

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY LESSON PLAN

LITURGICAL DATE: Year A      Third Sunday of Advent

THEME: Mary

Grab the children's bible and/or lectionary and battery operated candle from the room and take it with you when Father calls us the children to gather in front of the altar.

- Ask children to help carry the bible and light on the walk to Liturgy room.

1. Greet the children, asking them their names. Introduce yourself and your helper if you have one. Place candle and materials on the table. Do a head count and write the numbers on the sheet on the wall.
2. **Sing the Opening Prayer Song:** Following the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' ( there is chart paper on the wall)

"Hello, Hello how are you?  
We have many things to do.  
Read some stories, dance and play,  
Learn about our God today.  
God our Father, we ask you,  
Bless us in the things we do."

### 3. Read the gospel:

"A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 11:2-11". Have the children model you making the sign of the cross on their foreheads ("to keep Jesus on our minds"), their lips ("to keep Jesus in our words") and their chest ("to keep Jesus in our hearts"). The gospel is in the lectionary and also in this packet. There are a few questions you and the kids can discuss (3-5 min is a great goal).

4. **Intercessions:** Give each child a prayer rock (on window ledge). Ask the children to close their eyes and bring quiet to their hearts as they rub the rock. When the children are ready, see if a few of the children have an intention they would like to pray for.

After a few individual intercessions, read our group general intercessions and allow the children to respond (R) Lord hear our prayer:

We pray for our church. R

We pray for Pope Francis R

We pray for our families R

We pray for all Holy People R

The children can take a moment to whisper a private prayer while holding the rock.

As a group say “Lord hear our prayers” and respond with singing “Ever Loving God (spread out left arm), Faithful God (spread right arm out), Hear the prayers of your people.

**5. Activity: Bouquet for Mary**

- 6. Closing Prayer:** Say this prayer with the children (on chart paper) – “Jesus lay your hand on me; Bless me and take care of me. Amen”. End with the sign of the cross, “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.

Ask the children to collect their craft and line up at the door. There is a rubber stamp and inkpad in the supply area if you wish to distribute. **Remind children mass is still happening and many are praying, it’s important they quietly return to their parents. We have a new bulletin board hanging on a brick column opposite the entrance to the church. Feel free to direct kids to hang up their work for display.**

**Thank You for volunteering today and making a positive impact on our parish!**

**Gospel Reading Matthew 11:2-11**

John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing. So John sent some of his followers to ask Jesus, “Are you the one we should be looking for? Or must we wait for someone else?” Jesus answered, “Go and tell John what you have heard and seen. The blind are now able to see, and the lame can walk. The deaf can hear and the dead are raised to life. God will bless everyone who does not reject me because of what I do.”

Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: “What sort of person did you go out to see? Was he dressed in fine clothes? What did you really go out to see? Was he a prophet? He certainly was. In the scriptures God says about him, ‘I am sending my messenger ahead of you to get things ready for you.’

“I tell you that no one ever born on this earth is greater than John The Baptist. But whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Questions for discussion:**

Q: When we go outside signs are everywhere. They tell us what to do. What kinds of signs have you seen? { how fast to drive, when to stop, where to park}

Q: Are signs usually easy and simple to follow? {Yes}

Q: Did you know that we can tell people about the Kingdom of God through showing signs? {Yes, our actions (what we do) helps show people that we are Christian. Examples include sharing, praying, helping a friend who is hurt or sad, caring for someone who is sick or including a new person in our conversation or games}.

Q: Did you know that at different times Mary has appeared and spoken to people? (usually to kids)

Q: She has a sign so we can recognize her, any guesses what the sign is? {flowers/Roses}

**Catechists:**

There is a sheet of construction paper for each child. Hand them 2-3 muffin liners and they can color the bottom of the liner as a flower. They can then glue the liners to the paper and draw a stem and leaves if they'd like to remember Mary and how we can always think of her when we see beautiful flowers.

