



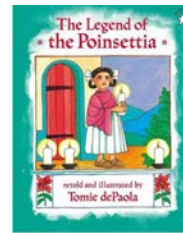
Building Faith@HOME

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

[1st Reading - Bar 5:1-9](#)
[Responsorial Psalm - Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6](#)
[Second Reading - Phil 1:4-6, 8-11](#)
[Gospel - Lk 3:1-6](#)

National Poinsettia Day - Dec. 12th

Both Our Lady of Guadalupe and the poinsettia have deep roots in Mexican culture. The poinsettia, known in Mexico as "Nochebuena," is traditionally used in decorations during the Christmas season, particularly in celebrations that honor Our Lady of Guadalupe. Here is a lovely poinsettia craft and more about its history. This website also refers to Tomi DePaulo's book, *The Legend of Poinsettia*.



bit.ly/Poinsettia-Legend

In the second week of Advent, we reflect on the powerful message of John the Baptist, who is described as "the voice crying out in the desert" (Luke 3:4). His mission was to prepare the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance and urging them to make their hearts ready for God's coming. He proclaimed, "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low," which reminds us that God wants to level the playing field for everyone, inviting all to experience His love and grace.

Today, we can think of who the voice is in our own lives. It could be our parents, teachers, or friends who encourage us to be better, to love one another, and to seek God. It might also be the voices of those who advocate for justice, compassion, and kindness in our communities. Just like John, we too are called to be voices in this time of new evangelization, encouraging others to seek Jesus and to open their hearts to His message. As we prepare for Christmas, let's listen to these voices and be inspired to share our own, spreading hope and love to others, so that together we can welcome Jesus into our lives and the world. By being a voice for Christ, we help others find their way to Him, just as John the Baptist did long ago.

Be a voice in today's wilderness...How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?

December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

What is the message on Our Lady of Guadalupe's mantle? The arrangement of the golden stars on Our Lady's mantle carries a hidden significance.

Learn more here! bit.ly/Our-Lady-Guadalupe-Mantle



The Second Sunday of Advent

Get Ready!



bit.ly/Catholic-Kids-Media-Advent2C

"Bethlehem" in Hebrew means "House of Bread." On this second week of Advent, we light the Bethlehem Candle or Candle of Peace. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." (Jn. 6:35) How fitting for Him to be born in the House of Bread.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrates that Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of her life (conception) in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. It is typically celebrated on December 8th and is a Holy Day of Obligation. **Since the 8th is a Sunday this year, the celebration moves to Monday and Monday is not a Holy Day of Obligation.**

Note: On September 8th, we celebrate the birth of Mary, Feast of the Nativity of Mary.

"Hail Mary, full of grace...." We pray these words many times, but did you ever stop to think about what that means? Mary was conceived without original sin and was filled with grace from the very beginning of her life. This special grace made her pure and holy, enabling her to accept God's plan for her to bear His Son.

Learn more here:

<https://bit.ly/Immaculate-Mary>



More Faith Builders!



Let's **BUILD** a **Jesse Tree!**



bit.ly/Jesse-Tree-Week-2

Download and print this week's ornaments. Read the Scripture story, color the ornament, and add them to your Jesse Tree or Christmas tree.



St. Lucia
Let Your Light Shine

Sing along with this music video. Download the song sheet and color your own candle light. Add your own prayer to be "light" for the world.



bit.ly/This-Little-Light

bit.ly/This-Little-Light-Songsheet-Coloring

LOOK for this **Sanctuary Lamp**



The candle that is always lit to remind us of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is called the **Sanctuary Lamp** or **Tabernacle Candle**. This candle is always found on the sanctuary, and usually placed near the tabernacle, which is the special container where the consecrated Eucharist (the Body of Christ) is kept.

When the Tabernacle Candle is lit, it signifies that Jesus, the Light of the World, is truly present in the Eucharist.

Remember that Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life." (John 6:48) and "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:12)

If you are not sure where the Sanctuary Lamp is, ask your priest or deacon. He will be happy to show you.

"Lord Jesus, as I see this light, I am reminded of Your presence in the Eucharist. Help me to always seek Your light in my life and share it with others."

St Lucia (Lucy) - Bringer of Light - December 13

Celebrate St. Lucia during the second week of Advent with St. Lucia Braided Bread. Continue to reflect on the meaning of the wreath, symbolizing eternity. Talk about Jesus being born in Bethlehem, "house of bread." St. Lucia, whose name means, bringer of light, is celebrated as we light a second candle on the Advent wreath. Enjoy this recipe as a family!



bit.ly/St-Lucy-Bread



Building Prayer Time @ Home.

Lighting the Second Candle of Advent

The second purple candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace. This candle is called the "Bethlehem Candle," reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus.

***Light the first and second purple candles**

***Proclaim the Scripture:** "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:4-7

***Pause for reflection (moment of silence)**

***Advent Wreath Prayer:** Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

