

Celebrating the Lectionary[®]

YEAR
C

Supplemental Lectionary-Based Catechesis

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Catechising with the Word of God

We are proud to present you with the newly redesigned *Celebrating the Lectionary*[®], the catechist's go-to resource for faith formation on the Lectionary and liturgical year. Our expanded and reorganised resource now follows the liturgical year as it appears in the *Lectionary for Mass*, rather than following the school year. This comprehensive resource includes sessions for each Sunday for the seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas Time, Lent, Easter Time, and Ordinary Time), sessions for each day of the Sacred Paschal Triduum, and sessions for holydays, solemnities, and feasts.

Although we have reorganised some of the session components, we have maintained our commitment to provide catechists with Lectionary-based catechetical materials in a user-friendly format that can be adapted to meet your group's unique needs. Each session is designed to be fifteen to twenty minutes long and requires minimal preparation and no special materials for at least one of the activities, making it easy to supplement your core learning curriculum with Lectionary-based material. Whether you set aside ten minutes at the beginning of your session or have five minutes left at the end, you can use that time to steep the young people you catechise in this ancient form of catechesis that connects the Word of God with daily life and prepares them to participate in the Church's liturgy. Furthermore, *Celebrating the Lectionary*[®] offers teachers who work with children and young people preparing for Christian initiation an additional resource that can help form the children not only in Church teaching, but also in the life of Christ. Your feedback is always welcome; email us at sales@garrattpublishing.com.au

The Lectionary, the Liturgical Year, and Christian Life

The template for every Christian life is the life of Christ. The Church immerses its members in this life throughout the liturgical year as we celebrate Christ's nativity, his passion, death, Resurrection, and public ministry. His story unfolds gradually through the Lectionary readings every Sunday. Special feasts throughout the year remind us of Christ's presence in our daily lives and recall important tenets of our faith. If your basal text does not include this Lectionary-based component, then *Celebrating the Lectionary*[®] is the perfect ancillary resource. *Celebrating the Lectionary*[®]

can also be used in preparing children and young people for Christian initiation. Your students and catechumens will experience how the rhythm of the liturgical year as it centers on the Paschal Mystery of Christ shapes their own lives and develops their sense of Catholic identity.

How to Use This Resource

Celebrating the Lectionary Year C[®] is the third of a three-volume series (to be used alongside volumes for Year A and Year B) designed for use with students in Years 5-8, though it can also be used with younger students or slightly older students as appropriate. It includes sessions for every Sunday and holyday of obligation throughout the liturgical year from the First Sunday of Advent to the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe (34th Sunday of Ordinary Time). In order to determine which day of the liturgical year you are on, consult the Ordo for Australia and New Zealand (available at <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/>) or visit the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference website (<https://www.catholic.org.au/>) and find the current date on the liturgical calendar. This will show you the corresponding liturgical day, which you can then turn to in this book.

Sessions include the following components:

Leader's Context: Use this brief introduction as a quick refresher on the content of the session before leading it.

Focus on Church Teaching: Brief information connects this Sunday or feast day's Lectionary readings with the Church's teachings. Use this section to review how the Sunday Lectionary might align with the concepts you are teaching in your Religious Education and faith formation program.

Liturgical Calendar Connection: A liturgical calendar provides a wonderful visual representation of the liturgical year, making it easy for young people to learn liturgical colours and seasons and understand the trajectory of the entire liturgical year. Obtain one, such as the *Year of Grace* calendar available from Garratt Publishing at www.garrattpublishing.com.au and display it in your space. Teach the young people how to use the calendar and help them discover the colours, seasons, solemnities, feasts, and memorials of the liturgical year.

In each session, the class is invited to find that day's date on the liturgical calendar to learn which saints have feast days occurring in the coming week and do some brief research on one of those saints. The students are then prompted to connect the life of this saint with the Gospel reading for that day and their own lives.

We have provided a list of saints (Saints of the Liturgical Year, pages vi–viii) that is based on the list of saints found in the Ordo for Australia and New Zealand. This can act as a springboard for your discussion. You can also refer to the introductions that precede each season for more information on the theological themes of that season and observations about how we celebrate the season.

