

TALKING ABOUT ADVENT >>>

The word Advent means coming. Advent is the season when the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Savior, into the world and reminds us that he will come again on the last day. During this time, we prepare ourselves for the joy of Christmas and for the Second Coming of Christ. For centuries, the People of Israel in the Old Testament waited in great hope for the coming of a Messiah. Despite their great desire for a Messiah, many often failed to prepare their hearts for his coming. The centuries of waiting for the Messiah muted their anticipation. John the Baptist was sent as a messenger to exhort the people to repent and ask forgiveness. Each Advent, we hear this same call in a special way.

God's Word



Read **Mark 1:1–8**, John the Baptist challenges his hearers to repent and ask forgiveness in preparation for receiving the Messiah.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Advent

- Most children at this age are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this year. They need help from you to understand that sorrow for sin includes a willingness to change habits, attitudes, and actions that keep them from loving God, others, and self.
- Most younger children will not fully grasp the reality of the Second Coming of Christ. It is more helpful for them when you emphasize sorrow for sin and change of behavior as one of the ways we get ourselves ready for the joy of Christmas.



FEASTS OF THE SEASON >>>

Las Posadas

December 16–December 24

Las Posadas (Spanish for “the inns”) is a traditional Mexican ritual that takes place from December 16 through December 24. It is, in essence, a novena. Families re-enact the moment when Joseph and his pregnant wife, Mary, search for a room as her time to give birth approaches. Children and adults join in procession to different homes every night asking for lodging for the night. People are invited in to read Scriptures, pray, and sing Advent songs and Christmas carols called villancicos. A fiesta begins, and refreshments are provided by the hosts.

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



Have family members share one thing they did to prepare their hearts for Jesus' coming during the day. Then pray:

God, the Father of mercies, you willed your Son to become a man in order to give life back to us. Bless this food, your gift, so that with new strength, we may prepare for the glorious coming of Christ. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.