



Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

A Solemn Announcement—Jesus, the Messiah is Conceived in the Womb of His Mother Mary

Aim of this Catechesis:

To see how Mary becomes part of God’s plan to send his Son Jesus as the Messiah.

Note to the Catechist:

The Gospel text at the heart of this lesson is:

Luke 1:26-38

The overarching theme for Advent in the Year of Mark is the desire of God: *“Be Prepared for the Messiah—the Lord is coming and will come again at the end of time”*. This theme will be developed during the four Sundays of Advent as follows:

| <i>“I am coming to Save my People”</i> | |
|--|---|
| 1st Sunday | Be Prepared for the Second Coming of the Lord |
| 2nd Sunday | God sends John the Baptist to help us to prepare for the coming of the Lord |
| 3rd Sunday | Who is coming? John the Baptist clears up some confusion—he is not the Christ. |
| 4th Sunday | A solemn announcement—Jesus, the Messiah is conceived in the womb of his Mother Mary |

In today’s lesson we will go to the Gospel of Luke where we find the account of how the **Annunciation to Mary** that she was to become the Mother of Jesus.

The Key elements in this event are:

1. The Message of the Angel Gabriel.
2. Mary’s response
3. Mary agrees to obey God’s wishes.

We will reflect on these three elements in our catechesis.

Equipment Needed:

A Bible or Sunday Missal

Candle & Matches

A Picture of Our Lady (The Annunciation if possible)

Flash Cards (See each Step in the Lesson)

Worksheet: ***Let's Welcome Jesus into our Home this Christmas***



N.B. Make sure that each child has his/her own workbook.

LESSON PLAN

Begin the Lesson with a prayer.

Explain to the children:

Today is the Fourth and Last Sunday of Advent

We have spent the Advent time so far learning about the promise of God to send his Son and how John the Baptist was given the task of witnessing to this and preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah.

Today we learn how God finally begins to send his Son Jesus among us as the Messiah.

Step 1: Longing and Hoping for Freedom

Divide the Class into smaller groups of 6.

Give each group the following task:

Read the following verse:

*Come to set us free
Come and make us your own
Come to show us the way
To your people, your chosen
Open our lives to
The light of your promise .
Come to our hearts with healing
Come to our minds with power
Come to us and bring us your life.*

(Chorus of a hymn by Bernadette Farrell)

Invite the groups to answer the following questions:

What are the people in the verse longing for?

Who do you think they are asking to come?

Allow the groups time to complete their task and see if the other groups can identify the

personalities they selected.
Invite the groups to share their answers..



Step 2: Our Gospel Text Luke 1:26-38
Its special meaning for us as Christians

Tell the children:

- God has sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah.
- We know that Jesus began his preaching as a grown man of about 30 years of age.
- It was the grown-up Jesus that John the Baptist would point out to the people.
- But already God had set his plan in motion.
- Jesus would be born as a child to Mary his Mother.
- This is how Mary was chosen to become the Mother of Jesus

Light the candle beside the Bible.

Encourage the children to be respectful as they listen to the Gospel.

Read the Gospel text to them.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will, rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too, your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

(Luke 1:26-38)

If necessary read the Gospel text again.

You can also ask some of the children to read the text out loud for the others.

Now ask the children:

HIGHLY FAVOURED

- How did the Angel Gabriel greet Mary
- What do you think he means when he said to Mary that she was "highly favoured"?
- Why was Mary disturbed by the greeting of Gabriel?
- How did Gabriel convince Mary to consent to God's wishes?

Now tell the children:

Gabriel's Greeting:

Gabriel greeted Mary as “highly favoured”.
God had chosen Mary to be the Mother of His Son.
Mary did not chose to be the Mother of Jesus, God chose her.



Mary's reaction:

Mary was disturbed by what was happening.
She was already betrothed to Joseph.
They would have their own family.
Yet here was Gabriel telling her that God had other plans for her and indeed for Joseph too (even though he did not know it)

Gabriel convinces Mary to accept God's plan for her:

Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, was too old to have children,
yet by the grace and power of God she and her husband Zechariah
would have a child—John the Baptist
Gabriel told Mary that God's power can overcome all human difficulties.

**NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD**

Mary consents to God's plan for her:

Gabriel assures Mary that God, through the Holy Spirit would cause her to conceive
Jesus in her womb.
Mary consents to God's wishes.

Step 3: What can we do? Practice & Prayer

Practice:

Tell the children:



- Mary conceived Jesus in her womb by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- She welcomed God's Son into her womb.
- Each Christmas, we are invited to welcome Jesus into our lives and into our homes.
- If you have not done so yet, make sure that the Christmas Crib is set up in your home.
- If you have no crib, why not make one out of a (real) Christmas Card.

Worksheet:

- Invite the children to turn to the Worksheet “***Let's Welcome Jesus into our Home this Christmas***” in their workbooks.
- Invite them to complete the task on the worksheet.

Link to Sunday Mass:

Tell the children:

The Gospel Acclamation in today's Mass is:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord;

Let what you have said be done to me." Alleluia!

Listen carefully to this prayer as the Priest recites it.

When you say "AMEN" at the end you will be agreeing that the reason for Christmas is to celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

Memory Bytes:

Invite the children to read the following in their workbooks

Because Jesus, conceived as the son of Mary is also the Son of God.

Therefore the Church rightly calls Mary the "Mother of God"

Now invite them to learn it off by heart

(From the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Now encourage them to learn this off by heart.

Prayer:

The "Hail Mary" recalls the greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Mary. Let us pray it together

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you,
Blessed are you among 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.





WORKSHEET Advent Week One Year B

“Let’s Welcome Jesus into our Home this Christmas”

List some of the ways in which you can welcome Jesus into your home this Christmas.

1.

2.

3.

Make a crib for your home/room:

- Using Cardboard draw (trace) and cut out the picture.
- Glue a support at the back of the picture.
- Colour it in.
- Set the crib up where all can see it.



Link to Sunday Mass

The Gospel Acclamation in today's
Mass is:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord;

*Let what you have said be done to
me." Alleluia!*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you,
Blessed are you among 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.

Memory Bytes:

Because Jesus, conceived as the son of Mary is
also the Son of God. Therefore the Church
rightly calls Mary the "Mother of God".

(From the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

