

Lesson for Sunday, November 29, 2020 (The First Sunday in Advent)

Dear Grade 4-5 Venture Families,

Blessings to each of you. I hope that had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Please find below the outline to this week's lesson for your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are having difficulty with anything or need clarification.

- We are working this week on the November 29 weekly lesson. The date for each week can be found in the top corner of your student's Gospel Weekly.
- The complete lesson can be found by going to the Holy Family website at holyfamilyrockland.org. Hover over the Menu button on the right corner of the main landing page and then Click on Faith Formation. Next, choose your child's grade level, **Grade 4-5 Venture**. Everything you need for the week is found there: (Remember, I will always give you lots of options – you do what you can get to each week based on your families schedule and your child's abilities.)
 1. Links to the Parent Teaching Guide pages to help your children each week
 2. A digital copy of their lesson (they have the hard copy)
 3. A video clip and activities to support the lesson.
 4. Prayers: If your child has mastered the prayers we have been working on since October (the Sign of the Cross correctly, the Lord's Prayer (The Our Father), the Hail Mary, the Glory Be and the Act of Contrition, all found in the **Student Venture Handbook on page 52**) then they can begin working on the Blessing Before Meals **on page 56**. They should know this from memory. Practice it with them before all meals.
- If you ever want to go back to a previous week's lesson for any reason or rewatch a video etc. I always keep previous lessons available on the webpage under the heading: Previous Lessons/Activities.
- **Lesson Background: Sunday's Gospel (Mark 13:33–37)** The Church's three-year cycle of Lectionary readings begins again on the First Sunday of Advent. We just finished reading Cycle A that focuses on Matthew's Gospel. Now, with the first Sunday of Advent we start reading from Cycle B, which is organized around Mark's Gospel. Throughout Advent, we also hear the prophet Isaiah's words in the First Reading. On this first Sunday of the Church year, Jesus speaks of his coming in glory. He cautions us always to be ready for him, to live each day in the light of God.
- **Our Venture Gospel Weekly focuses on the Advent season in the Catholic Church and the idea of using this time to prepare (to get ready) for Jesus and his birth on Christmas.** This week, your child will learn about Israel's Exile and the longing of the people to return home. Talk about your personal experiences of wanting to go home, to be with loved ones, or to find someone or something that was lost. Make some family plans for Advent. What will you do to use these weeks to prepare for Christmas and the birth of Jesus? Have your child share with you the section of this week's lesson, "What Will Your Advent Be Like?" Ask your child to tell the family about Saint Jane Frances de Chantal.
- **Pray Together:** Plan to have a family Advent wreath. It can be as simple as having your child cut out the center of a paper plate and coloring the plate green and gluing 3 purple and 1 pink paper candle to it and hanging it in a visible spot in your home. Or having them gathering pine branches from outside and bending the into a circle and using real candles or battery candles. Or converting a holiday wreath you may already have. The wreath should have four candles—three violet (purple) and one rose (pink) are traditional, but all white or red candles will do. During the first week of Advent, light one candle each evening, the second week light two, and the third week three. The third week is for the rose candle.

Then for the last week, you will have all four candles lit. Say a prayer together each day when you light or turn on the candle that shows how you are eager for the coming of Jesus. It can be as simple as “Come, Lord Jesus, come.” Another simple prayer to use is: God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

- **Please Consider:** As we enter the holiday season with Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas right around the corner, it is the perfect time to learn about and reflect on Catholic Social Teaching and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Normally at this time of year we would be asking the students to take part in our Parish Christmas Giving Tree and Nursing Home/Pine Street Inn Wish List Events. This year we will be doing everything virtually through our website. Starting the weekend of 11/28 & 29 we will be launching our Christmas collection events for those in need. We know many of our families here in Rockland are really struggling during the pandemic. If you are able, please consider going online and choosing a gift to drop off at Holy Family before December 13th. All the information can be found on the website starting 11/28 and, in our bulletin, starting this week.
- **If you are a family in need** or know of someone locally who needs some help either with food or gifts, please give me a call (781-871-1244) so that we can see how we can be of assistance.

'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Lastly, and most important: Please make a point of signing up to attend 10:00 AM Sunday Mass in person (if your family is comfortable with that) or watching Mass together as a family this week (preferably on Sunday). The easiest way to access the Mass recording is on our website. It is also showing on local cable WRPS. We always want our children to make the connection, like the great Road to Emmaus story in the Bible (Luke 24: 13-35), that we learn the scripture readings and then we celebrate Eucharist in the Mass – even if it is Spiritual Communion during this time of the pandemic.

We miss you! We love you! Please let us know if we can help in any way to make this process as smooth as possible for your family. We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our families and offer prayers of gratitude for all those that are working here in our area and around the world to aid those affected by the Coronavirus. **God Bless you and Happy Advent!**

Yours in Christ,
Liz Davis