

Name _____

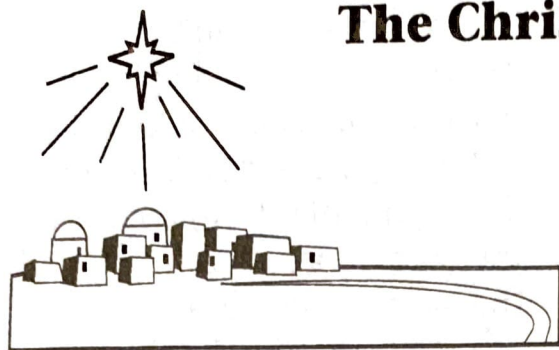
Make this Advent sign to put on one of your doorknobs at home.



THE MEANING OF THE CANDY CANE

Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that symbolized the true meaning of Christmas... Jesus. The hard candy was shaped like a "J" to represent Jesus' name. The color white stands for the pureness of Jesus and the color red represents the blood Jesus shed for all of us.

The Christmas Story



Reader 1: A long time ago, God our Father promised a Savior. For many years, the Jewish people waited for this Savior to come. Then, one day, God fulfilled his promise. He sent us his only Son, Jesus, on the first Christmas. That is why every year we celebrate the birth of Jesus and thank God for keeping his promise and sending us his Son.

Choir: (*Sings "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*)

Reader 2: When God decided to send the Savior, he chose a young girl named Mary to be the mother of his Son. Mary lived in a little village called Nazareth. She loved God very much and tried to do things that would show God how much she loved him. She tried to do the things that she knew would please him. God sent one of his angels to ask Mary to be the mother of the

Savior. The angel's name was Gabriel. The angel came to Mary and said:

Gabriel: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Do not be afraid. God is pleased with you. You will have a baby. You must name him Jesus. He will be holy and will be called the Son of God. He will be the Savior of the world. Your relative Elizabeth, who is old, will have a baby too, for God can do all things.

Mary: I am the servant of the Lord. I accept God's plan for me.

Choir: (*Sings or says "Hail Mary"*)

Reader 3: One afternoon, Mary was very busy sewing and making some baby clothes for Jesus. Joseph had gone into town to sell some furniture he had made. Before long, Joseph came home with the news that they must travel to Bethlehem in order to be counted.



(Joseph and Mary talk about going to Bethlehem and get ready for the trip.)

Reader 4: Mary and Joseph packed the things they needed. Joseph got the donkey ready. Soon, they were on their way to Bethlehem. Mary rode the donkey and Joseph walked. They traveled for days over the rocky roads. When they reached Bethlehem, they were tired but happy.

Choir: *(Sings "O Little Town of Bethlehem")*

Reader 5: Mary and Joseph went from place to place looking for a room but could find none. Finally, one man told Joseph that in the hillside he had a cave, which had once been a stable.

When they reached the stable, they found that it was poor but quiet. Mary and Joseph thanked the good man. *(Pause for Mary and Joseph to do so.)* They cleaned up the cave. When the stable was clean, Mary sat down to rest. That night, while everything was still, Jesus, the Son of God, was born.

Choir: *(Sings "Silent Night")*

Reader 6: In the countryside nearby, there were shepherds in the fields. They took turns watching the flocks of sheep during the night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. The shepherds were afraid, but the angel said:

Angel: Do not be afraid. Listen, for I bring you news of great joy. Today, in the town of Bethlehem, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. You will find him wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Shepherds: Let us go to Bethlehem and see this newborn Savior!

Choir: *(Sings "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")*

Child: *(Recites the poem "What Can I Give Him?")*

What can I give him
As poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I'd give him a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man
I'd do my part.
But what can I give him?
I'll give him my heart.
(Christina G. Rossetti)



The O Antiphons

Sunday (and December 17): O Wisdom, You came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reaching from beginning to end, You ordered all things mightily and sweetly. Come, and teach us the ways of prudence!

Monday (and December 18): O Adonai, God of the Covenant, Leader of the House of Israel, You appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and You gave him the law on Mt. Sinai. Come, and redeem us with Your outstretched arm!

