

Advent

Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 39)

Overview

In this chapter the students will learn that during Advent the Church prepares for the celebration of Christmas.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 524 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

What are your favorite images or mental pictures of peace?

Advent stands like an open door at the beginning of the Church year. The Scripture readings of the season invite us to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord, to keep vigil, and to turn our swords into plowshares.

The season of Advent has a twofold character. It is a time “to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered.” It is likewise the “season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation” (*Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars*, 39).

During the four weeks of Advent, the Church heeds the prophetic voices of Isaiah and John the

Baptist calling for repentance, reconciliation, and peace. The Church heeds the call to “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4–5).

In the company of Mary, the expectant virgin, the Church once again makes present the ancient expectancy of the Messiah by praying, “*Maranatha!* Our Lord, come!”

How will you share your joy that the Lord, the Prince of Peace, is near?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps


Presentation

Materials



1 WE GATHER

<p>page 155 Introduce the Season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the <i>Chapter Story</i>. • Introduce the season of Advent. • Proclaim the words on the chapter opener. 	
<p>page 156</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss responses to the <i>We Gather</i> questions. 	

2 WE BELIEVE

<p>pages 156–158 <i>During Advent, the Church prepares for the celebration of Christmas.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the <i>We Believe</i> text. •  Illustrate prophetic images for today. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • butcher paper • colored markers • drawing materials
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3 WE RESPOND

<p>page 158</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the <i>We Respond</i> text. • Discuss the connections between Advent preparations and Jesse Tree themes. 	
<p>Text page 154 Guide page 154–160 We Respond in Prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to Scripture. • Respond in prayer. •  Respond in song. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •  “Prepare the Way,” Paul Inwood, #17, <i>We Believe</i> Grade 6 CD • battery-operated candles • violet ribbon or crepe paper streamer for each student
<p>Text page 160 Guide pages 154–160, 160A Project Disciple</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Project Disciple activities. • Complete Reproducible Master 13 activity. See Guide pages 160A and 155C. • Discuss/send home Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 160B. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of Reproducible Master 13, guide page 160A. • copies of Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 160B.

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier’s

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