



Have you ever thought about being a saint?

Impossible? Maybe not. No one starts out planning to be a saint. God's plans take most people by surprise.

SAINT GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL

(See Luke 1:5–2:14.)

Saint Gabriel the Archangel surprised a lot of people with announcements of what God had planned for them.

- Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to be the mother of the Messiah. *(See Luke 1:30-32.)*
- Gabriel was probably the angel who appeared to Joseph in a dream and assured him that Mary had conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. *(See Matthew 1:20.)*
- Gabriel told Zechariah that he and his wife would have a son—even though Elizabeth was way past child-bearing age. *(See Luke 1:13-15.)*
- Gabriel was probably the one who brought the good news to the shepherds that their Messiah had been born. *(See Luke 2:10-12.)*

BEING AN ANGEL LIKE GABRIEL SOUNDS LIKE FUN.

You go around telling people good news! But since we can't choose to be an angel, we have to settle for being thought of as an *angel*. People use the word angel to describe someone who is very good and loving and helpful to others. We can all do that, right?



During Advent, how can you be an angel to those around you?



First Saturday of Advent

DECEMBER 6 ★ SAINT NICHOLAS

Today's Gospel ★ Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and sickness (10:1).

Of the Twelve Apostles, some of their names are pretty familiar. For instance, we all know Peter, who was called Simon before Jesus renamed him. Peter had a brother, Andrew, who was another disciple. Another set of brothers was James and John. And who can forget doubting Thomas or the betrayer, Judas?

In addition to those six Apostles, there were six others.

TO DISCOVER THEIR NAMES, COMPLETE THIS EXERCISE. Refer to the

number and arrow direction above each line. Find the corresponding letter in the list of letters and write it on the line.

7 2 5 3 3 3

8 2 2 7 4 7 15 15 2 3 11

3 7 4 3 2

(son of Alphaeus)

5 4 1 3 0 3 7 15 13

15 11 10 2 5

(the Cananean)

14 4 5 0 4 8 11

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Second Friday of Advent

DECEMBER 12 ★ OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

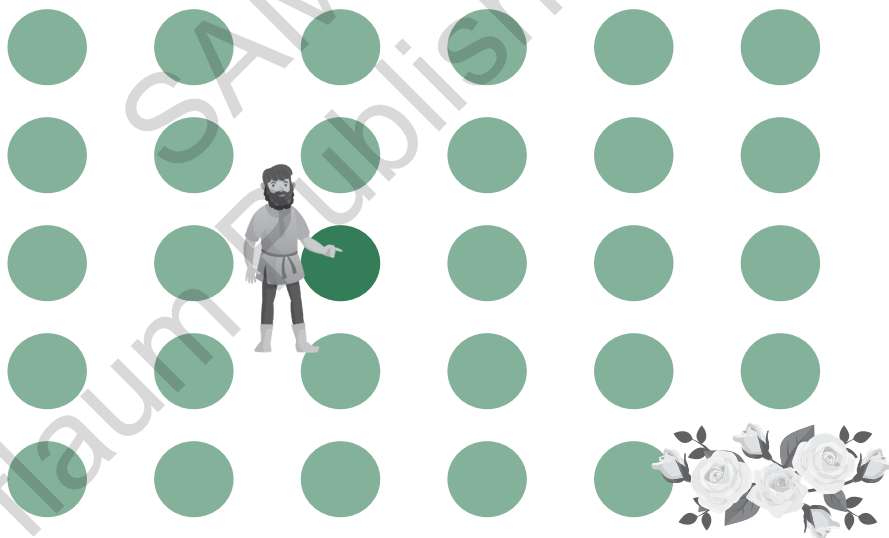
Today's Gospel ★ Luke 1:26-38

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God" (1:30).

Mary appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 on a hill outside of Mexico City. She told Juan to tell the bishop to build a church there.

The bishop wanted a sign to prove the lady was Mary. She told Juan where to pick roses to take to the bishop. It was December and too cold for roses, but Juan obeyed.

Juan must follow a certain path to get to the rose bush. He must touch each stone once and can only go straight or make right turns!
Draw a continuous line from stone to stone until Juan reaches the roses.



Juan filled his cloak with the roses he found and took them to the bishop. When Juan opened his cloak, out fell the roses, and on the inside of his cloak was the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 14



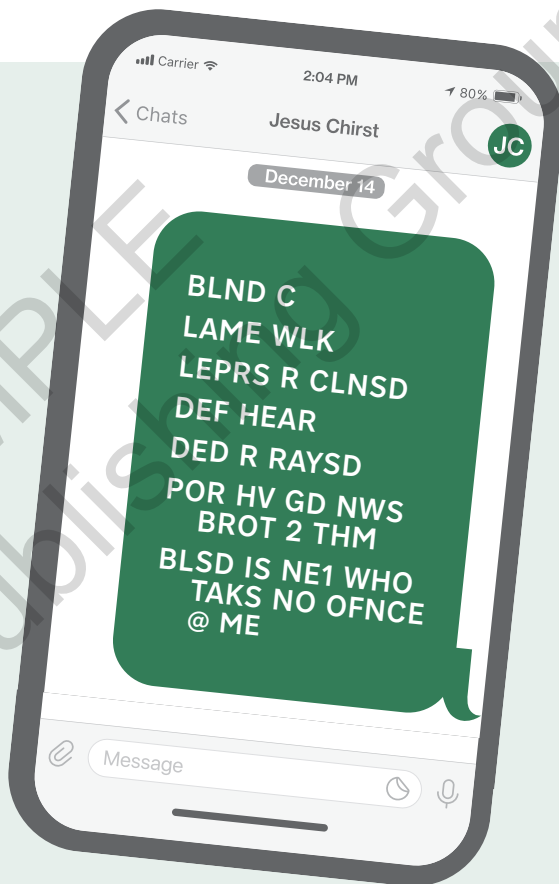
Today's Gospel ★ Matthew 11:2-11

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.





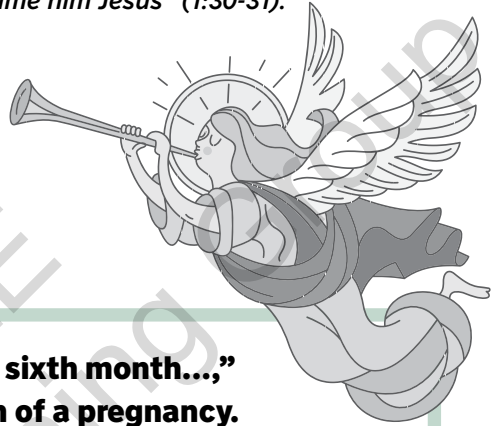
Third Saturday of Advent

DECEMBER 20

Today's Gospel ★ Luke 1:26-38

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus" (1:30-31).

This is at least the second time this Advent you have heard this Gospel reading about the Annunciation. Let's see how well you remember it. If you can't answer these questions, look up Luke 1:26-38 in your Bible.



- 1 The reading begins, "In the sixth month..." referring to the sixth month of a pregnancy. To what woman does this refer? _____
- 2 What was the angel's name? _____
- 3 What part of Israel was Nazareth in? _____
- 4 To whom was Mary engaged? _____
- 5 With whom did Mary find favor? _____
- 6 Through whose power did Mary conceive? _____
- 7 What are the two titles the angel said Jesus would be called? _____ and _____
- 8 What did Mary call herself before saying, "Let it be with me according to your word"? _____



Fourth Tuesday 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

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