1)
 - *The Boy with a Wish: Story 1 of the St. Nicholas Stories* by Harry Knights (x1)
 - *The Advent of Christmas* by Matt Maher
 - *The Christmas Promise* by Alison Mitchell (x1)
 - *Little Star*, by Anthony DeStefano (x1)
 - *The Night the Saints Saved Christmas*, by Gracie Jagla (x1)

