



# Building Faith @ HOME

[1st Reading: IS 40:1-5, 9-11](#)  
[Responsorial Psalm: PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14](#)  
[Second Reading: 2 PT 3:8-14](#)  
[Gospel: MK 1:1-8](#)

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

John the Baptist contrasts his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

**Becoming Missionary Disciples:** As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus.

[Loyolapress.com](http://Loyolapress.com)

## Bethlehem - House of Bread (Celebrating the "Bethlehem Candle" during the Second Week of Advent)

In Hebrew, the term Bethlehem means "House of Bread". In every Eucharist, Jesus offers himself to us as the Bread of Life. Thus, every Eucharist is Bethlehem for us.

**Family Activity** - Make these "Bread Jar" gifts to share with neighbors: [Psalm 46:10](#)

[Heavenlyhomemakers.com](http://Heavenlyhomemakers.com)

- Stir and Pour Bread Mix



## Family Table Talk

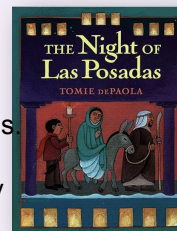
**Children:** How do you experience God taking care of you, even in times of trouble?

**Youth:** John went out to announce the good news of the Messiah's coming. How can you be good news to your friends and family this week?

**Adults:** When you hear Isaiah comfort the people by promising that God is like a shepherd who gathers the lambs into his arms, what is your response?

## THE BOOK NOOK

The word, posadas, means "dwelling" Or "lodging" in Spanish speaking areas. Las Posadas is the Hispanic religious festival that marks the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, seeking a place where Mary would give birth. Las Posadas begins December 16 and lasts 9 days, a Novena. This story by Tomie dePaola shares a beautiful Christmas miracle. Available on Amazon and other online bookstores.



## Lighting the Second Candle



Candle Name: the Bethlehem Candle  
The Second Week of Advent Represents: Peace and Preparation  
Candle Color: Purple

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

## Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[youtube.com](#) - *Second Week of Advent Meditation, Ascension Press with Sr. Miriam James (Teens / Adults Faith Builder)*

[youtube.com](#) - *Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe celebrates the days St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe December 9 and 12. (Children Faith Builder).*

[Palaisdurosaire.com](#) - *Preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ with the Christmas Novena (Family Faith Builder) Dec. 16*

[catholicculture.org](#) - *Celebrating for the Feast of St. Lucy (Family Faith Builder) St Lucy of Syracuse, Dec. 13*





December 10, 2023

Prayer Time This Week!

# Prayer@HOME

Cut & Pray!

## An Adapted Examination of Conscience for Children

### Responsibilities to God:

- Have I prayed every day?
- Have I prayed my morning prayers and night prayers?
- Have I prayed with my parents and family?
- Have I been rebellious about praying and going to church on Sunday?
- Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me whenever I have been tempted to sin?
- Have I asked the Holy Spirit to help me do what is right?

### Responsibilities to others:

- Have I been obedient and respectful to my parents?
- Have I lied or been deceitful to them or to others?
- Have I been arrogant, stubborn or rebellious?
- Have I talked back to parents, teachers or other adults?
- Have I been selfish toward my parents, brothers, and sisters, teachers, or my friends and schoolmates?
- Have I gotten angry at them? Have I hit anyone?
- Have I held grudges or not forgiven others?
- Have I treated other children with respect or have I made fun of them and called them names?
- Have I used bad language?
- Have I stolen anything? Have I returned it?
- Have I performed my responsibilities, such as homework and household chores?
- Have I been helpful and affectionate toward my family?
- Have I been kind and generous with my friends?

Copyright, Fr. Thomas Weinandy. This resource may be reproduced and distributed free of charge by permission of the author. [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org)

## Scripture Verse of the Week From Sunday's Mass December 10, 2023



*A voice of one crying  
out in the desert:*

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths."*

Mark 1:3

Take time this week to  
prepare for  
The Sacrament of Reconciliation  
as you prepare for Christmas.

## Building Prayer Time @ Home

This will be a series of family activities to try as your families start or strengthen prayer time.

### Lighting the Second Candle of Advent

The second purple candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace. This candle is called the "Bethlehem Candle," reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus.

**\*Light the first and second purple candles**

**\*Proclaim the Scripture:** "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:4-7

**\*Pause for reflection**

**\*Advent Wreath Prayer:** Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

