

## Lesson for Sunday, December 13, 2020 (The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday)

Dear Grade 4-5 Venture Families,

Blessings to each of you. I am praying that you are well and having a good week! 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 December 13 weekly lesson. The date for each week can be found in the top corner of your child's Gospel Weekly.
- The complete lesson can be found by going to the Holy Family website at [holyfamilyrockland.org](http://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 (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.
- **The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday.** Gaudete is a Latin word which means "REJOICE" and can be found throughout this week's readings and Gospel. This week we light the pink candle on our Advent wreaths. This candle serves as a reminder that Advent is a season of JOY because our salvation is at hand.
- **This Sunday's Gospel: John 1:6–8, 19–28** During Advent, we prepare for Christmas by listening to the people who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. In this Sunday's Gospel, people ask John the Baptist who he is—the Messiah or a prophet. John answers by identifying himself as a voice in the desert, crying out, "Make straight the way of the Lord." He insists that someone more important than he is coming. The Gospel asks us to recognize Jesus among us (in our family members, in our friends, in our classmates and co-workers, in people we meet in our day to day lives), by answering his call to be our best Christian selves; to love God and to love our neighbor.
- **Venture (Grades 4–5):** This week, you and your child will learn about the Messiah from the words of the prophet Isaiah and from the Blessed Virgin Mary. They will learn that the Messiah brings Good News to the poor and comforts the sorrowful. They will also learn that God fills the hungry with good things. Talk about ways your family can bring the Good News of Christ to others and how you can feed the hungry and comfort the sorrowful during this Advent season. Prepare to add the O Antiphons to your daily prayer starting December 17. I have included an O Antiphon Prayer Coloring Book on the website for them in addition to their lesson if they or anyone in your family would like to make one.
- **Pray Together:** This third week of Advent is a good time to remind ourselves, and help your child understand, the difference between **JOY** and happiness. Happiness can be fleeting and often fades

depending on the circumstances in your life. JOY is deeper and cannot be taken away. JOY is knowing that God is in charge of the world and is taking care of us – even during this pandemic. This week, as a family, recognize the ways Christ is working in your lives. Each evening, before bedtime, look for stars in the night sky together and think about how Christ is guiding your family's life. Think about those moments of JOY that you experienced on that day and thank God for leading you on the straight path, just like the Star of Bethlehem guided the Magi to the manger and the baby Jesus. Then pray together: "Dear God, help each person in our family understand the true meaning of Christmas. Fill us with joy. Make us more loving. Amen"

**Opportunity for Confession before Christmas:** Everyone who has received the Sacrament of Reconciliation should make plans now to get to Confession before Christmas. Confession will be offered here at Holy Family on Sunday, December 20th at 11:30 AM (see the bulletin for details or call the Religious Ed. Office for information.)

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent!**

Yours in Christ,  
Liz Davis