

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



## ***Liturgical Season of Advent Lesson***

### **Essential Question ("EQ"):**

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

### **PARENT CATECHIST PREPARATION**

#### ***To prepare for this week's lesson:***

- Establish a dedicated time and comfortable learning space for your family discovery session.
- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a special corner of your home. Keep your family 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.
- 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.

- 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:

**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](#), but any Catholic children’s or family Bible will suffice.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed
- (Optional): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson below.



**OPENING PRAYER**

Begin your discovery session today with your child or children in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your 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 as a family. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

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**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*)

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**EXPLORE**

**(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)**

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

- ❖ As your child or 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 discovery space. (For younger children, you may act as the ‘scribe’). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what your child or 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...*

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### **EQ “Essential Question”**

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for your child or children – i.e., it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented)

Share and post a physical representation of the lesson’s EQ in your study space:

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

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### **EXPLAIN**

(Either guided with your assistance or working independently, have your child or children review their relevant grade-level material – listed below - and complete the workbook activities. *Empower older children by allowing them to mentor younger siblings*):

- Kinder:** *Call to Faith*, pages 10-11 (*Jesus is Coming*)  
**Grade 1:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 19-22 (*Waiting for Jesus*)  
**Grade 2:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 19-24 (*Change Our Hearts*)  
**Grade 3:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 19-22 (*Our Lady of Guadalupe*)  
**Grade 4:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 15-20 (*Prepare for Jesus*)  
**Grade 5:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 15-18 (*Get Ready!*)
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### **EXTEND**

(As a family, gather back together and have each child share, in turn, what they learned about Advent. Together as a family, come up with a list of *at least three new things* that you 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).

#### **PREK/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? GANGNAM-STYLE](#)
- 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.**

**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 30<sup>th</sup>. 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



- ***Faith in Action!*** Families find it helpful during Advent to follow a calendar of faith-based activities reminding them of Jesus and preparing their hearts for the commemoration of his birth at Christmas. Make a [CATHOLIC](#) or [25 DAYS OF SERVICE](#) Advent calendar (or create one of your own using a calendar template online). Encourage the children and their families to perform the daily assigned tasks and reflect on how each activity focuses on the gift of Jesus and how that brings them closer to God, the Father. Or, consider creating a [JESSE TREE](#) where each ornament symbolizes a person or event in the Old Testament that foretold the coming of Christ.
- ***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 family's formation about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Parent Catechist's discretion, if desired:***

- ***Parent 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](#)



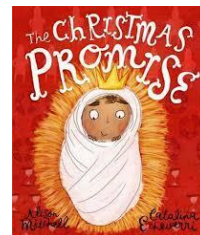
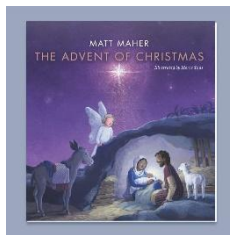
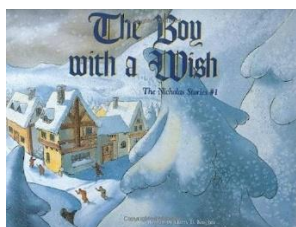
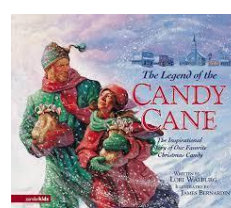
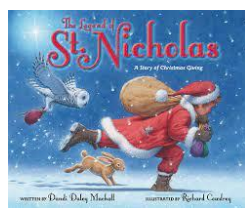
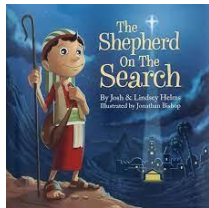


- **Activities & Games:** [8 PRACTICAL WAYS TO GET READY FOR ADVENT](#), [ADVENT ACTIVITIES](#), [CATHOLIC MOM](#), [CATHOLIC TOOLBOX](#), [CATHOLIC SPROUTS](#), [NATIVITY OBJECT LESSON](#), [LEGO NATIVITY INSTRUCTIONS](#), [ADVENT WREATH GAME](#), [ADVENT BINGO](#), [NATIVITY GAME](#)



- **Picture Books and manipulatives:**

- *The Shepherd on the Search* by Josh and Lindsey Helms – includes a stuffed shepherd and lamb
- *The Shepherd on the Search* Floor Puzzle
- *The Legend of St. Nicholas* by Dandi Daley Mackall
- *The Legend of the Candy Cane* by Lori Walburg
- *The Boy with a Wish: Story 1 of the St. Nicholas Stories* by Harry Knights
- *The Advent of Christmas* by Matt Maher
- *The Christmas Promise* by Alison Mitchell



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