

Family Faith at Home



Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to help you and your whole family explore God's Word in your lives. Each week we will be sending out this resource which can help you reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings with your entire family.

Here are some ideas on how to use this resource:

- Consider reading one of the mass readings each evening.
- Do the discussion questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night.
- Pray the prayer each evening.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Readings:

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Psalm 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29
Romans 16, 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Discuss

After reading the Sunday readings, discuss as a family:

1. The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid." What does this mean to you?
2. What does it mean when it is said one has found favor with God? In what ways might we have found favor with God?
3. God sent his message to Mary through the angel Gabriel. The word "angel" comes from the Greek word for messenger. Can you think of any "angels" you may have encountered in your life who may have been sent by God?
4. "Nothing is impossible with God." How might these words help us in our everyday lives?

Share

The Gospel reading this week takes us to the time when Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel. Mary learns from the angel that she has "found favor with God." We learn that this favor, or grace, prepares Mary for the plan God has for her. Because Mary was born without sin, she would be a fitting dwelling place for God's son. Mary questions what the angel tells her, how she can conceive a child without having relations with a man; but Mary never doubts. She trusts God's plan. While Mary didn't know what the future would hold for her, she placed her trust in God and His plan of salvation became a reality through her.

Watch

For families with small children, [watch this video.](#)
For families with older children, [watch this video](#) from Jeff Cavins.

Pray

Light the fourth candle on your Advent wreath and pray:
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.
Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Do

We read in Sacred Scripture how God uses angels to bring about his plan of salvation.
Make a plan as a family to be "angels" to others this week.
Then discuss how your family can continue this all through 2021.



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