



## Gospels of Advent

### *Family Handout*

Advent, a season of renewal and beginning, marks the start of a new Church year. In the Liturgy, there are three cycles of readings (*A, B, and C*). Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew, Year B on the Gospel of Mark, and Year C on the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of John appears in all three cycles.

### ***Year A: The Gospel According to Matthew***

#### **First Sunday of Advent (A)**

*Matthew 24:37–44*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man appears,  
things will be just as they were when Noah lived.  
People were eating, drinking, and getting married  
right up to the day that the flood came  
and Noah went into the big boat.  
They didn’t know anything was happening  
until the flood came and swept them all away.  
That is how it will be when the Son of Man appears.

“Two men will be in the same field,  
but only one will be taken.  
The other will be left.  
Two women will be together grinding grain,  
but only one will be taken.  
The other will be left.

“So be on your guard!  
You don’t know when your Lord will come.  
Homeowners never know when a thief is coming,  
and they are always on guard to keep one from breaking in.  
Always be ready!  
You don’t know when the Son of Man will come.”





## Second Sunday of Advent (A)

*Matthew 3:1–9,11*

John the Baptist started preaching in the desert of Judea.  
He said, “Turn back to God!  
The kingdom of heaven will soon be here.”

John was the one the prophet Isaiah was talking about  
when he said,

“In the desert someone is shouting,  
‘Get the road ready for the Lord!  
Make a straight path for him.’”

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair.  
He had a leather strap around his waist  
and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

From Jerusalem and all Judea  
and from the Jordan River Valley  
crowds of people went to John.  
They told how sorry they were for their sins,  
and he baptized them in the river.

Many Pharisees and Sadducees also came to be baptized.  
But John said to them: “You bunch of snakes!  
Who warned you to run from the coming judgment?  
Do something to show  
that you have really given up your sins.  
And don’t start telling yourselves  
that you belong to Abraham’s family.  
I tell you that God can turn these stones  
into children for Abraham.

“I baptize you with water so that you will give up your sins.  
But someone more powerful is going to come,  
and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”





## Third Sunday of Advent (A)

*Matthew 11:2–11*

John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing.  
So John sent some of his followers to ask Jesus,  
“Are you the one we should be looking for?  
Or must we wait for someone else?”

Jesus answered,  
“Go and tell John what you have heard and seen.  
The blind are now able to see,  
and the lame can walk.  
People with leprosy are being healed,  
and the deaf can hear.  
The dead are raised to life,  
and the poor are hearing the good news.  
God will bless everyone who does not reject me  
because of what I do.”

As John’s followers were going away,  
Jesus spoke to the crowd about John:  
“What sort of person did you go out into the desert to see?  
Was he like tall grass blown about by the wind?

“What kind of man did you go out to see?  
Was he someone dressed in fine clothes?  
People who dress like that live in the king’s palace.

“What did you really go out to see?  
Was he a prophet? He certainly was.  
I tell you that he was more than a prophet.  
In the Scriptures God says about him,

‘I am sending my messenger ahead of you  
to get things ready for you.’

“I tell you that no one ever born on this earth  
is greater than John the Baptist.  
But whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven  
is greater than John.”





## Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

*Matthew 1:18-24*

This is how Jesus Christ was born.  
A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph  
from King David's family.  
But before they were married,  
she learned that she was going to have a baby  
by God's Holy Spirit.

Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary  
in front of everyone.  
So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this,  
an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream.  
The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have  
is from the Holy Spirit.  
Go ahead and marry her.  
Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins."

So God's promise came true, just as the prophet had said,

"A virgin will have a baby boy,  
and he will be called Immanuel,"  
which means "God is with us."

After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married,  
just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.

The text for the Advent Gospels are from  
*Lectionary for Masses with Children: Year A.*  
Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.

