

## Lesson for Sunday, December 6, 2020 (The Second Sunday of Advent)

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 6 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 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: This Sunday's Gospel: Mark 1:1–8** In the Gospel this week, John the Baptist (Jesus' cousin) urges people to prepare a smooth, straight road on which God can come to us. The Prophet Isaiah's words of comfort to the exiled Israelites assure them and us that we can count on God's forgiveness. Jesus' words call for us to turn our lives around, to make good choices, to be kind to one another and to make sure that we have an open path for God to enter our hearts. **Note:** Tuesday, December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. We will have Mass at Holy Family at 9:00 AM or you can watch it online. Saturday, December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, another chance to celebrate Mary our Mother.
- **Our Venture Gospel Weekly focuses again on** Advent and Christmas and reminds us that Jesus is the Son of God who chose to live among us as one of us. This week, you and your child will continue to prepare for the Christmas feast by learning about the prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist, two biblical characters who preceded Jesus. Your child will also learn the importance of forgiving and seeking forgiveness as part of making a straight path for the Lord's arrival. Make sure that your family celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation at your parish during the Advent season. (We will be having Confessions on Sunday, December 20 at 11:30 AM. See the online bulletin for all the details if you aren't yet coming to Mass in person.) Enjoy reading the story of Saint Juan Diego together.
- **Pray Together:** If you do not have an Advent wreath yet please look at last week's lesson to make a simple wreath or repurpose a Christmas wreath that you may already have. Then, to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December

12), add praying the Hail Mary to your Advent wreath prayer this week. You may even want to place a statue or picture of Mary near your wreath.

- **Please Consider:** As we move into the second week of Advent and know that Christmas is 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. 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 from the online registration to drop off at Holy Family before December 13<sup>th</sup>. All the information can be found on the website and in our bulletin.
- **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 Week Two!**

Yours in Christ,  
Liz Davis