

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION: THE INCARNATION

Fourth Sunday of Advent • Year B • December 24, 2023

Loving God,
Advent days are near an end,
and Christmas is coming.

Help us to prepare for Christmas,
Christ's Day,
by praying,
doing works of justice,
and sharing your peace and love
with all we meet.

Amen.



Sunday Word

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

The above readings are available at
usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember



1. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.
2. Mary said yes to God's will for her life. She put her faith and trust in God.
3. We are invited to put our faith and trust in God too.

Key Teachings



The Angel's Visit

The angel Gabriel visited Mary and brought her an amazing and wonderful message from God: Mary has been chosen by God to be the Mother of his only Son.

Yes!

Mary listened to what the angel Gabriel said, and she consented—or said yes—to being the mother of God's Son.

Trusting in God

Throughout her life, Mary provided for us an example of perfect trust in the Lord. We too are invited to say yes to God and to his beautiful plan for us of Salvation in Jesus.

Faith Words



Savior

Savior is one of the names or titles for Jesus. Jesus is the Savior God promised to send to his people. He is the Savior and Redeemer of the world.



Incarnation

The Incarnation is the mystery of Jesus, the Son of God, becoming fully human while remaining fully divine.

Disciple Power: Trust

To say that we trust in God, as Mary did, means we know that we can count on God to be true to his Word.

With My Family



We Listen

Nothing is impossible for God. God is doing amazing things in Mary's life and in Elizabeth's life. And Mary, especially, makes a very courageous response. She says yes, even though what God has asked her to do will be very hard. What amazing things (or little things) is God asking you to do?

We Believe

The Son of God became human to show us God's love and to save us. He also became human to show us how to live and to offer us a share in God's life. Jesus Christ became human so that we might become more divine—more like God. What an incredible mystery: to share in God's life. It is the mystery of the Incarnation.

We Live As Disciples

Mary is a model of discipleship. She bravely responds to God's call, and later she faithfully follows her son, Jesus. What can you do between now and Christmas Day to say yes to God? (Hint: Think of a "yes" response your parents might like to hear. Parents, think of a "yes" response your children would appreciate hearing too!)

We Pray

While visiting her cousin Elizabeth, Mary prays what is known as the Canticle of Mary. Pray this prayer together using the special handout prepared just for you!



The Canticle of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones,
but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent empty away.

He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to the promises to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants

forever.

Luke 1:46-55