

Gr. 9 – Christmas Lesson

Optional Activity: write letters to our new Seminarians/Sisters!

Choose one of the following men or women to write to. Tell them why you appreciate that they're in the seminary/religious community, and thank them. Wish them a happy Christmas season!

Seminarians:

1. David Jaramillo
2. Bradley Grobbel
3. Simon Tipps
4. Mark Foley
5. Deacon Michael Johnson

Sisters:

1. Nicole Reich – Sinsinawa
2. Rhonda Miska – Sinsinawa

Play: Advent/Christmas Trivia!

1. _____ is the first season on the Church calendar.

a) Lent

b) Advent

c) Easter

d) Christmas

The Church retells the story of God becoming human to save us each year during Advent. This liturgical season “recounts the events and prophecies leading up to Christ’s birth in Bethlehem but also reminds Catholics to prepare for Christ’s second coming” (CCC, 524)

2. The readings at Mass for the first weeks of Advent focus on Jesus’ second coming and the judgment of the world.

True | False

True. Catholics are called to examine their lives, repent, and turn to God, who will judge between the just and the unjust.

3. Advent lasts _____ .

- a) for 40 days
- b) until the Christmas sales end
- c) until the groundhog appears

d) four weeks

Catholic parishes usually mark the four Sundays of Advent by lighting the four candles of the Advent wreath at Mass.

4. Jesus' cousin's name is _____.

- a) Joseph
- b) Myron

c) John the Baptist

d) George

John is the last of the traditional prophets who called for people to repent and turn away from their sins.

5. When the Virgin Mary announced that she was pregnant, everyone was happy.

True | **False**

Mary had a hard time explaining to Joseph that she had been visited by an angel of God and was pregnant with God's son (see Matthew 1:18-25).

6. Mary was a teenager when the angel told her she would be the mother of God's son.

True | False

Even though she was very young, Mary totally trusted God and believed the angel's message.

7. When John baptized people, he was in the river _____ (Matthew 3:6).

a) Mississippi

b) Amazon

c) Nile

d) Jordan

John told people to stop sinning and be baptized because he was preparing people for Jesus and the kingdom of heaven (see Matthew 3:1-3).

8. When will the kingdom of God begin?

a) when Jesus returns

b) when Mary conceived Jesus in her womb

c) when people stop sinning

d) the end of the world

Throughout Jesus' life, his miracles and teachings were signs that the kingdom of God had already started as soon as his birth was announced to Mary (see Mark 1:15).

9. St. Francis was there when Jesus was born.

True | **False**

Francis lived almost 1,200 years after Jesus was born.

10. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are members of the Holy _____.

a) Name Society

b) Club

c) Trinity

d) Family

The Holy Family serves as a model for all families because of their love for God and one another despite all the problems they faced.

11. It was snowing when Jesus was born on the first Christmas.

True | **False**

Bethlehem is in Israel, which is part of the Middle East where snow is uncommon—except on mountains.

12. The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates _____.

a) the angel's announcement to Mary that she would be Jesus' mother

b) the birth of Jesus

c) Jesus' graduation from college

d) when Jesus told Pontius Pilate that he was God

The Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary meant that God's promises would be fulfilled through his Son's birth in the world. Jesus will save humanity; he will bring all people to God and God to all people (see CCC, 484).

13. What does the name Bethlehem mean?

Answer: "house of bread"

14. What two Christ-related constellations appear opposite one another in the night sky during the week of Christmas?

Answer: At about 8 p.m. Dec. 25 (and throughout the week of Christmas) the Northern Cross stands upright on the western horizon, just about to set, but directly opposite on the eastern horizon is Praesepe, the Manger, just rising.

15. When does the liturgical season of Christmas end?

Answer: Christmas ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

16. Which saint began the tradition of the Nativity scene?

Answer: St. Francis began the tradition of doing a "mystery play" featuring the Holy Family on Christmas Eve.

17. What are the three gifts that the wise men brought?

Answer: Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

18. How is every celebration of the Eucharist like Christmas?

Answer: "Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into his flesh, his body and blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar."

19. Who composed the hymn "Silent Night?"

Answer: Father Joseph Mohr composed "Silent Night" in 1816, and first performed it at a Christmas Mass at St. Nicholas parish in Austria in 1818.

20. In what month is the feast of the Annunciation celebrated? (Hint: This is when Mary learns that she will bear the Son of God).

Answer: The Annunciation is celebrated March 25, nine months before Christmas.

21. What feast is celebrated 40 days after Christmas?

Answer: The feast of the Presentation, commemorating the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, falls 40 days after Christmas.

22. In what year was Christmas first said to be celebrated on December 25?

Answer: In the year 336.

23. What religious symbolism can be seen in a candy cane?

Answer: Candy canes are shaped as shepherd's staffs, because Jesus is the Good Shepherd. They are traditional red and white striped, the white symbolizing the purity of Jesus, the sacrificial lamb. The red symbolizing the blood the Lamb shed for our sins.

24. In which gospels can the Nativity story be found?

Answer: Matthew and Luke. Neither Mark nor John tell the story.

25. Which angel announced the birth of Jesus?

Answer: Gabriel. See Luke 1:26.

26. What was the first thing the angel said to Mary?

Answer: "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." See Luke 1:28.

27. After finding out that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to divorce (dismiss) her quietly. True or False.

Answer: True. See Matthew 1:19: "And her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to put her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly."

28. What does "Immanuel" mean?

Answer: God with us.

29. Who was the Roman emperor when Jesus was born?

Answer: Augustus.

30. Why did Mary and Joseph leave to go to Bethlehem?

Answer: To register for the latest census. Caesar Augustus decreed that all should be registered. Because Joseph was from the House of David, he had to be registered in Bethlehem, the city of David.

31. Who were the parents of John the Baptist?

Answer: Elizabeth and Zechariah.

32. How long was Zechariah mute after the angel Gabriel appeared to him?

- a) A few days
- b) A month
- c) Until after John's birth

d) Until after John's circumcision

Pressured by his relatives to name his son after himself, Zechariah, still unable to speak after John was circumcised "asked for a writing table and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God." See Luke 1:63-64.

33. How many angels appeared to the shepherds out in the field?

- a) 1
- b) 3

c) A multitude

- d) It does not say

Luke 2:13 - Only one spoke to them but a "multitude of the heavenly host" joined to Praise God.

34. What did the multitude of angels say?

- a) "We bring great news of great joy!"
- b) "For unto you a child is born!"
- c) "Glory to the newborn king!"

d) "Glory to God in the highest!"

Luke 2:13-14 – "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!""

35. What was the sign the shepherds were to look for?

a) A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes

b) A baby lying in a manger

c) A baby with a halo above his head

d) A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger

Luke 2:12 – "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

36. What was the shepherds' initial reaction to the angel who visited them?

a) They were angry

b) They were excited

c) They were afraid

d) They were upset

See Luke 2: 9 – "Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."

37. How many wise men appeared with gifts?

a) 2

b) 3

c) 6

d) The Bible does not specify.

The number of wise men (or magi) is not provided.

38. Where did the wise men come from?

a) From the east

b) From the west

c) From the south

d) From the north

Matthew 2:1 – “In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem”

39. Where did Mary, Joseph, and Jesus flee after their visit from the wise men?

a) Jerusalem

b) Just outside of Bethlehem

c) Egypt

d) Nazareth

Matthew 2:13 – “Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.””

40. Scholars agree that Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or False.

Answer: False. The exact date of his birth is unknown.