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| **Sun**  **Wed** | ***“A Family of Believers: Called and Sent by Jesus”***  **December ~ Waiting in Joyful Hope**  Sunday, December 06, 2020  Wednesday, December 09, 2020  **Essential Dimensions:** Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgical Formation, Teaching to Pray, Formation for Community Life  **Goals of the Session:**   * To introduce the gospels * To use a storytelling activity and art to participate spiritually in the annunciations to Zechariah and to Mary. * To consider how Zechariah and Elizabeth and later Mary and Joseph carried out the messages from the angel. * To experience simplicity and quiet within the chaos of this busy time – Advent and Christmas in the midst of a pandemic. * To explore our hopes since we’ve been presented with the challenges of these pandemic times. What is God’s challenge for us?   **Catechism of the Catholic Church** **Connections:**  **CCC 101 In order to reveal himself to us, God speaks to us in human words. “Indeed the words of God, expressed in the words of men, are in every way like human language, just as the Word of the eternal Father, when he took on himself the flesh of human weakness, became like men.”**  **CCC 103 The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body. She never ceases to be present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body.**  **CCC 1817, 1818 Hope is the theological virtue in which we place our trust in Christ’s promises and rely not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every person.**  **CCC 522, 524 The coming of God’s Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.**  **Scripture Connections:** Luke 1-2  **Speaker for the adult connection:** Peter Herbeck from Renewal Ministries in Ann Arbor MI  He will touch on keeping holy the Sabbath, using this pandemic time to grow the domestic church. The pandemic is an invitation to live in a dialed down existence. An opportunity for growth in spiritual life, family relationships. |
| 5:55- 6:00 | **Gather online with welcome slide and music playing**  **Three minutes before time** to begin, show video clips of households getting ready for FF. Then switch to theme music for a few bars.  Pre-recorded |
| 6:00-6:03 | **Welcome!** Live  **Leader:** Welcome! We are so happy to see you this month as we gather on Zoom. We miss seeing you in person, and we look forward to the day when we can gather together for a meal and sharing once again. While we are here on Zoom, please remember our guidelines for a positive gathering:   * Please turn on cameras if possible, so we can see you! * Please keep your mic muted unless you are invited to do otherwise * You can use the chat function for comments or questions, and someone on the team will get back to you * We suggest you use “speaker view,” so you can clearly see who is talking when a member of the team is on * Try as we might, we have not always been able to make the volume consistent on the videos we show. Please turn up the volume on your computer if the sound seems too soft. * Reminder: when we **Take 5** it is a chance for your household to discuss the questions and topics presented and we will gather back after a short pause. If you are watching this by yourself, we suggest you journal your thoughts and ideas on a piece of paper.   Thank you for working with us to make our gathering go smoothly! Let’s see what’s been happening in the parish lately! |
| 6:03-6:05 | **What’s happening at the parish?** Live  Slideshow of photos, including: Reconciliation, construction, new camera and associated equipment |
| 6:05-6:10 | **Welcome again**  Setting the context (Fr.Tim)  Overview of session  Note: Introduction to Gospels, who written to, time frame, change in liturgical year  Intro the Bible timeline, where Paul was, Gospels |
|  | **St. Paul**  Pre-recorded  St. Paul will visit one more time; this time sharing words of hope from his epistles and for our time. |
|  | **Opening Activity**  Please find the December activity page or a blank sheet of paper and a writing utensil. Let’s take a moment to think about our family story. Each family has a story. What is your family story? When did your family begin? What special story is there to tell about how you became a family? Some are wedding stories, some are birth stories, some adoption stories, one thing is certain -- each story is unique and special to your family.  On the December activity page, you are going to create a timeline of your family. Begin your timeline where your family story starts.  Now we will **Take 5** for you to work on your timeline. Add the events that are important to your family story.  Thank you for taking the time to tell your family story.  Now set your paper aside and quiet yourselves for prayer. |
| 6:10-6:13 | **Opening Prayer**  **Invitation to prayer** Live  *Before the prayer video*  **NARRATOR 1**  This month we will begin a look at the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.  These books tell the story of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. We meet many interesting people along the way. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke begin before the birth of Jesus. With tonight’s prayer, we will hear the beginning of one of the most familiar stories of all.  Instrumental music playing as a family prepares a prayer table: light the candle, open the Bible, settle everyone. This will be a recording at a family’s house.  **NARRATOR 1**  One day Zechariah was doing his work as a priest in the Temple.  An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar where the incense was burned. When Zechariah saw him, he was alarmed and felt afraid. But the angel said to him,  **GABRIEL**  “Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son. You are to name him John. How glad and happy you will be, and how happy many others will be when he is born! John will be great in the Lord's sight. From his very birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and he will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go ahead of the Lord, strong and mighty like the prophet Elijah; he will get the Lord's people ready for him.”  **NARRATOR 1**  Zechariah said to the angel,  **ZECHARIAH**  “How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man, and my wife is old also.”  **GABRIEL**  “I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, who sent me to speak to you and tell you this good news. But because you do not believe my message, you will be unable to speak until the day my promise to you comes true.”  **NARRATOR 1**  When his period of service in the Temple was over, Zechariah went back home. Some time later his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and did not leave the house for five months.  **NARRATOR 1:**  The Word of the Lord  **ALL:**  Thanks be to God  **LEADER:**  When the child was born, Zechariah found his words again and praised God saying:  Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel! (pause and raise hands) Please pray these words with me:  **ALL:** Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!  **LEADER:**  Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!  He has come to the help of his people and has set them free.  He promised through his holy prophets long ago that he would save us from our enemies.  **ALL:**  Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!  **LEADER:**  He said he would show mercy to our ancestors and remember his sacred covenant.  With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham he promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve him without fear.  **ALL:**  Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!  **LEADER:**  You, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.  You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare his road for him, to tell his people that they will be saved.  Our God is merciful and tender.  He will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us, to guide our steps to the path of peace.  **ALL:**  Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel!  **LEADER:**  Let us pray,  Here in our midst, O God of mystery,  you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages.  For you we wait; for you we listen.  Upon hearing your voice may we,  like Mary, embrace your will  and become a dwelling fit for your Word.  Grant this through him whose coming is certain,  whose day draws near:  Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  God for ever and ever.  **ALL:** Amen |
| 6:18-6:28 | **Activity** Live  With some works of art, we will consider the experiences of Mary and of Zachariah, as they heard about their children and waited for those children to be born. We will explore their fears and hesitations, as well as their hopes and dreams, and so we will also reflect upon our own. |
|  | **Closing Activity**  *Video of Mary at a well*  **MARY:**  “A baby? What will people think? What will Joseph do? The angel said the child will be called the Son of the Most High God. Our people have waited so long for the Messiah! But who will believe my story? I will go visit my cousin, Elizabeth who is expecting a baby, too, though she is very old. She will understand.”  *Put hands on tummy*  “Wow! Jesus, the Son of God!”  *Fade out.*  **NARRATOR**  Mary and Elizabeth were each told very unexpected news: they were each going to have a baby!  Both John, son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and Mary spent their lives pointing to Jesus, who points all of us to God. Among the busyness of the holidays, may we always remember Jesus is at the center of this season.    Gather your December activity page again. On the bottom of the page, we will fill in Bible events that we discussed tonight. On the left we see events and people from the Old Testament, which we talked about last year.  *(click add these to slide, a timeline even better)*   1. Adam & Eve 2. Noah 3. Abraham 4. David 5. Isaiah, the prophet   This year we are learning about the New Testament. Remember the New Testament tells the stories of Jesus. Tonight we will mark some of the events leading to Jesus’ birth.  *(have events click on slide on timeline one at a time)*   1. Zechariah 2. Angel Gabriel 3. John the Baptist 4. Mary 5. Baby Jesus   On the very right side, mark your family. The Bible timeline continues with us and our story of faith. We are part of the story of Jesus. In January and the following months, we will learn more about Jesus and his teachings and mission. |
|  | **Parish Connection**  As we celebrate Advent and prepare for Christmas we are aware that we are in a time of waiting. We wait in joyful hope. We know many things are different this year... what is one thing your family has great hope for? What is something you are willing to wait on? What is a hope for the future your family is holding to this year? Take a moment to think about this hope. Share your hope with your parish community, so we can share in each other's hope.  **As a household, please make a family ornament and bring it to Mass next weekend and add it to our hope tree.** You can find an ornament template on Kitchen Table Faith,or create your own. Write on the ornaments we will have available by the tree, or add your family word to this link and staff will add your word to an ornament and hang it on the tree for you.  You have choices for your ornament:   * create your own ornament * find a template on Kitchen Table Faith * include your family name on the ornament, if you wish * write your word on an ornament by the tree in the gathering space * send your word to this link and staff will add it to an ornament and hang on the tree <https://forms.gle/MwtDQc148yR5EWSJ6> * we encourage you to make two ornaments … one for your own tree, remind you of your hopes during this unusual Advent and Christmas, and one to be shared on the parish tree of hope   During the Christmas season, we will all be able to enjoy the beauty of our tree of hope, whether in person or in photos we will share. Thank you for contributing to the tree! |
| 6:28-6:33 | **Kitchen Table Faith** Live  Go through menu, explain required components, feedback pieces, where they can find it, etc.  Christmas book list  new traditions  stations of Christmas |
| 6:36-6:40 | **Announcements:**  Live |
| 6:40-6:41 | **Closing Prayer**  God of the living,  in whose images we have been formed,  open our minds and hearts to Jesus your Son.  May our households be built on a foundation of faith,  and our lives be shaped by your living Word.  May our words and deeds  announce your faithful love to all the world.  We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.  Leader: Go in the peace of Christ.  All: Thanks be to God. |
| 6:41 | **Leader:** Thank you for being with us. We will check in via text and email throughout the month. Please let us know if you have questions or need anything. We are excited to be on this journey together! |