

# ABSOLUTELY ADVENT!

DAY BY DAY  
TO CHRISTMAS  
2022 ✨

For Intermediate Grades





# First Wednesday of Advent

NOVEMBER 30 ★ SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE

## Today's Gospel ★ Matthew 4:18-22

*Jesus called to the two fishermen, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him (4:19-20).*

Peter and Andrew, who were brothers, were the first two men to be called by Jesus to be his Apostles. And what an offer Jesus made to them! Fish for people? How could they possibly do that?

The words in this fun activity are not taken directly from Scripture, but they get the idea across about Jesus' invitation to Peter and Andrew. Jesus would not leave them helpless if they accepted his call. He taught them many ways to reach people with God's love and mercy.

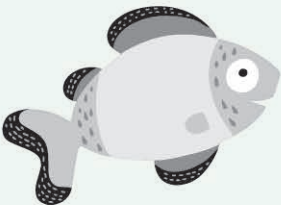
There is a **finite** number of hidden numbers in these sentences. (The bold-face letters in the previous sentence are a clue about how this works.) **Find and circle all nine numbers between one and ten that are hidden.** One is missing. Which one?

**"Come on, everybody, I'll show you how that works."**

**"Some day, you will catch fish with reels, but for this event you will need neither net nor reel."**

**"The Father and I offer you many options. No matter which of our options you choose, be sure to weigh the consequences."**

**"When ineffective, an option should be dropped. Feel free to say, 'I'm off. I've thought of a better way.'"**



**"Don't wait, enormous numbers of people need to be caught up in God's love."**



# Second Tuesday of Advent

DECEMBER 6 ★ SAINT NICHOLAS

## 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** =  $52 \times 12$

**S** =  $195 + 39$

**C** =  $12 + 3 + 8$

**H** =  $897 - 628$

**M** =  $150 \div 3$

**T** =  $12 \times 13$

**D** =  $30 + 80$

**I** =  $22 + 66$

**N** =  $72 \div 9$

**U** =  $92 \div 2$

**E** =  $84 - 39$

**J** =  $9 \times 6$

**O** =  $411 - 384$

**W** =  $684 \div 4$

**F** =  $17 \times 8$

**K** =  $12 \times 8$

**R** =  $54 + 67$

**Y** =  $98 - 59$

171	269	45	8		171	45		234	156	121	32	38		
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	



# Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 11



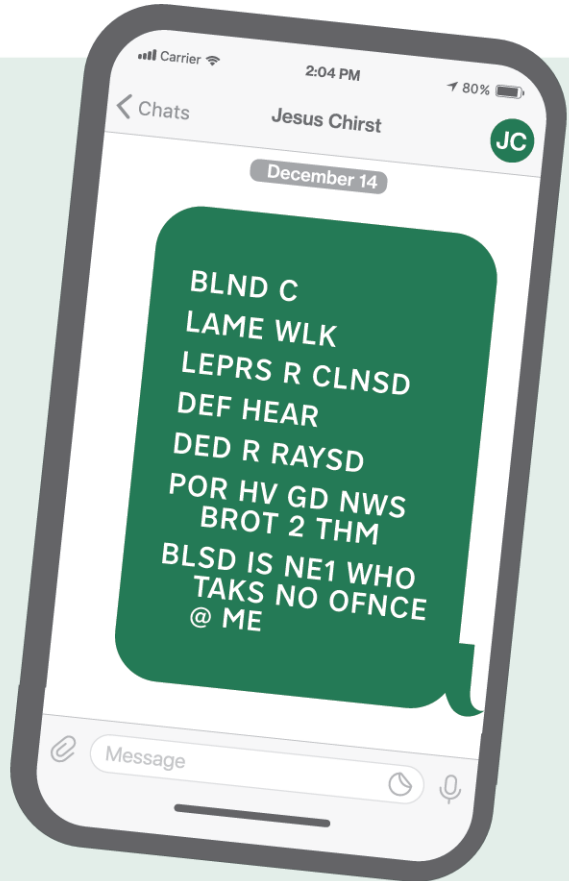
## Today's Gospel ★ Matthew 11:2-11

*John the Baptist sent word to Jesus and asked, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (11:3)*

To get the information he sought, John the Baptist had to send his disciples to ask Jesus. To get an answer to John, Jesus had to send it back with the disciples. This form of communicating could take days, even weeks.

But if Jesus and John could have text messaged each other, John could have had an immediate answer from Jesus.

**Decipher this text message to discover Jesus' answer to John.**



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# ADVENT SAINTS



## MARY AND JOSEPH

*(Matthew and Luke, Chapters 1 and 2)*

**Mary has 333 titles and is celebrated on 54 feast days around the world each year!** She is honored by many nations and denominations and is especially beloved by Catholics.

When we first learn about Jesus, we also learn about Mary, his mother. From the Gospels, we know that Mary was important to Jesus throughout his life.

Here is what we learn about Joseph from the Bible.

- He was descended from the royal line of David.
- He was a righteous man and the husband of Mary.
- He was present at Jesus' birth.
- With Mary, he presented baby Jesus to God in the Temple.
- He took Mary and Jesus to Egypt to escape King Herod.
- He took them back to Nazareth when it was safe.
- He shared Mary's worries when Jesus was presumed lost on a journey home from Jerusalem.
- He cared for and protected Jesus as he grew into adulthood.



Joseph is the patron for many, including carpenters, fathers, farmers, the dying, engineers, the family, and house hunters. He is revered and honored by all for his faithfulness to God, Mary, and Jesus.

**How do we know Joseph was a carpenter?**  
**Write your answer here.**



**HINT:** *If you don't know, look at Matthew 13:55.*

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# Fourth Friday of Advent

DECEMBER 23 ★ SAINT JOHN OF KANTY

## Today's Gospel ★ Luke 1:57-66

*Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth,  
and she bore a son (1:58).*

For the Gospel story of today, complete this activity. **Choose the correct Ending for each sentence. Write the letter of the Ending on the line following its Beginning. Then arrange the sentences in the correct order by numbering the boxes from one to eight.**



### Beginning

- The Lord had shown his great mercy to Elizabeth, so people \_\_\_\_\_
- People protested, saying \_\_\_\_\_
- Friends and relatives wanted \_\_\_\_\_
- Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and \_\_\_\_\_
- The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, \_\_\_\_\_
- Immediately, he began to speak, \_\_\_\_\_
- Indeed, the hand \_\_\_\_\_
- Elizabeth said, "No, \_\_\_\_\_

### Ending

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A</b> "he is to be called John."              | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>E</b> of the Lord was with him. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>B</b> to name the baby Zechariah.             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>F</b> praising God.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>C</b> wrote, "His name is John."              | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>G</b> and she bore a son.       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> "None of your relatives has this name." | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>H</b> rejoiced with her.        |