



1st Reading: IS 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

Second Reading: 2 PT 3:8-14

Gospel: MK 1:1-8

The Second Sunday of Advent - Prepare!

"The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has *called* you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus. Pray the [Prayer to the Holy Spirit](#). " (retrieved from: [LoyolaPress](#), Sunday Connection).

Lighting the Second Candle of Advent:

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle called the "Bethlehem Candle," is lit. This candle represents love and symbolizes Christ's manger. Bethlehem was the city where Jesus was born. In Hebrew, the term Bethlehem means "House of Bread". In every Eucharist, Jesus offers himself to us as the Bread of Life. Thus, every Eucharist is Bethlehem for us.

Family Activity - Make these "Bread Jar" gifts to share with neighbors: [Heavenlyhomemakers.com](#) - Stir and Pour Bread Mix

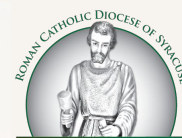
December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

On this day, the Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of Mary, who was conceived without sin. Mary was, "full of grace" from the moment of her conception. In our liturgical calendar, this date falls nine months before the Church celebrates the Nativity of Mary on September 8th. As we "Wait in Joyful Hope, Mary is considered to be a prophet of hope (CCC #64).

Family Mission Activity Ideas: In honor of this Feast celebrating Mary's conception, let's pamper pregnant mothers a little bit on this day. If you know of a pregnant mother, bake some cookies to satisfy those cravings...or offer to borrow some of her other children for a couple hours and give her a little quiet time!

DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

Year of Vocations



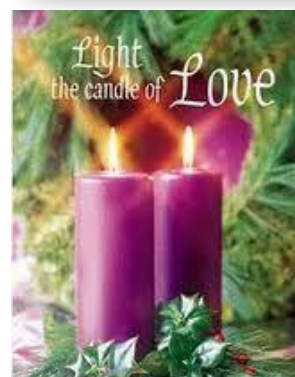
YEAR OF
VOCACTIONS
St. Joseph pray for us

November 14, 2020 - November 21, 2021

"May God's call for your life shine through how you live.

May God's call for your life flow through what you do.

May God's call for your life dwell in who you are.



Pope's Monthly Prayer Intention:



...For a life of prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[Catechist.com](#) - Our Vocation: A Gift from God (Adult Faith Builder)

[Catholiccurrent.com](#) - The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Teens & Adults Faith Builder)

[youtube.com](#) - Immaculate Mary with Lyrics (All ages Faith Builder)

[youtube.com](#) - Second Week of Advent Meditation, Ascension Press with Sr. Miriam James (Teens and Adults Faith Builder)