

# good news

Family Connect Newsletter  
Week of December 3-9  
Preparing for December 10,  
The Second Sunday of Advent

[Click for Sunday's Readings](#)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11  
Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
2 Peter 3:8-14  
Mark 1:1-8



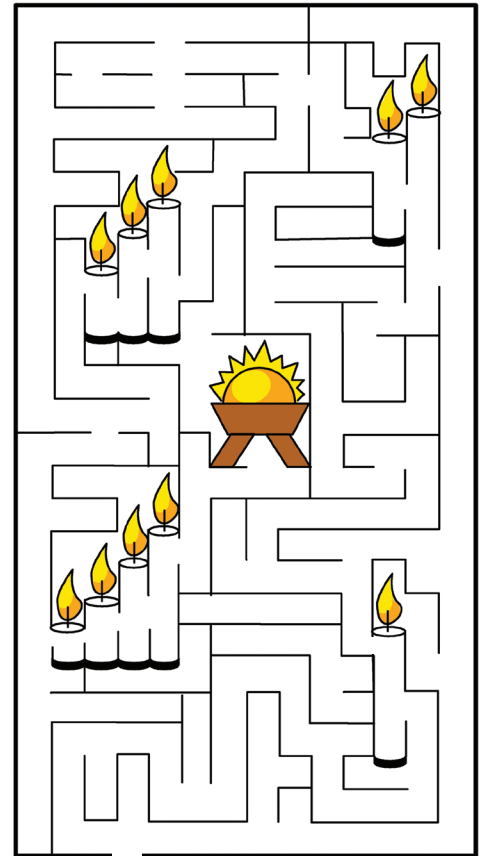
## Parent Connect

Thoughts on Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel lesson begins with the words: "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." *Gospel* means "good news," and Mark begins his good news with the story of John the Baptist. Centuries before, through the Old Testament prophet Malachi, God told his people, "I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes" (Malachi 4:5). Before John was born, the angel Gabriel told Zechariah that his son John would go before the Lord "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17). John even dressed like the great Old Testament prophet Elijah, who "wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather" (2 Kings 1:8). God himself was coming to earth to visit his people. It was John's job to "prepare the way" so that people would be ready to greet their Lord.

How do you prepare to meet God face to face? John prepared the people by "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." God himself was coming to earth in the Person of Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for the sins of the world. Being ready to *meet* the Savior means admitting that you *need* a Savior—admitting that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness. The season of Advent is a time of joy as we prepare for Christmas, but it is also a season of repentance because we remember that Jesus came to die for our sins.

## Journey in Advent



START

Do you see the candles? Find your way through each group to reach the manger. The closer we get to Christmas, the more candles we see. Do you know why?

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Friday, December 8

### The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates the fact that Mary was free from original sin from the very first moment of her conception.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the

first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin" [CCC 491].

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is one of the most misunderstood by all Catholics, young and old. This is a feast of Mary, not a day referring to the birth of Jesus.

## Let's Talk Around the Table!

- Light the first candle on your classroom Advent wreath.
- Talk about the wreath: its colors and the number of candles.
- What is this wreath showing us?
- How long will Advent last?



## Pray Today!

Lord, I have listened to your Word for a long time. How has it changed me? Did I get the message? Thank you for talking to me.