

**NEW! WEEKLY GOSPEL  
REFLECTION VIDEOS**

Children's Leaflets

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

# Children Celebrate!



**Winter 2023–2024** (Year A/B)

**NOVEMBER 26, 2023** | OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE  
through **FEBRUARY 18, 2024** | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

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## The Readings

The readings cited are the readings that the children heard at the Sunday Liturgy. These readings may differ at times from those heard by the adults. They may be shorter, there may be only one reading, plus the Psalm and the Gospel, or the First Readings may be different altogether from those the adults hear. The Gospel most always is the same, but may be the shorter form. The *Directory for Masses With Children* allows for these differences to accommodate the children's level of comprehension.



## Bonus Activities

Starting on page 29, you'll find three bonus activities. The first bonus activity is about being loving and kind as Jesus taught. It can be used with the Solemnity of Christ the King (November 26). The second bonus activity is about listening to God. This can be used at any time. The third bonus activity helps the children maintain a practice of daily prayer all through Lent. This can be used with the First Sunday of Lent (February 18).

## Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos

Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!* Visit <http://bit.ly/3x37mJb> for weekly Gospel Reflection videos. These videos can be used within your Children's Liturgy of the Word program or shared with parents and families to view at home.



# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Isaiah 40:3–5

Psalms 85:8–9, 10–11

Mark 1:1–8

## We Pray

During this holy season of Advent, O Lord, open our ears to hear the message of Saint John the Baptist. May we turn our hearts back to you. Amen.

## The Word of God This Week

### Turn Back to God

To prepare the way for Jesus to come, John the Baptist went into the desert and preached, “Turn back to God and be baptized! Your sins will be forgiven.” Many people came, listened to John, and were sorry for their sins. John baptized them in the Jordan River. John also told them, “Someone more powerful than I is coming. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”



Scan here for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.



# Activity



**SCAN  
HERE**  
for family  
resources

Saint John the Baptist helped people get ready for Jesus.  
What did John the Baptist say? **Use the code to find out!**

A	B	C	D	E	G	I	K	N	O	P	R	T	U	Z

T



!



## Family Corner

### FAITH FOCUS

Jesus travels the path to reach us, but he respects our timing. We clear the path and we make it straight. We can start with prayer. In the days ahead, help your family experience prayer in this new way: When night falls, if your Christmas tree is up, turn on your tree lights. If it isn't, light your Advent candles or another candle. Sit together in silence and enjoy the wonder of light in darkness.

### FAMILY ACTIVITY

To demonstrate how much easier a straight path is to travel, create an "obstacle course." First, use masking tape to mark a path across your floor. Then place chairs, tables, and other obstacles along the path. Climb over, under, and through the obstacles to get from one end to the other. Then remove the obstacles and try again. Discuss:

- Which path was easier?  
Which path would Jesus prefer?
- What obstacles get between you and Jesus?



# God likes to speak to you. Are you listening?

Sometimes, noises distract us from hearing God. **Draw a circle around the pictures of things that help you listen to God. Draw a square around the pictures of things that make noises that distract you from hearing God.** Some of the pictures might get both a circle and a square!





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