



Gospels of Advent

Family Handout

Advent, a season of renewal and beginning, marks the start of a new Church year. In the Liturgy, there are three cycles of readings (*A, B, and C*). Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew, Year B on the Gospel of Mark, and Year C on the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of John appears in all three cycles.

Year B: The Gospel According to Mark

First Sunday of Advent (B)

Mark 13:33–37

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Watch out and be ready!

You don’t know when the time will come.

It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while
and places his servants in charge of everything.

He tells each of them what to do,
and he orders the watchmen to be on their guard.

“So be on your guard!

You don’t know when the master of the house
will come back.

It could be in the evening or at midnight
or before dawn or in the morning.

But if he comes suddenly, don’t let him find you asleep.

I tell everyone just what I have told you.

Be on your guard!”





Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Mark 1:1–8

This is the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
It began just as God had said in the book
written by Isaiah the prophet,

“I am sending my messenger to get the way ready for you.
In the desert someone is shouting,
‘Get the road ready for the Lord!
Make a straight path for him.’”

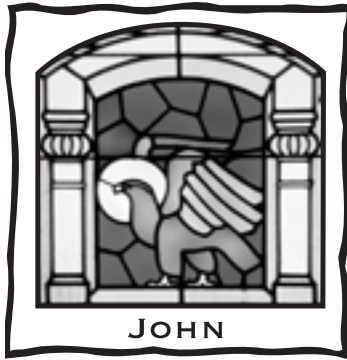
So John the Baptist showed up in the desert
and told everyone,
“Turn back to God and be baptized!
Then your sins will be forgiven.”

From all Judea and from Jerusalem
crowds of people went to John.
They told how sorry they were for their sins,
and he baptized them in the Jordan River.

John wore clothes made of camel’s hair.
He had a leather strap around his waist
and ate grasshoppers and wild honey.

John also told the people,
“Someone more powerful is going to come.
And I am not good enough even to stoop down
and untie his sandals.
I baptize you with water,
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!”





Third Sunday of Advent (B)

John 1:19–28

The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests
and temple helpers to ask John who he was.
He told them plainly, “I am not the Messiah.”
Then when they asked him if he were Elijah,
he said, “No, I am not!”
And when they asked if he were the Prophet,
he also said “No!”

Finally, they said, “Who are you then?
We have to give an answer to the ones who sent us.
Tell us who you are!”

John answered in the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“I am only someone shouting in the desert,
‘Get the road ready for the Lord!’”

Some Pharisees had also been sent to John.
They asked him, “Why are you baptizing people,
if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?”

John told them, “I use water to baptize people.
But here with you is someone you don’t know.
Even though I came first,
I am not good enough to untie his sandals.”

John said this as he was baptizing east of the Jordan River
in Bethany.





Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

Luke 1:26–38

God sent the angel Gabriel
to the town of Nazareth in Galilee
with a message for a virgin named Mary.
She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David.
The angel greeted Mary and said,
“You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was confused by the angel’s words
and wondered what they meant.
Then the angel told Mary, “Don’t be afraid!
God is pleased with you, and you will have a son.
His name will be Jesus.
He will be great
and will be called the Son of God Most High.
The Lord God will make him a king,
as his ancestor David was.
He will rule the people of Israel forever,
and his kingdom will never end.”

Mary asked the angel, “How can this happen?
I am not married!”

The angel answered,
“The Holy Spirit will come down to you,
and God’s power will come over you.
So your child will be called the holy Son of God.

“Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son,
even though she is old.
No one thought she could ever have a baby,
but in three months she will have a son.
Nothing is impossible for God!”

Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant!
Let it happen as you have said.”

And the angel left her.

The text for the Advent Gospels are from
Lectionary for Masses with Children: Year B.
Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994.