Sign of the Cross, Gospel Acclamation, and Gospel: It can be tempting to try to rush through things in order to save time, but it is important that you introduce the Gospel with the Sign of the Cross and Gospel Acclamation each week. The young people will come to revere this little ritual and it will help their overall familiarity with this portion of the Sunday Mass. At the beginning of the year, teach the young people a simple, sung Alleluia response (you may choose the one that your parish uses in Mass) that you can use each week (except during Lent).

Gospel Reflection: Children and young people need context in order to understand the Gospel. The Gospel Reflection connects the Gospel to the lived experience of the young people by framing it from their perspectives, and may include historical context or explanation, and age-appropriate comparisons. Reflection questions invite discussion.

Activities: Each session includes activities that allow the young people to act on the message of the Gospel through games, simple crafts, songs, and discussion. At least one of each week's activities can be done without requiring any materials beyond what could reasonably be expected to be available in a faith formation setting. You may choose one or elect to do more, depending on time.

Living the Liturgy at Home: Make copies of this page and send them home with your students in order to help their families pray together, celebrate the seasons of the liturgical year, and live the message of the Gospel each week.

About the Authors

Clare V Johnson is Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology at Australian Catholic University where she is also Director of the ACU Centre for Liturgy. She has taught at the University of Notre Dame (USA), Michigan State University (USA), the University of Notre Dame Australia (Fremantle) and Australian Catholic University. As Director of the ACU Centre for Liturgy Clare works extensively with Catholic primary and secondary teachers, principals, and clergy, providing professional development and ongoing education in liturgy, music, prayer, and sacraments, and facilitates pastoral formation and ministry training sessions in parishes. Her academic research has been widely published and she holds a mandatum to teach Catholic theology.

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Saints of the Liturgical Year

Throughout the liturgical year, the Church honours and celebrates the lives of the saints. This is known as the sanctoral cycle and runs concurrent with the temporal cycle of seasons (Advent, Christmas Time, Lent, etc.). The temporal cycle recalls the life of Christ, while the sanctoral cycle recalls those holy men and women who we believe are now in heaven. They are models of holiness for Christians, having lived their lives in faithful obedience to the Gospel. Saints come from all walks of life and their example inspires us to find a path of holiness in our daily life.

This following is a list of some of the saints that the Catholic Church in Australia and New Zealand includes in its liturgical calendar. It provides teachers

and catechists with an additional resource when using the **Liturgical Calendar Connection** in each session. The list is not exhaustive; rather, it is a starting point for the class to learn more about the rich history of our faith and the lives of the saints. We have not included memorials or feasts that commemorate particular devotions and tenets of our faith. Holydays, solemnities and feasts have their own sessions in this resource and so they are not listed below.

The saints included on this list are taken from the Ordo for Australia and New Zealand. (F) indicates a Feast; (M) indicates a Memorial; and (OM) indicates an Optional Memorial.

January	
2	Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen (M)
7	Raymond of Penyafort (OM)
13	Hilary (OM)
17	Anthony (M)
20	Fabian (OM) Sebastian (OM)
21	Agnes (M)
22	Vincent (OM)
24	Francis de Sales (M)
26	Timothy and Titus (M – New Zealand)
27	Angela Merici (OM) Timothy and Titus (OM – Australia)
31	John Bosco

February	
3	Blaise (OM) Ansgar (OM)
5	Agatha (M)
6	Paul Miki and Companions (M – Australia)
7	Paul Miki and Companions (M – New Zealand)
8	Jerome Emiliani (OM) Josephine Bakhita (OM)
10	Scholastica (M)
14	Cyril and Methodius (M)
17	Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (OM)
21	Peter Damian (OM)
23	Polycarp (M)

March	
4	Casimir (OM)
7	Perpetua and Felicity (M)
8	John of God (OM)
9	Frances of Rome (OM)
18	Cyril of Jerusalem (OM)
23	Turibius of Mogrovejo (OM)

