

Lesson for Sunday, December 20, 2020 (The 4th Sunday of Advent)

Dear Grade 4-5 Venture Students and 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 20th Pflaum Gospel 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. 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent:** This week we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreaths. It is now fully alight with the warm glow of **LOVE**. It reminds us, as we spend these last days preparing for the coming of the baby Jesus, to be **LOVE** to all we meet this week. **LOVE** itself comes to earth on Christmas Day. Emmanuel (God with us) is born and **God who is LOVE** dwells among us, giving us the ability to be **LOVE** in this world! *We LOVE because He first loved us.* 1 John 4:19
- **Sunday's Gospel: Luke 1:26–38** In Sunday's Gospel, the angel Gabriel disturbs Mary with the words, "The Lord is with you. You have found favor with God." Mary wonders what those words mean. She wonders, too, how she can become a mother since she is still a virgin. Mary's yes to God is an act of faith. The Gospel is also an invitation to us all to say yes to God's call and to show by our lives that, in Jesus, God becomes Emmanuel—God with us.
- **Venture (Grades 4–5):** This week you and your child will recognize ways that we can all share the Good News of Jesus' birth with others. They also learn the importance of Mary's faith in God and her willingness to say yes when she was asked to become the mother of Jesus. This week's lesson also has an interesting history lesson on King David and a beautiful art lesson on The Annunciation (when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her she would be the mother of Jesus). I uploaded a video about it as well. Lastly, if you or your child has the QR Reader app on their phone, you can use it on page 8 of the weekly and bring up 2 videos about interesting people today who said "YES" to God.
- **Pray Together:** When Gabriel announced to Mary that she would become the Mother of God, Mary said yes. Spend a few moments as a family asking God to give each member the courage to always say yes to God. Pray that the way you live shows that, in Jesus, God is always with us.

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 11:15 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). There are still a few spots left for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass. 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 4th Week of Advent!**

Yours in Christ,
Liz Davis