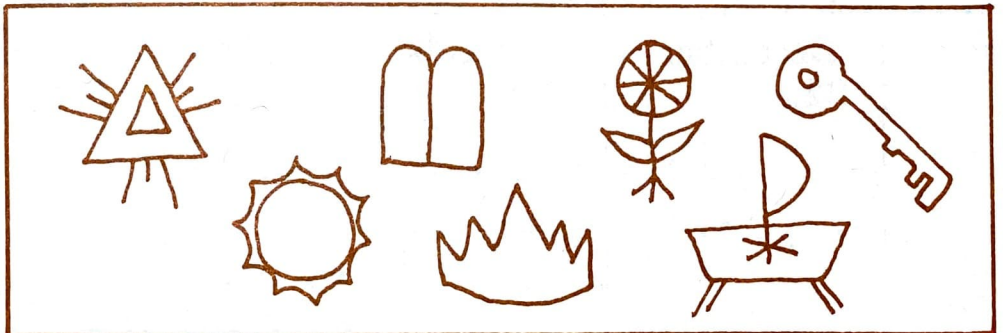
Tuesday (and December 19): O Root of Jesse, all humanity rallies round Your banner. Before You, kings shall keep silent, and all the nations of the world will seek Your help. Come, save us and do not delay!

Wednesday (and December 20): O Key of David and Scepter of the House of Israel, You open and no one closes, You close and no one opens. Come, and bring forth from prison those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death!

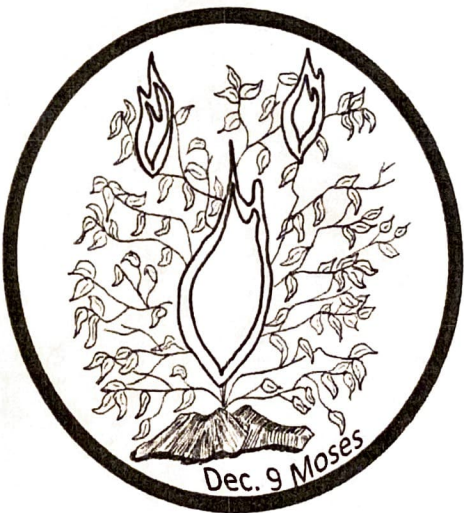
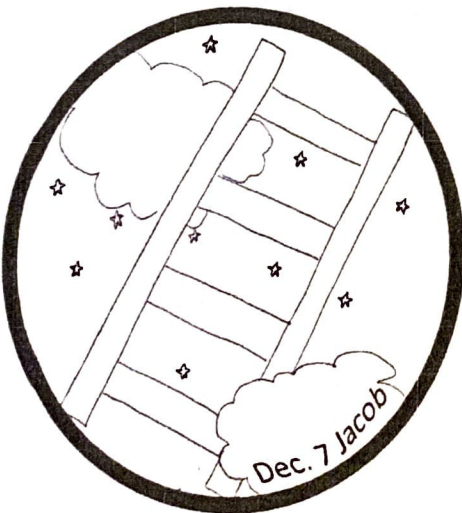
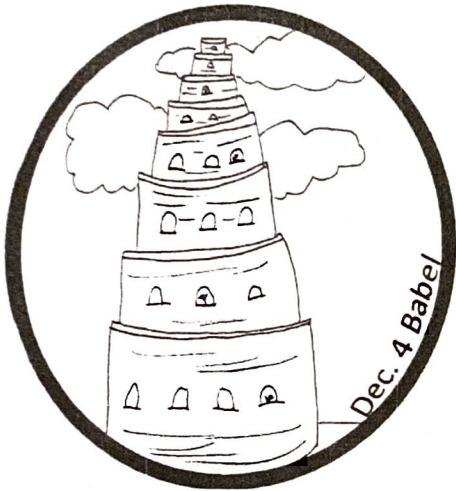
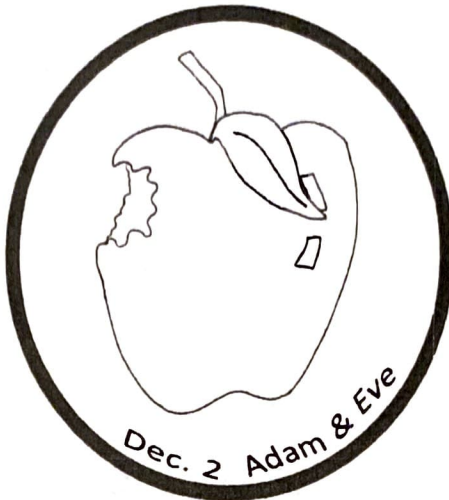
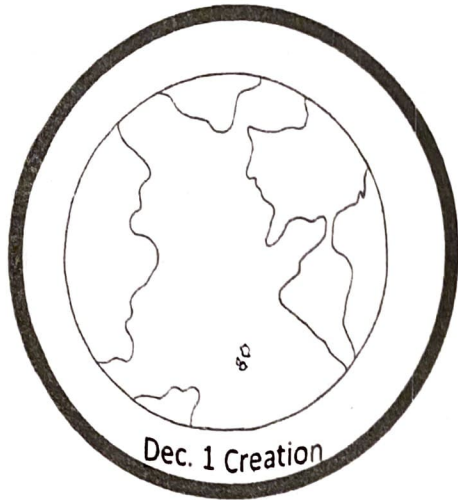
Thursday (and December 21): O Rising Dawn, brightness of the light eternal and sun of justice, come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death!