April

2	Francis of Paolo (OM)
4	Isidore of Seville (OM)
5	Vincent Ferrer (OM)
7	John Baptist de la Salle (M)
11	Stanislaus (M)
13	Martin I (OM)
21	Anselm (OM)
23	George (OM) Adalbert (OM)
24	Fidelis of Sigmaringen (OM)
26	Mark (F)
27	Louis Grignon de Montfort (OM)
28	Peter Chanel (M – Australia; F – New Zealand)
29	Catherine of Siena (M)
30	Pius V (OM)

May

1	Joseph the Worker (OM)
2	Athanasius (M)
3	Philip and James (F)
12	Nereus and Achilleus (OM) Pancras (OM)
14	Matthias (F)
18	John I (OM)
20	Bernardine of Siena (OM)
21	Christopher Magallanes & Companions (OM)
22	Rita of Cascia (OM)
25	Bede the Venerable (OM) Gregory VII (OM) Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi (OM)
26	Philip Neri (M)
27	Augustine of Canterbury (OM)

June

1	Justin (M)
2	Marcellinus and Peter (OM)
3	Charles Lwanga and Companions (M)
5	Boniface (M) Norbert (OM)
6	Marcellin Champagnat (OM – Australia; M – New Zealand)
9	Ephrem (OM)
11	Barnabas (M)
13	Anthony of Padua (M)
19	Romuald (OM)
21	Aloysius Gonzaga (M) John Fisher & Thomas More (M – Australia; OM – New Zealand)
22	Paulinus of Nola (OM)
27	Cyril of Alexandria
28	Irenaeus
30	First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church (OM)

July

3	Thomas (F)
4	Elizabeth of Portugal (OM)
5	Anthony Zaccaria (OM)
6	Maria Goretti (OM)
7	Bl Peter To Rot (OM – Australia)
9	Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions (OM)
11	Benedict (M)
13	Henry (OM)
14	Camillus de Lellis (OM)
15	Bonaventure (M)
20	Apollinaris (OM)
21	Lawrence of Brindisi (OM)
22	Mary Magdalene (F)
23	Bridget (OM)
24	Sharbel Makhluf (OM)
25	James (F)
26	Joachim and Anne (M)
29	Martha (M)
30	Peter Chysologus (OM)
31	Ignatius of Loyola (M)

August

1	Alphonsus Liguori (M)
2	Eusebius of Vercelli (OM) Peter Julian Eymard (OM)
3	Dominic (M)
4	John Vianney (M)
7	Sixtus II and Companions (OM) Cajetan (OM)
9	Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) (OM)
10	Lawrence (F)
11	Clare (M)
12	Jane Frances de Chantal (OM)
13	Pontian and Hippolytus (OM)
14	Maximilian Mary Kolbe (M)
16	Stephen of Hungary (OM)
19	John Eudes (OM)
20	Bernard (M)
21	Pius X (M)
23	Rose of Lima (OM)
24	Bartholomew (F)
25	Louis (OM) Joseph Calasanz (OM)
27	Monica (M)
28	Augustine (M)

September

3	Gregory the Great (M)
5	Teresa of Kolkata (OM)
9	Peter Claver (OM)
13	John Chrysostom (M)
16	Cornelius and Cyprian (M)
18	Robert Bellarmine (OM)
19	Januarius (OM)
20	Andrew Kim Tae-gön, Paul Chông Ha-Sang, and Companions (M)
21	Matthew (F)
23	Pius of Pietrelcina (M)
26	Cosmas and Damian (OM)
27	Vincent de Paul (M) Wenceslaus (OM)
28	Lawrence Ruiz and Companions (OM)
29	Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael (Archangels) (F)
30	Jerome (M)

October

1	Thérèse of the Child Jesus (M)
4	Francis of Assisi (M)
6	Bruno (OM)
9	Denis and Companions (OM) John Leonardi (OM)
11	John XXIII (OM)
14	Callistus I (OM)
15	Teresa of Jesus (M) Hedwig (OM)
16	Margaret Mary Alacoque (OM)
17	Ignatius of Antioch (M)
18	Luke (F)
19	John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions (OM) Paul of the Cross (OM)
22	John Paul II (OM)
23	John of Capistrano (OM)
24	Anthony Mary Claret (OM)
28	Simon and Jude (F)

