

Family Page

Background Reflection

Advent is a time of preparing for the coming of Jesus. The word *Advent* comes from a Latin root meaning “to arrive” or “to come toward.” When we prepare for something, we walk toward it. We think ahead and make plans. We gather courage and hope, and we look forward to the joy the big event will bring.

All year long, we celebrate and try to follow Mary’s example in saying yes to God as we walk toward him throughout our lives. During Advent, we prepare to welcome him in a more intense, more immediate way. Let us pray that, like Mary, we will be ready to accept with peace whatever God asks of us.

Family Activities

- Read together the Featured Story on page 1574 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (Luke 1:30–33, 38). Talk about what Mary may have felt when she heard Gabriel’s news. Talk about what it is like to know that a baby is on the way.
- Brainstorm with your child to create a list of ways your family can say “yes” to God more often. Examples might include going to the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation together, beginning a habit of family prayer, or practicing more patient behavior with one another at home.
- Watch the video “Light the Advent Candle” (YouTube, 2:26) together. Talk about your family’s existing Advent wreath, or make plans to set up a new one. Rather than purchasing a new wreath, create a simple homemade wreath from craft supplies and recycled items you may already have.

People of Faith

Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531)

Mary appeared to a Mexican farmer named Juan Diego. She dressed as a Mexican woman and spoke in the local language. Mary asked for a church to be built in her honor for the people of Mexico. We celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Loving God, you sent the Angel Gabriel to deliver your message to Mary. You send messages to us too. Help us listen for your voice and say “yes” to what you ask. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

