

St. John Neumann Youth Faith Formation - 2021-2022  
**Grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 Lessons**  
**A Family of Faith: The Profession of Faith**

**December – Lessons for Home Study**

(Also use this packet if you are registered for onsite, hybrid lessons and miss the onsite session for the month.)

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Lesson</u>
Before beginning lessons with your child(ren)	Parent video	View parent video for December at: <a href="https://vimeo.com/channels/1730471">https://vimeo.com/channels/1730471</a> (Note: this will be posted on the first of the month)
Before beginning lessons with your child(ren)	Parent reading	Read the background to the chapter on pages 249-250 of the <i>Parents' Guide</i> .
Throughout month	Complete chapter at home	Lesson 5 in December Chapter in the purple <i>A Family of Faith</i> books
Sat, 12/11/2021	Parish Advent Reconciliation Service and First Reconciliation	9:30am in the Church. Your family is invited to celebrate Reconciliation this Advent season. Please join us!
By 12/31/2021	Monthly Reflection Due	Visit this link with your child to complete the reflection: <a href="https://forms.gle/Y5m853PuEpWr1v7D6">https://forms.gle/Y5m853PuEpWr1v7D6</a> .
<i>For December, no Family Mass this month</i>		

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**Prayers to Memorize throughout the Year:** Sign of the Cross, the Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Prayer to One’s Guardian Angel, Blessing Before a Meal, Act of Contrition, Apostles’ Creed.

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**Key Ideas for the Month**

**Key Ideas of our December Lesson:**

- Lesson 5:
  - The Annunciation was God’s announcement to Mary that she had been chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God.
  - Mary’s “yes” to God “undid” the sin of Eve.
  - God preserved Mary from Original Sin from the moment of her conception.

- God Himself entered into human history by sending His only beloved Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, to become Human.
  - To work on all month:
    - Scripture verse of the month, saint of the month, Apostles' Creed memorization, Words to Know for the month, and Car Conversations.
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## Lesson 5 Activities

*Parents, choose two to three activities in this lesson to present to your children at home. Communicate the lesson's key ideas, listed above.*

**Note:** We suggest that you complete Activity 6, "Advent Season Memories," which is for your family storybook (the white binder provided to you).

### **Activity 1: Advent Planner**

**Ages:** All ages

**Focus:** During Advent we prepare to receive Christ

**"Parent's Guide" pages:** page 81

**"Children's Activity Book" pages:** pages 65-72

**Activity:** Complete the calendar with calendar numbers (beginning on page 65 with Nov. 28), feast days (see below), and other faith-based activities to mark. Also mark any birthdays or days significant in your family. Work on the calendar throughout the four weeks of Advent to help bring your family closer to God. The parish will also have a four-color printed calendar for you to pick up. You can use this calendar to personalize the planner in the book.

#### **Feast Days, Holy Days, Liturgical Days for December:**

- Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent
- Nov. 30: St. Andrew
- Dec. 4: St. Barbara
- Dec. 5: Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 6: St. Nicholas
- Dec. 7: St. Ambrose
- Dec. 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception (a holy day of obligation to attend Mass) – The parish will have Mass this evening at 6 pm.
- Dec. 9: St. Juan Diego
- Dec. 10: Our Lady of Loretto
- Dec. 11: Our Lady, Queen of Angels
- Dec. 12: Third Sunday of Advent and Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13: St. Lucy
- Dec. 14: St. John of the Cross

- Dec. 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 21: St. Thomas
- Dec. 25: Christmas (or the Nativity of the Lord)

**Supplement:** To share with your family the meaning of Advent, watch together the video from The Religion Teacher: <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/videos/advent/advent-meaning/>. If you would like, help your child complete the “Meaning of Advent” worksheet that follows.

**Key ideas to communicate to the children:**

- The word “advent” in Latin means “coming.”
  - There are four weeks in Advent.
  - Advent helps us get ready for when Jesus comes again.
  - We celebrate two comings of Jesus during Advent: the first coming of Jesus is at Christmas when the baby Jesus is born; and the second coming of Jesus will be Him coming back at the end of the world.
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## **Activity 2: The Annunciation Scripture**

**Ages:** All ages

**Focus:** Through free faith and obedience, Mary cooperated in human salvation.

**“Parent’s Guide” pages:** pages 82-85

**“Children’s Activity Book” pages:** pages 73-75

**Activity:** Scripture reading on the Annunciation, then a family discussion of a painting that shows the Blessed Virgin Mary comforting Eve, and then prayer.