November

3	Martin de Porres (OM)
4	Charles Borromeo (M)
10	Leo the Great (M)
11	Martin of Tours (M)
12	Josaphat (M)
15	Albert the Great (OM) Margaret of Scotland (OM)
16	Gertrude (OM)
17	Elizabeth of Hungary (M)
22	Cecilia (M)
23	Clement I (OM) Columban (OM)
24	Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions (M)
25	Catherine of Alexandria (OM)
30	Andrew (F)

December

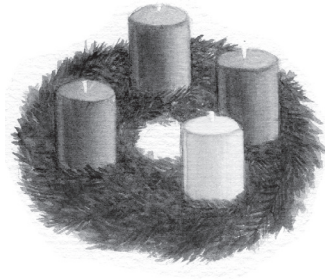
3	Francis Xavier (M)
4	John Damascene (OM)
6	Nicholas (OM)
7	Ambrose (M)
9	Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin (OM)
11	Damasus I (OM)
12	Our Lady of Guadalupe (OM)
13	Lucy (M)
14	John of the Cross (M)
21	Peter Canisius (OM)
23	John of Kanty (OM)
26	Stephen (F)
27	John (F)
28	Holy Innocents (F)
29	Thomas Becket (OM)
31	Sylvester I (OM)

Doctrinal Connections Key

The following is a list abbreviations and the documents they refer to that are found in the **Focus on Church Teaching** sections. Full texts of the following documents can be found on the Vatican website (www.vatican.va), on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website (www.usccb.org), or online by typing the English or Latin title into a search engine.

AG	Second Vatican Council, <i>Ad gentes divinitus</i>	GMD	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, <i>Go and Make Disciples: A National Plan and Strategy for Catholic Evangelization in the United States</i>
CCC	Interdicasterial Commission for the Catechism of the Catholic Church, <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>	GS	Second Vatican Council, <i>Gaudium et spes</i>
CI	Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, <i>Christian Initiation, General Introduction</i>	HA	Pope Pius XII, <i>Haurietis aquas</i>
CIV	Pope Benedict XVI, <i>Caritas in veritate</i>	LG	Second Vatican Council, <i>Lumen gentium</i>
CL	Pope John Paul II, <i>Christifideles laici</i>	LMI	<i>Lectionary for Mass: Introduction</i>
CSDC	Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, <i>Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church</i>	MC	Pope Paul VI, <i>Marialis cultus</i>
CSL	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, <i>Communities of Salt and Light</i>	MV	Pope Francis, <i>Misericordiae vultus</i>
DCA	Fifth General Conference of Latin Bishops (CELAM), <i>Documento Conclusivo de Aparecida</i>	NCD	National Conference of Catholic Bishops, <i>National Catechetical Directory for Catholics of the United States (Sharing the Light of Faith)</i>
DCE	Pope Benedict XVI, <i>Deus caritas est</i>	NDC	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, <i>National Directory for Catechesis</i>
DH	Pope Paul VI, <i>Dignitatis humanae</i>	OCM	Order of Celebrating Matrimony
DM	Pope John Paul II, <i>Dives in misericordia</i>	PS	Congregation for Divine Worship, <i>Paschale solemnitatis</i>
DPPL	Congregation for Divine Worship and the Disciple of the Sacraments, <i>Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy</i>	QD	Pope Pius IX / Sacred Congregation of Rites, <i>Quemadmodum Deus</i>
DV	Second Vatican Council, <i>Dei Verbum</i>	QP	Pope Leo XIII, <i>Quamquam pluries</i>
DVI	Pope John Paul II, <i>Dominum et Vivificantem</i>	RC	Pope John Paul II, <i>Redemptoris custos</i>
EE	Pope John Paul II, <i>Ecclesia de Eucharistia</i>	RH	Pope John Paul II, <i>Redemptor hominis</i>
EG	Pope Francis, <i>Evangelii gaudium</i>	RP	Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, <i>Rite of Penance</i>
EN	Pope Paul VI, <i>Evangelii nuntiandi</i>	SC	Second Vatican Council, <i>Sacrosanctum concilium</i>
GE	Second Vatican Council, <i>Gravissimum Educationis</i>	SS	Pope Benedict XVI, <i>Spe salvi</i>
GIRM	Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, <i>The General Instruction of the Roman Missal</i>	UR	Second Vatican Council, <i>Unitatis redintegratio</i>

