

1st Reading: [Mi 5:1-4a](#)
Responsorial: [Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.](#)
2nd Reading: [Heb 10:5-10](#)
Gospel: [Lk 1:39-45](#)

Continue creating your Jesse Tree Ornaments!
loyolapress.com - Jesse Tree - Fourth Week
 of Advent Symbols

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, **The Magnificat**. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation. Loyolapress.com

Question of the Week

Children: How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?
Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?
Adults: What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?
Lifelongcatechesis.osv.com

Beginning from December 17th, the O Antiphons are traditionally prayed in the Church. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the "Octave before Christmas," from December 17th to the 23rd. (December 24 is Vespers of the Christmas Vigil, and does not have an O Antiphon.) "Prayers & Activity Sheet" bit.ly/oantiphoncoins

Fourth Week of Advent - The Candle of Love

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ... John 3:16
 May we praise God with acts of love and kindness. Amen*

[The Light is On For You](#) - December 20th 4-7pm at a parish near you!

Links for More Ideas & Activities

Catholicparents.org - O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Sing-Along Advent Hymn! (Kids Faith Builder)
catholiccuisine.com - O is for Bagels and O Antiphons (Family Faith Builder)
catholiccuisine.com - Starlight Cookies for the last week of Advent (Family Faith Builder)
bit.ly/candleoflove - Share the Light (Family Faith Builder)
Merry Christmas everyone! Building Faith@Home will resume January 9th, 2022
 Follow our "Saints of the Season" at <https://bit.ly/saintsoftheseason>

Sunday: John the Baptist
 Ornament: Scallop Shell
Monday: Mary
 Ornament: White Lily
Tuesday: Elizabeth
 Ornament: Mother and Child
Wednesday: Zechariah
 Ornament: Pencil and Tablet
Thursday: Joseph
 Ornament: Hammer
Friday: Jesus
 Ornament: Manger
Saturday: Christ
 Ornament: Chi-Rho



CatholicKidsMedia



[YouTube](#) - Fourth Sunday of Advent



On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Candle of "Love" is lit.



Share the Light!