

ABSOLUTELY ADVENT!

GETTING READY
FOR CHRISTMAS
2021 ✨

For Intermediate Grades





First Thursday of Advent

DECEMBER 2

★ **Today's Gospel** » **Matthew 7:21, 24-27** ★

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven" (7:21).

To find out what we need to do to enter the kingdom of heaven, complete this activity. It will take work! These problems contain the first letters of words that are associated with a number. **Figure out what the words are and then write down the number.** (Hint: Some are church related and others are not. The images are clues.)



W in A **WEEKS IN ADVENT**

= **A**



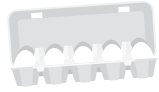
P in the T

= **T**



D in a Y

= **D**



I in a BBG

= **N**



D in L

= **F**



E in a D

= **O**

**SUNDAY - MONDAY
TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY - FRIDAY
SATURDAY**



H in a D

= **H**

T C

= **G**

L in the A

= **I**



D in a R

= **R**



S in the USA

= **S**



D in a W

= **W**



O in a C

= **K**

Fill in the correct letters for the numbers to discover what we need to enter the kingdom of heaven.



Second Tuesday of Advent

DECEMBER 7 ★ SAINT AMBROSE

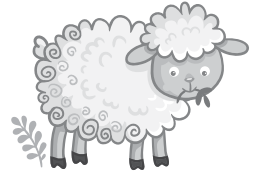
★ Today's Gospel » Matthew 18:12-14 ★

Jesus said, "If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?" (18:12)

Why would a shepherd leave *ninety-nine* on-track sheep and go look for the one that can't stay on track? It doesn't sound like a good idea, does it?

It might be a mystery to us, but it wasn't to the people of Jesus' day. Jesus often used common life experiences to teach.

The answer to each of the problems below represents a letter in Jesus' message that day. Solve the problems and you've solved the Mystery of the Missing Sheep!



- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| A = $64 \div 2$ | G = $28 - 13$ | L = 52×12 | S = $195 + 39$ |
| C = $12 + 3 + 8$ | H = $897 - 628$ | M = $150 \div 3$ | T = 12×13 |
| D = $30 + 80$ | I = $22 + 66$ | N = $72 \div 9$ | U = $92 \div 2$ |
| E = $84 - 39$ | J = 9×6 | O = $411 - 384$ | W = $684 \div 4$ |
| F = 17×8 | K = 12×8 | R = $54 + 67$ | Y = $98 - 59$ |

171	269	45	8		171	45		234	156	121	32	39	
136	121	27	50		156	269	45		136	624	27	23	96
15	27	110			121	45	54	27	88	23	45	234	
171	269	45	8		171	45		121	45	156	46	121	8

Symbols OF THE SEASON



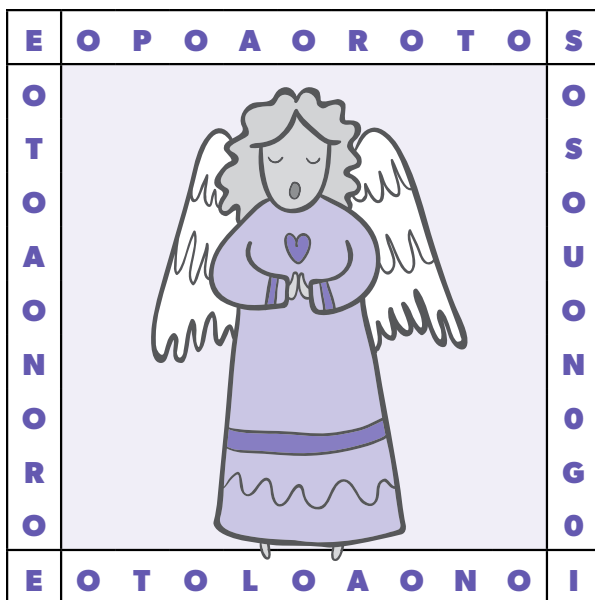
The Great "O Antiphons"

The closer we get to Christmas, the more excited we get. Each day we feel more excited than the last. We can hardly wait!

The Church, too, feels this excitement and has a special way of expressing it. Beginning on December 17, a special prayer called an "O Antiphon" is sung. There are seven "O Antiphons," and each calls on Jesus to come save his people. Each antiphon begins with "O," which is what gives the antiphons their name.

Beginning this week, you will find that day's antiphon on the page. Pray it before you go to bed each night.

Strike out all the Os in the border of this puzzle. Then find the phrase that describes the way an "O Antiphon" is expressed. Begin at the arrow and go around the border to complete the phrase.



An antiphon is a verse of a song that is _____
 _____ .



Third Wednesday of Advent

DECEMBER 15

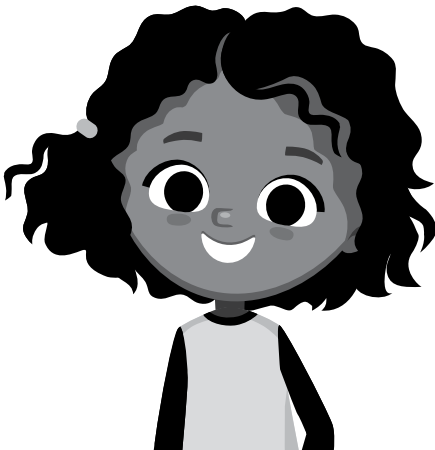
★ Today's Gospel » Luke 7:18b-23 ★

John sent his disciples to Jesus to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus told them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard" (7:18-19, 22).

Notice that Jesus told John's disciples to tell John what they had seen as well as what they heard. Proving who you are takes action as well as words. John's disciples had seen Jesus cure the blind, the deaf, and the sick. They had seen him raise the dead and heard him preach about his Father's love for the poor.

What if someone was sent to ask you, "Are you a Christian?" What answer would you give? Just hearing you say you are a Christian wouldn't exactly prove to anyone that you are, would it? What do you do to prove you are a Christian?

Read each of these scenarios. Then write what you would do to show you are a Christian.



You find someone's iPad on the school bus. You've wanted one for a long time.

You meet a group of classmates at the skating rink. One of them swears a lot when no grownups are around.

A very good friend asks to see your history notebook to copy the answers to a homework assignment.

A group of your friends are talking about a classmate they don't like. Some of the things they are saying are not true, and you know it.



Fourth Friday of Advent

DECEMBER 24

★ Today's Gospel » Luke 1:67-79 ★

As soon as Zechariah could speak again, he began to praise God. He said of his son, John, "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways" (1:76).

Today is **Christmas Eve**, one of the most exciting days of the year. Jesus will be born tonight, and all Christians will rejoice in his coming. Along with Zechariah, we all praise God for the gift of his Son.

Write your own prayer of praise and thanks to God for this day. Some prayer starters are given here, but only you know how to fill in the blanks to make the prayer about you and your life.

Blessed be God for sending _____ to me.

Blessed be God for the love of my _____ .

Blessed be God for my talent for _____ .

Blessed be God for the fun I have when _____ .

Blessed be God that I can give _____ .

Blessed be God for the help I get when _____ .

Blessed be God for forgiving me when I _____ .

Blessed be God for the opportunity I have to _____ .

Blessed be God that I am able to _____ .