Introduction to Advent



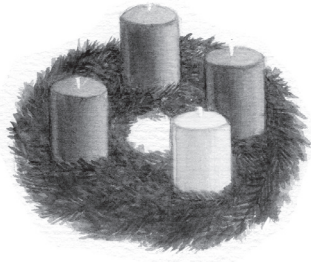
Seasonal Background

The new liturgical year always begins on the First Sunday of Advent. Each year of a three-year cycle, the readings change, and our Gospel readings are taken from a different Gospel so that we might learn more about the life of Jesus. This year, Year C, most of our Gospel readings come from Luke.

Advent is a season of waiting in joyful anticipation. We wait not only for Christmas Day, but also for the end of time when Christ will come again. It is a time to prepare our homes and our hearts to welcome Christ. The readings of Advent help us to set our sights on what is to come and the fullness of salvation that is found in Christ. Figures like John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary model faith and hope in God's loving promise. John the Baptist's preaching continues to prepare us for Christ by changing our hearts and our lives to make ready the way of the Lord. Gospel readings on the Sundays of Advent and Marian feast days provide us with a model for waiting, trusting in God, and a willingness to say yes to God. As the season draws toward its end, the O Antiphons proclaim the titles of Christ that remind us of his continual presence in our world today.

Celebrating the Season

Advent decorations are a visual reminder of our focus during this season. The colour violet dominates the environment, with the joyful rose colour added on the Third Sunday of Advent. The Advent wreath, large or small, draws our attention. It serves as a centre of our prayer. One additional candle is lit each week increasing the intensity of the light in our midst. Familiar Advent hymns return to our weekly worship. Somewhat solemn in tone, they express our longing for Christ's coming this year and at the end of time. Our classrooms and homes also help us to anticipate Christ's coming. An Advent calendar might focus our attention on Scripture passages and good works as we wait. Contributions to the many organisations that ask for our help during this season can teach us what real giving is intended to do—improve the lives of all, just as Christ's coming is meant to transform the world into the Kingdom of God.



First Sunday of Advent

Be Vigilant

Focus: To know that God's word will come to pass.

Lectionary Vol. I

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Psalms 24:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14

1 Thessalonians
3:12–4:2

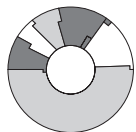
Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

Leader's Context

Today's readings will not put anyone in the Christmas mood. However, remind the students that Advent is a time to celebrate Christ's first coming into the world and to prepare us for when he will come again. We are given instructions on how we should act, what we should look for, and why we can hope in the promise to come.

Focus on Church Teaching

The readings throughout the Advent season reveal Christ's presence in the world and prepare us to receive him, both at Christmas and at his coming at the end of time (LMI, 93). Our actions must help make Christ's presence in the world more real for those around us. We do this by increasing our love for neighbour and enemy alike. When Christ comes again, the fullness of the Kingdom of God will create our world anew in God's heavenly and eternal Kingdom (Cyril of Jerusalem, *Catechetical Homily for Advent*).



Liturgical Calendar Connection

Ask the students to find today's date on the liturgical calendar. What liturgical season begins today? What is the liturgical colour for the season? Use the "Introduction to Advent" on page 1 to help guide your discussion, talking about what the season means, how we celebrate it, and

how it helps us to prepare our hearts and lives to receive Jesus.

Sign of the Cross

All stand and make the Sign of the Cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and

the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reflection

Stay Awake, Get Ready!

This Sunday's Gospel describes some of the signs that will let us know that the Son of Man is at hand. It includes a warning to all that there will be consequences if we are not vigilant.

During Christmas Time, we are all excited. It's a very busy and happy time of year. We look forward to the celebrations, to seeing friends and family that we might see only at this time of the year. It can also be a time when we are so caught up in the shopping and the gifts that we lose sight of what the real meaning of Christmas is.

The season of Advent is about Jesus' arrival. Let's examine some signs of Christmas and think about how they help us to reflect on how God calls us to live so that we will be found worthy when Christ comes again.