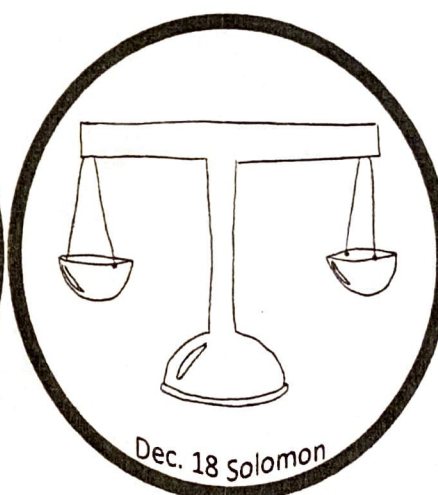
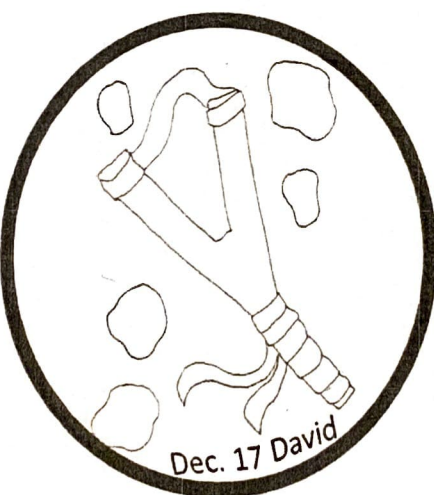
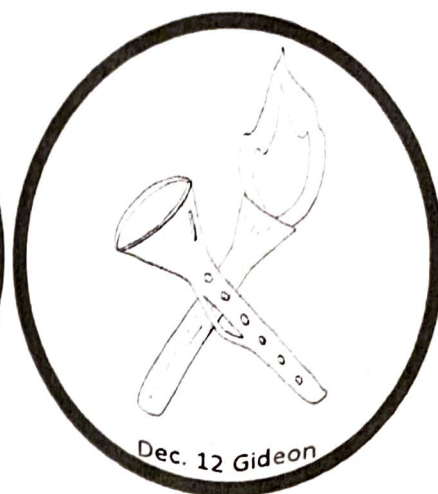
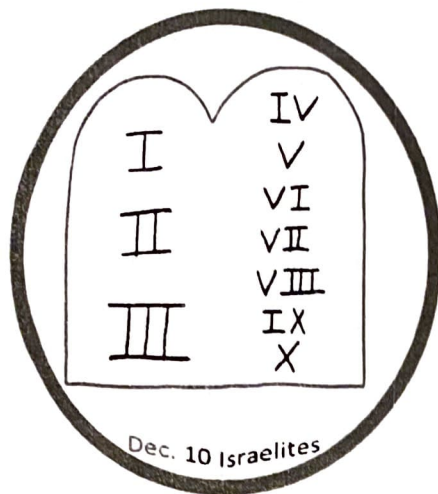
Friday (and December 22): O King of the Gentiles and the desired of all, You are the cornerstone that binds two into one. Come, and save poor humanity, whom You fashioned out of clay!

