

A special time called Advent

FOCUS

1. The Church has liturgical signs and seasons.
2. During Advent we prepare for Christmas.
3. There are many symbols and rituals associated with Advent.
4. Because Mary was the mother of Jesus she was the mother of God.

Advent is a time for waiting. We wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus. In this holy time, we draw closer to God. We pray together:

Parent: It's Advent time, a special time

Child: We wait for baby Jesus

Parent: We will be good and choose right not wrong

Child: We wait for baby Jesus

Parent: We will share and show lots of care

Child: We wait for baby Jesus

Parent: It's Advent time, a special time

Child: We wait for baby Jesus

A long time ago before Jesus was born, there lived a young girl named Mary. Mary loved her parents and always listened to them. She lived a good life and loved God very much. Mary would always pray and was very close to God. One day while she was quietly praying God sent an angel named Gabriel to ask Mary to be the mother of Jesus. (Angels are God's special messengers).

Mary felt afraid, but she knew that he had brought her a special message from God. Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid because God was very close to her. Mary said "yes!" to God. She would be the mother of Jesus. Mary was a very loving mother to Jesus, she was always there to help him.

To Remember:

Advent is the season when we wait for Jesus.

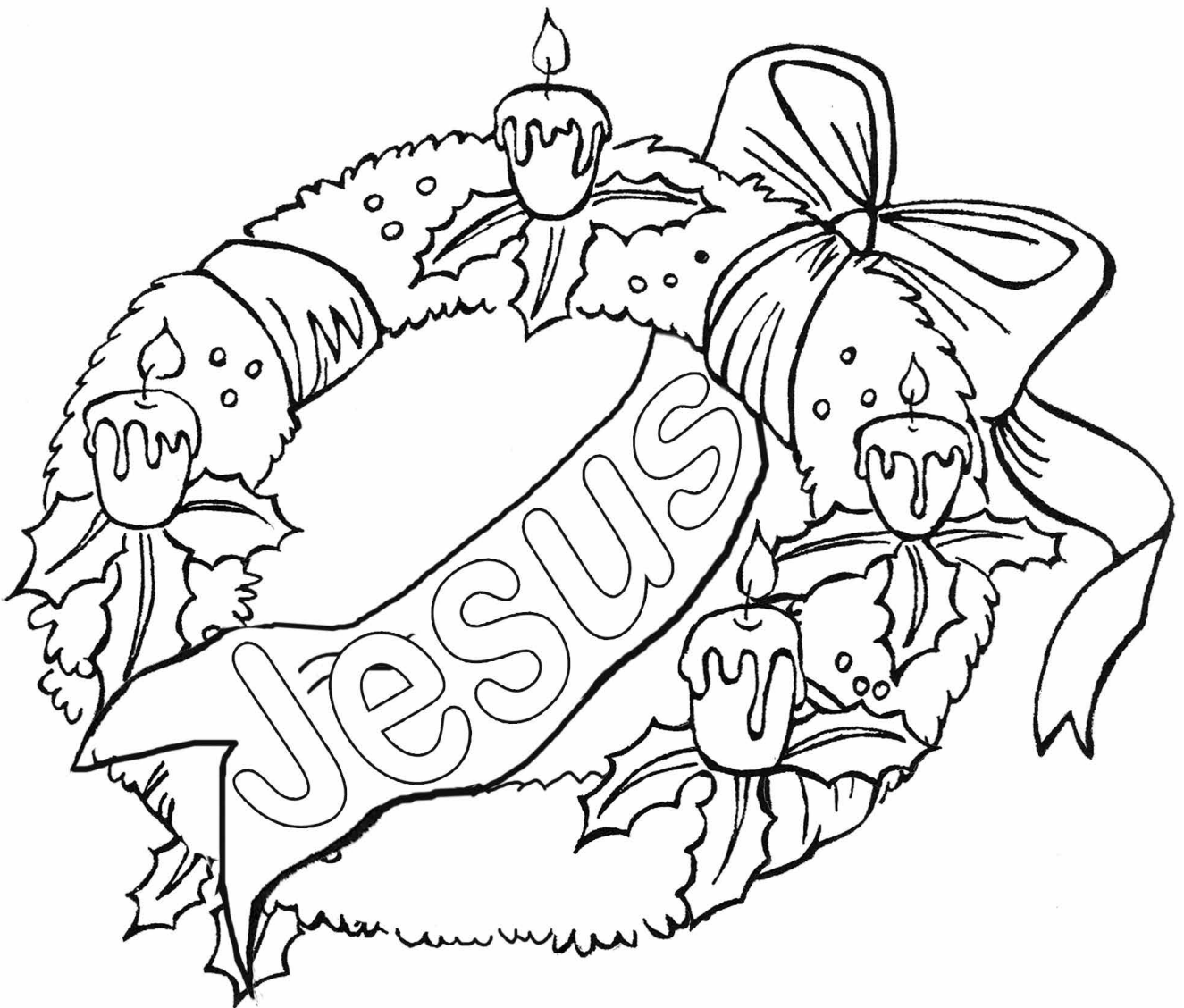
SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

1. Encourage your child to colour and decorate the Advent Wreath on p. 82. Display the completed wreath in the family home, perhaps on the fridge door.
2. Make an Advent Wreath with four candles – one pink and three purple.
3. Read the passage about the Annunciation from Luke 1: 26-38. Explore your child's understanding of the passage by asking him or her 'I wonder' questions:
e.g. I wonder ... why God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus.
4. Ask your child to draw, paint or make an image of Mary. Have the image framed and displayed in your child's bedroom. Encourage your child to keep a small flower in front of the picture.
5. More activities can be found at www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Click on Home Activities.



Colour and decorate the Advent Wreath as we wait and prepare for Jesus. Once finished display the Advent Wreath in your home.



Dear Mary,
Help us to know more about your Son, Jesus.
Help us to follow him,
and to love him always.
Amen.