☺ Are you looking forward to opening lots of gifts on Christmas? How about seeing the expressions on the faces of your friends and family as they open yours?

The Magi brought gifts to Jesus to welcome him to the world. Giving gifts reminds of us God's greatest gift to us: Jesus. Buying gifts for your family is a great way to prepare for Christmas. Buying gifts for the poor, those in need, or those who have no family helps us to create a world where the poor are included and share in the joy of the season.

☺ How does your family remember the needy at this time of the year? Do you buy gifts, or help with providing food or clothing?

Another sign of Christmas is light. As you look around your neighbourhood, you may notice that many homes are decorated with lights. Your own home might have lights. In the dark of night the Christmas lights illuminate and brighten the darkness. Not all darkness manifests itself as physical, though.

☺ What are some of the dark places or dark actions that you can identify in the world today?

Jesus is the Light that comes into the world at Christmas. It is our duty to bring Jesus' light to others.

☺ What can we do this Christmas season to bring our light to the world?

Decorating your tree or decorating your house helps you get ready for Christmas. It's hard to imagine Christmas without all the trimmings that go along with the season. We transform our homes and our neighbourhoods in anticipation of and to celebrate the birth of Jesus. But it is more important to transform ourselves. Just like we decorate our homes, we need to think about what we need to do to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

☺ What can we do to get ready?

We can try to practise being patient. That is a virtue (a special quality or characteristic of goodness) we need as we wait for Christ to come again. We can try to become more generous. We can give of our time, our talents, and sometimes our money to help bring joy and happiness into the world. By transforming our hearts, we will be ready to celebrate Christ's coming.

Let Us Count the Days

You will need a board or a sheet of butcher paper, smaller paper and pencils to lead this activity.

Advent is rich with activities that help us understand what it means to wait in joyful hope. Talk about how we prepare for Jesus' coming. How do we fill those days? Together with the students, brainstorm some ideas and write them on the board. Then invite the student to choose and write down an activity for each day of Advent (begin with today and end with Christmas Day). Explain to the students that these represent their resolutions on how they will prepare for Jesus' coming during each day of Advent.

Open the Door to Jesus

You will need A4 sheets of construction paper and card stock, scissors, glue, and colouring materials to lead this activity.

Have the students make an Advent calendar to count the days to Jesus' arrival. Distribute materials to the students and instruct them to draw as many squares as there are days of Advent this year on the construction paper. Show them how to cut "doors" from the squares. Number the doors, beginning with today's date and ending with December 25. Then, using this top sheet as a pattern, trace each square atop the sheet of card stock. Inside each square, write one resolution for that day to prepare for Christmas. (You might use or refer to the list you brainstormed for the "Let Us Count the Days" activity.) When each square is filled, glue the borders of the top sheet onto the card stock.

As an alternate activity, you might use two sheets of poster board to create one large Advent calendar for the classroom. Each student can fill in one or two of the boxes and the students can take turns opening the "doors".

Living the Liturgy at Home

First Sunday of Advent



Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Psalms 24:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14

1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2

Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
we await your Second Coming
as we prepare to celebrate your First
Coming at Christmas.
Be near us now as we light the
first candle
of our Advent wreath.
As this light grows brighter,
we are reminded that you are
already here,
in your Word, in your Church,
in the faces of those in need,
and our love for each other.
You live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

?? Did You Know?

. . . that the word *advent* comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which is itself a translation of the ancient Greek word *parousia*? This term means arrival, and theologically it generally refers to the Second Coming of Christ. Appropriately, this week our focus is on Christ's coming once again at the end of time as we know it.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ When things seem bad in the world, what can you do to make things better for people?
- ☉ What sorts of things distract us from always following God's Word?

Faith in Action

Shopping is one of the most popular activities of this season. Try focusing your family on one shopping trip that will enhance the keeping of Advent: celebrating Jesus' birth and waiting for him to come again. The Incarnation and birth of Jesus teach us that all human beings are blessed by God. In waiting for Christ to come again, we must make ready a place for the Kingdom. We do this by serving the poor. During one family shopping trip, have your child choose and purchase a gift for someone his or her age. Explain that this purchase will be donated to a child in need.