

4th Sunday of Advent
December 24th, 2023

FAITH @ HOME

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

[Full readings from the USCCB](#)



1. HEAR

Before reading this Sunday's Gospel, click [HERE](#) to watch a short video that will help you grow your prayer space beginning with this Fourth Sunday in Advent.

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#).

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can watch a short video with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, Voice of God Recordings, 2:10 min)

The children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, Todd Xu, 1:29 min)

Share with us how you are living out your faith at home. Use #LACatholicsBelieve and tag @OREinADLA on social media.

2. PRAY

In today's Gospel we hear the story of the angel visiting Mary and announcing that she will be the mother of Our Lord, Jesus. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we are reminded of God's great **LOVE** for us by sending the Messiah for our salvation.

Pray in thanksgiving for this beautiful and glorious gift of unconditional love. Lift all your needs in prayer and place them at the foot of the Messiah's holy cradle. Place all the names of the people you know and love at the foot of the Messiah's holy cradle. Pray for all those who are suffering and have nobody to pray for them and place them at the foot of the Messiah's holy cradle. In gratitude, thank God for the gift of His only Son, Jesus! Allow God's divine love to bless all that you prayed for and for all those you prayed for.

In closing pray the responsorial psalm response: **"Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."** (Psalm 89:2a)

3. TALK

Before you start this section, download the symbol for the Fourth Week in Advent we have provided [HERE](#). Then, gather as a family in one room of the home and reflect on the following questions:

- Like Mary, the Angel of God enters my life, stands before me, and speaks to me. Am I prepared to welcome Him, to give Him space, to listen to Him attentively?
- God speaks to me of joy, grace, and presence: all the things that I have been seeking for so long, always. Who can make me happy but God? Am I willing to trust in His happiness and His presence?

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- Not much is needed, just a movement of the heart, of my being; He is already aware of this. He is already overwhelming me with light and love. He says to me, "You have found favor in My sight." Yes, that is how it really is. Why is it that I would not believe it before? Why have I not listened to Him?
- The Lord Jesus wants to come into this world also through me; He wants to reach my brothers and sisters through the paths of my life, of my being. Would I lead Him astray? Would I refuse Him, keep Him at a distance? Would I wipe Him out of my story, my life?
- Think of something you want to say to baby Jesus on his birthday. Write it on the symbol for the Fourth Week of Advent we provided and save it until you receive new instructions. *(Note: please print the symbol for the fourth week before gathering to do this Faith@Home.)*

4. RITE

During this season of Advent, we invite you to do a rite each week that will include a word and a symbol. The word for the fourth week of Advent is **LOVE** and the symbol is figure of a **HEART**.

- Sing one or two verses of the following Advent hymn: [O come, O Come, Emmanuel](#). *(Click the link to access the video.)*
- One adult says the Prayer of Blessing of the Advent-Christmas wreath: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:

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he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.

May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- The grandfather or father of the house lights the Fourth Violet/Purple candle and proclaims: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."
- Invite each person to share out loud what they wrote on their symbol (Heart) and then place it on their Advent prayer space. After each sharing, all proclaim: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."
- All recite the closing prayer:

God of the poor and the humble, we thank You today for choosing Mary as the Virgin Mother of Jesus, Your Son. Her faith and willing service opened the way to Your new world. Help us to seek Your will and to cooperate with Your plans that we too, like Mary, may give to the world its Savior Jesus Christ, Your Son, and our Lord.

- Sing another verse from the opening hymn: [O come, O Come, Emmanuel](#).

5. CHALLENGE

- Keep in mind the intentions and names written on the symbol for this Fourth Week in Advent (heart) and be alert to the many ways you can show love to the people around you.



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