

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



4th Sunday in Advent

18 December 2022 - Year A

"Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David."

Something to Think About

God chose Mary, a simple young woman, to be the mother of God.

Can you imagine how Mary must have felt to have been chosen for this special job?

The Story

This week's gospel tells the story of how Mary accepted God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus. Mary listened to God and believed in her heart, even though she did not understand everything that was happening to her. We also hear of how Joseph listened to God's instructions and did just as God asked of him in taking Mary to be his wife and in naming their son Jesus.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ was born.

A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit.

Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream.

The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

So God's promise came true, just as the prophet had said,

"A virgin will have a baby boy,
and he will be called Immanuel,"
which means "God is with us."

After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video:

[The Story of Christmas – Mary and Joseph](#)



Group Discussion

Mary shows us what it means to follow Jesus and to believe. Her life was far from easy and comfortable, but her faith helped her to be strong in difficult times.

Can you think of a time when you, or someone you love, has turned to God in faith and found strength to get through a challenging situation?

Praying For Others

Leader: As we prepare to welcome Jesus this Christmas, let us bring our prayers to God.

Reader 1: We pray that we will be ready to say 'yes' to God, just like Mary. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will recognise God in the people we least expect. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we will have the courage to believe in God's promises. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will rejoice in God's deep love for us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that joy and hope will fill our hearts. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Mother Mary,
You said "Yes" to all that God
asked of you. Please pray for us
that we may do the same.
Amen.

Group Activity

PAPER NATIVITY FIGURES

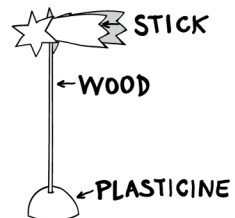
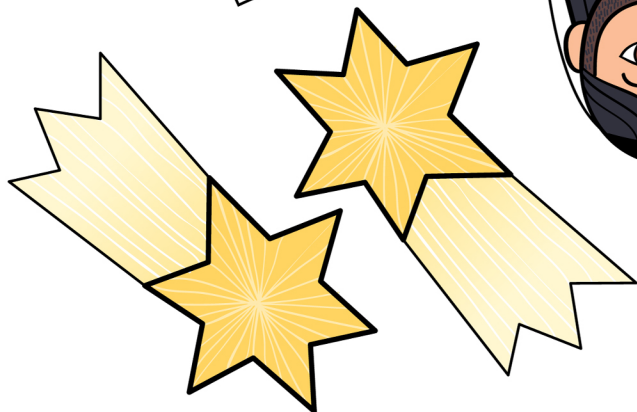
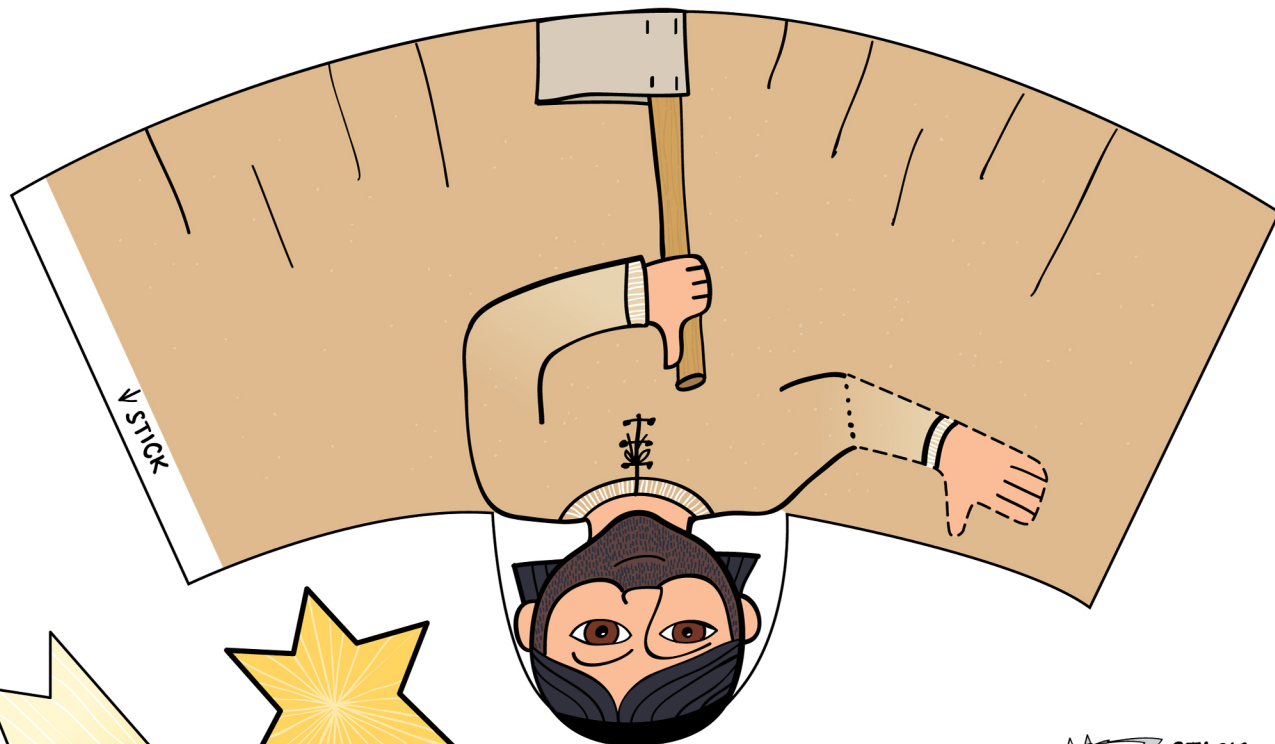
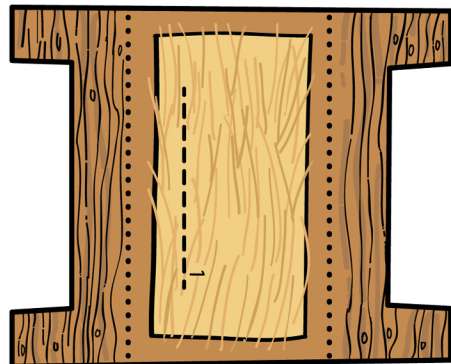
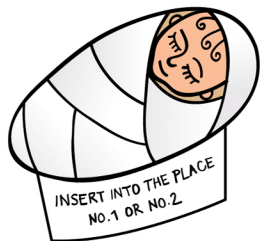
You will need: a template for each child printed on construction paper, scissors, paddle-pop sticks, blu-tac or plasticine, scissors.

1. Cut out the shapes of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the manger.
2. Also cut along the dotted lines (on Mary and the manger)
3. Fold along the dotted lines.
4. Assemble the star on the paddle-pop stick and place it in blu-tac or plasticine so it stands up.
5. You may like to tape a paddle-pop stick to the figures of Mary and Joseph too.



CUT OUT AND STICK.

..... FOLD
----- CUT THROUGH





A PICTURE TO COLOUR IN
PUT YOUR FINISHED PICTURE UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE