

Teaching the Family about Advent

- We present these family liturgies, for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, one for every week. We recommend that the dad or the mom, or another mature person direct the liturgy, of course they should read it before and learn the liturgy of the week and remember that they should ask questions and be the Guide so that all can participate.
- It is important to pray so that what has been planned is accompanied by God.
- The person known as **Guide** should locate in the house an appropriate place to set the table with a cloth on it. Then place an Advent crown with the four candles on it. We recommend that the location not be changed until Advent is finished.
- Previously the family will have attended a store to buy items to prepare its Crown of Advent. (or bought one)



1st Week of Advent

- Gathered the family, in the place where Advent will occur, the person that directs will invite everyone especially the children to prepare the table and to put the cloth on it.
- **Guide:** should say that are getting ready to celebrate a great party, Jesus' birth. When in a home a child is born everyone becomes happy and they get ready to receive the baby. Mary and Joseph were very happy.
- **Guide:** will ask... How to you believe Mary felt?
- Then, a child will place on the table the CROWN. Another child will place the four candles and will count the candles aloud.
- **Guide:** will say that in about four Sundays from now they will celebrate Jesus' birth.
- Then a child can light a candle. (First week of advent).



1st Week of Advent - Continued

- **Guide** will comment: Many years ago before Jesus was born, there was a town that was waiting and inside that town there were some chosen people by God that were called prophets.
- A prophet is a person to which God reveals His secrets.
- God wants us to know His secrets and for that reason He requested to the prophets to tell the people.
- There was a prophet and friend of called God Isaiah.
- Today we are going to find out about one of the secrets of God.
- **Guide:** will ask to stand up if they are seated (Have a card written with the following text)
- Ask a person that reads well, to proclaims the prophecy of Isaiah
"The town that walked in the dark, saw a great light" Isaiah 9:1
- **Guide:** will ask
- Who will that great Light be that will illuminate to a great people? We know that it is Jesus.
- To this Word of God we suggest to respond with the following sentence:
- A child should read it:
"Jesus, you are big and we are small, come, don't delay, we need you now." Amen
- Note: The child after reading the card should leave it beside the Advent crown.
- Everyone in the family tells each other goodbye with a hug and the word peace.



2nd Week of Advent

- Gather the family in the place of the for Advent, to begin the celebration.
- Request a person to light two candles.
- Guide: begin the conversation with this question
- Today have we lit two candles, why?...
- **Guide:** can comment
We are in the second week of Advent preparing our heart to celebrate Jesus' birth.
- Then a child can say this sentence:
“Jesus, you are big and us small, come, hurry we need you”
- **Guide:** Last week we listen to the prophet Isaiah’s secret that spoke to us of the Light.

Today we will learn another secret of God.

“A child has been born us, A son has been given! The government (or power) is on His back And His name will be; Wonderful Counselor, Invincible God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6

- After reading, leave the card of the text next to the advent crown



2nd Week of Advent - Continued

- **Guide:** will ask to the family and children
- What do those names mean that Jesus will have? Talk about the names.
- **Counselor** – what does that mean? Who is a Counselor? What is a Council?
- What does Wonderful Counselor mean? ...It means... The one that gives the best advice. The best by far.
- **Strong and eternal God** that mean? Will it be with a lot of force, for us?
- **Eternal Father** what does that mean? He is a father that is always present.
- **Guide:** How many names did Isaiah place on that boy called Jesus!
- Wonderful Counselor, Eternal Father, Invincible God, Prince of Peace
- **Prince of Peace!** If he is a prince it is because he has a Kingdom
- **Guide:** request to the participants to think of names they would give to the most beautiful boy. Close the eyes and think, then say it aloud the name aloud.
- It is suggested that you end with a song or prayer
- If the children want they can come to the prayer corner during the week to read the secret of God, or to pray.



3rd Week of Advent

- Meet again with the family
- **Guide:** Ask... How many weeks do we take getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth?
- **Guide:** ask to Light the candles
 - Three people (children or adults) they light three candles
 - Prayer (You can ask a mature person) to Write the prayer before on a card.
"Jesus, you are big and we are small, come please do not delay for we need you."
After the prayer place the card next to the crown.
- **Guide:** Comment... We already know who the prophet Isaiah is.
He is the friend of God, to who revealed several of God's secrets.
What were the secrets? -- The Light of the People, and the child's names
Today we will learn another secret.
- **Guide:** Have a card with the written text of the Prophecy of Isaiah.
"Look, the virgin will conceive and she will give birth to a son
And His name will be Emmanuel,
That it means God with us" Isaiah 7:14
- **Guide:** What Virgin will give birth that Isaiah speaks about?
Does he say that he will have a name which is?.....? Emmanuel
And what does it mean... God with us.
- **Guide:** Perhaps we would like to tell Him something in prayer.
Let us pray to Jesus or Emmanuel!



4th Week of Advent

- Gathered in the family Advent place.
- **Guide:** ask four people to light the 4 candles of Advent.
- **Guide:** ask to the 4 participants why did they light the four candles?
What do we call the time - getting ready for the Christmas?
It is called the time of Advent
Who is the person that has been helping us to prepare the heart for this party?
She calls himself Mary, Jesus' mother.
Reading of the Biblical Text (The text is written in a card)
Read Luke 1:26-38
- **Guide:** will ask
How was Mary when she heard the angel's greeting!
She had been chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus!
The angel greeted Mary in a special way
Then a boy should read the Biblical Text
(The text is written in a card)
“I greet you favored of God! The Lord is with you” Luke 1:28
- **Guide:** will invite the participants to learn this greeting by heart.
Then place the card next to the advent crown.
Then a closing prayer will be made



Christmas

- Jesus' birth is remembered in Nativity.
- Jesus' birth was good news for all those that waited the Savior's arrival.
- Jesus was born in a very poor stable.
- An angel announced to some shepherds that the Boy had been born. The shepherds went to see him, to congratulate Mary and Joseph and to offer them what they had so it could be useful.
- Today, Jesus' birth continues being a good news for all the people that want men, women and children of the world to live in peace, they love each other and are happy.



Christmas

- **Birth of Jesus** - It this time we celebrate the baby Jesus' birth at Christmas.
 - The Church invites us during these weeks to contemplate with happiness the reality of God made man, that is to say the incarnation.
 - The Pastor during this time of Christmas, will get dressed of robe and stole of white color, the adornments of the church will be of white color.
- **Family Celebration**
 - The family should be gathered, since it is a special celebration, a procession is made toward the manger, each person should take:
 - The crown of Advent with the four candles.
 - The texts (cards) of the three prophecies of Isaiah. (read the weeks before)
 - The figures in the manger of Mary, Joseph and the boy Jesus
 - A flower for each person
 - The Bible, opened up in Luke 2:4-20 text
 - Matthew 1:25b”Joseph gave him the name Jesus”
 - Match
 - Vase to place the flowers.

Advent Place – After Christmas

- The family is gathered in front of the manger and reads the text of Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23 (Escape to Egypt)
- Questions
 - Who took care of, besides Mary and Joseph of the boy so that nothing bad happened to him?
 - They took care, The Father of Heaven, God.
 - The announcement of what Joseph received in his dreams.
 - What did the angel tell Joseph?
 - The angel said take the Boy and his mother and escape to Egypt.
 - In that way Father God wanted to save the boy.
 - Obedient to God, Joseph and Mary and the boy escaped to Egypt.
 - When the danger passed, an angel advised Joseph that he could return to their home.
 - It is wonderful the care that the Father God has for his Son and for Joseph and Mary. They were obedient to God. This boy is very special he is the Son of the Most High God.



Advent Place – After Christmas

- The procession is made singing a carol (or play a CD with music in the background)
- Then place in a circle around the manger the advent crown, the four candles, and light them.
- The three prophecies are read
 - Luke 2:4-20 is read and in the moment that names of Joseph and Mary are read, people that took these figures should place them in the manger.
 - Equally in the moment that is proclaimed: "... and she gave birth to their First-born Son", the boy's figure Jesus is placed in his cradle.
 - When concluding the reading of the gospel a moment of silence should be requested
- Guide: will ask -- Looking to the manger
 - Who is the smallest of these characters?
 - Who is the most important?
 - It is invited to think that if shepherds took Jesus an offering, we can and should also make one.
- Then each person should take a turn and pass in front of the manger to place her flower in the vase.
- Finish with a prayer, together

"We are all happy in the Lord, because our Savior has been born in the world. Today, from heaven, peace has descended on us. Come, Lord Jesus, again, so that the wars and the pains cease."
- Then a carol is sung or listen to a CD



Epiphany

- The celebrations of Christmas connect with the party of Epiphany.
- In this day the adoration of the Sages (Wise Men) of East that came is commemorated.
- The Sages, powerful characters of distant lands, gave homage to the Boy born in their environment of poverty and humility.
- We celebrate manifestation of Jesus as King and Lord known by all the people.



Epiphany - Continued

- The family should be gathered around the manger
- **Guide:** will comment
- Jesus' birth is such a big party in the world that nature also showed through an extraordinary event that was observed in the East: a star appears! Some Sages in Jesus' time, followed the star and they arrived in Jerusalem.
- Then they made their way to Bethlehem and when arriving there the star stopped, they found the Boy with Mary and falling on their knees they adored him. They opened their treasures and they offered him gold, incense and myrrh, as gifts.
- Then the Biblical Text of Matthew 2:1-12 is read
- Have ready the figures of the three Sages (Wise Men), and in the moment they are named, go and place the gifts at the boy's (Jesus) feet.
- **Guide:** will ask
 - Why would they bring gold?
 - Gold was normally offered to the kings in those days, they meant it to mean that Jesus was a KING
 - Did another Sage bring Myrrh why?
 - The myrrh was used in Jesus' times to place it to the bodies when they were buried. With this gift they wanted to say that he was a man.
 - Another Sage also took him Incense
 - They normally offered incense to God in the Temple.
 - They were telling him that He was God.



Epiphany - Continued

- How strange that the Sages offered to this boy so small, these gifts that meant things so big!
 - Gold. As King.
 - Myrrh, as man.
 - Incense, as God
- We already know that the angels sang when announcing Jesus' birth.
- The Shepherds praised God when seeing this event.
- The Sages adored him and they took him special gifts.
- Let us think of gifts that we can offer to Jesus in our family.
- **Guide:** should invite people to that they pass to leave their gift
- You should finish the time of Epiphany with many songs.