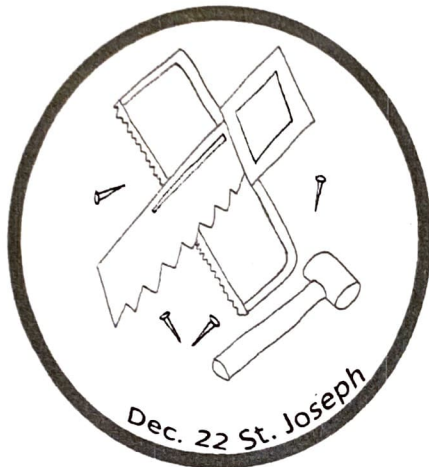
Saturday (and December 23): O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior, come to save us, O Lord, our God!



Advent Jesse Tree Ornaments:







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Rachel is a young artist who blogs at:

www.rachelmaybeth.blogspot.com

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Name: _____ Date: _____

ADVENT

1. How many weeks are in Advent?

2. What color do we use for Advent?

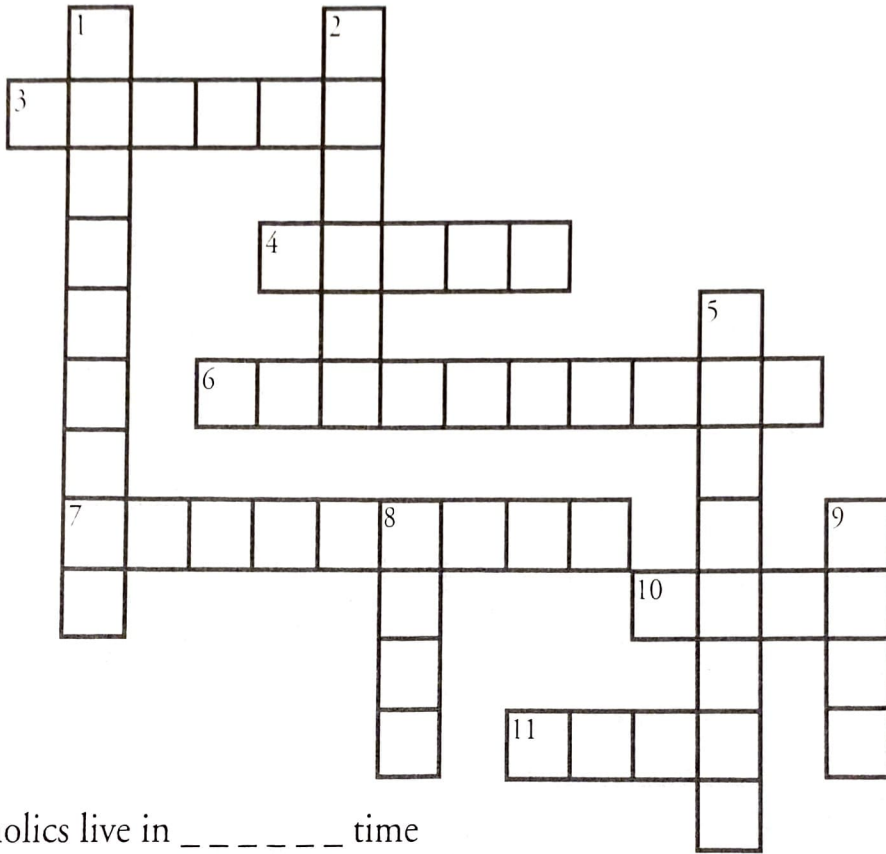
3. When is Jesus' birthday?

4. What is Advent?

5. What Liturgical Season begins a new calendar year for the Church?

The New Liturgical Year

Catholics celebrate a year that is based on the events of Christ's life.



Across

3. Catholics live in _____ time
by following the events of Christ's life.
4. During Advent we remember how long people had to wait for _____.
6. The _____ or church year begins with Advent.
7. On _____ we celebrate Jesus' birth.
10. Celebrating the year around sacred time reminds us there is another _____
beyond this life.
11. Only by living in sacred time do we start to understand how much God
loves us and how to live in his _____ more deeply and truly.

Down

1. _____ celebrate a year that is based on the events of Christ's life.
2. _____ begins a new liturgical year.
5. During the Christmas season we remember Jesus' life from when he was
born to when he was _____ and began his ministry.
8. There is the _____ of this world, and also sacred time that happens at the
same moment.
9. A _____ in the outside world begins January 1 and ends December 31.