**Key ideas to communicate to the children:**

- Remind your child about Adam and Eve’s disobedience of God.
- The Blessed Virgin Mary is sometimes called the “New Eve.” Like Eve, Mary was born full of God’s grace. She had a choice to say “yes” or “no” to God. But unlike Eve, Mary said “yes.” Her “yes” was saying yes to being the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.
- Through Mary, Eve’s sin is un-done. Because of Mary’s “yes” and because of Jesus, the gates of Heaven are open to us again.
- Jesus loves His Mother, and so do we. We call His mother our Blessed Mother because we are children of God. Mary is a model of holiness and obedience to God. We can ask her to pray for us.

Supplement:

- **Grades 1 through 4:** Read with your child the story “The Annunciation” in the Book of Bible Stories, pages 14-17.
- **Grade 5:** Read Luke 1:26-38 in the *BreakThrough Bible*. Discuss the Catholic Connections: “Born of the Virgin Mary” on that page.

### **Activity 3: The Immaculate Conception**

**Ages:** All ages.

**Focus:** God preserved Mary from Original Sin through the merits of Jesus Christ.

**“Parent’s Guide” pages:** pages 86-87

**“Children’s Activity Book” pages:** n/a

**Activity:** A family activity that allows you to discuss how God saved Mary from the stain of Original Sin.

**Key ideas to communicate to the children:**

- God prepared Mary in a unique way for her role as Mother of Jesus. Mary was born without Original Sin. We call this truth the Immaculate Conception.

**Supplement:** The *Parent Guide*, at the bottom of page 87, refers to “The Footprints of God: Mary The Mother of God.” This video is for parent background and can be viewed at [https://gloria.tv/post/2wSvXejAnKLJ3U8F7pY\]c34iM](https://gloria.tv/post/2wSvXejAnKLJ3U8F7pY]c34iM).

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### **Activity 4: The Incarnation**

**Ages:** All ages.

**Focus:** Jesus is both fully God and fully man.

**“Parent’s Guide” pages:** pages 88-90.

**“Children’s Activity Book” pages:** page 76

**Activity:** Scripture reading and discussion. Children can also complete a crossword puzzle based on the material.

**Key ideas to communicate to the children:**

- God entered human history by sending His Son Jesus to be our Savior.
- Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, is fully God and fully man.
- God became man to restore our friendship with Him, so that we would know His love, to be a model of holiness, and to allow us to share in His divine life, making us sons and daughters of God.

**Supplement Parent Background:**

- God in Human Form: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6K6D6Vwvq5E>.
  - Why Did Jesus Come?: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oc5HXrx3hrY>.
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## **Activity 5: December Gospel Coloring Pages**

**Ages:** All ages.

**Focus:** The December Gospels teach us about Jesus and Advent

**“Parent’s Guide” pages:** pages 91-92

**“Children’s Activity Book” pages:** pages 77 and 78

**Activity:** Children color while a parent reads the Scripture stories of St. John the Baptist and St. Joseph.

**Key ideas to communicate to the children:**

- For John 1:19-23:
    - John the Baptist was a great prophet who told the people of Israel to repent (or turn their hearts toward God) and reform their lives.
    - John the Baptist preached that the Lord was coming. He said the people of Israel should prepare themselves for Jesus’ coming. We can listen to John’s message in this reading as if he was speaking to us. We can turn our hearts toward God to prepare for Jesus’ coming at Christmas and at the Second Coming.
  - For Matthew 1:20-25:
    - An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel tells Joseph about the child that Mary will give birth to and that Jesus will be part of God’s plan.
    - After the dream, Joseph does what the angel tells Joseph to do: he marries Mary and raises Jesus as his own. Both Joseph and Mary say “yes” to God. They are both models for us of how we can follow God’s plan for our lives.
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## **Activity 6: Advent Season memories** *Storybook Activity*

**Ages:** All ages.

**Focus:** Remembering past Advents and how your family celebrates the season.

**“Parent’s Guide” pages:** page 93

**“Children’s Activity Book” pages:** not applicable

**Activity:** Recall past Advents and decorate a page of your family's storybook. Suggestion: take a current photo of your family gathering around your Advent wreath or Christmas tree and include it on this page.

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## Additional Activities for the Month

*Explore the additional activities: Saint of the Month, Verse of the Month, Car Conversations, etc.*