

St. Aloysius Religious Education 2017-2018

1st Grade

- 4:00pm Welcome (Star of Bethlehem coloring page and *to ensure accuracy, class attendance must be accurately recorded by a catechist and not another student - class attendance is an official document retained by the parish and the diocese*)
- 4:05pm We Gather - in Prayer at the prayer table
(*use colored table covering for appropriate liturgical season*)
Use the Gospel Reading “Hearing the Word” from the previous Sunday in Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families book in the prayer box
- 4:10pm Story time at the Prayer Table – a prime time to share our faith teaching children the Word of God. Read aloud the true story of God's amazing love for us in “*Catholic Book of Bible Stories*” written in reverent tone just for young children. Start at the beginning with “*God’s Wonderful Creation*” read a new story each week and use *God’s Blessing* to end the story.
- 4:15pm Review previous lesson using one of the pages from the Activity Book.

4:20pm Chapter #10 “The Savior is Born”

The Church celebrates Advent as a season of joyful preparation for the coming of the Lord. During the **four weeks of Advent**, we respond to this gift of our loving God by joyfully expecting the feast of his Nativity and by keeping watch for Christ’s future coming. Having received the greatest gift of all in Jesus, we express our thanks by giving of ourselves to family, friends and those in need. **Christmas Day is the beginning of the nearly 2-week Church season of Christmas.** We celebrate the light (*Jesus*) at the darkest time of the year and rejoice in the truth that Jesus is our light and life!

- *We Believe –*

Bethlehem = town of Jesus’ birth

Manger = A trough or an open box in which feed for animals is placed

Shepherds = usually the poor hired hand who slept outside to protect the sheep ... they show Jesus came for all (rich & poor)

Worship = by offering our selves to God through pray (love) and attending Mass (praise)

Christmas = the birthday of Jesus. We celebrate every December 25th

- *We Respond –* Star Candle craft and read Tomie dePaola’s Book of Bible Stories – “*An Angel Visits Mary*” and “*Jesus is Born*”

After Jesus Christ was born in the city of Bethlehem, three wise men came looking for him. Along the journey behold, they saw the star above. It guided them as it twinkled over the young Christ with love. “We have seen his star in the east” they proclaimed. We have come to worship Jesus “the three wise men exclaimed. So, remember at Christmas wherever you are, to let him be your guiding when you see this shining star. Tell the children to put the "stars" in their bedroom and keep them lit on Christmas Eve to remember that it was that night so long ago, and still today, that leads us all to the Baby Jesus.

Last year one child even said that the star must be the one to lead the way for Santa - and that Santa is probably also going to the Manger with the shepherds and the Wise Men. They decided that Rudolph is just a story and that it was the Star that really leads Santa. And then they decided that Santa is a lot like the Wise Men - he brings gifts to children, just like the Wise Men brought gifts to the special Child, Jesus.

4:55pm

Closing Prayer –

“Candle, candle burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.”

Ask the children to say a petition aloud for someone or something they would like to pray for.

“Is there anything for which you are waiting or longing?”
“How will your family celebrate that Jesus was born and is our light and life?”

Star Candle Craft supplies and directions:

- Battery operated candle in votive
- Small star stickers
- Prayer
- Plastic clip



Have the children decorate the plastic votive with the 1 or 2 foam star stickers. Then, affix the clip to the votive and place the prayer card in the note holder part of the clip. After decorating their "star" (the votive), turn off the lights and sing “We Three Kings of Orient Are” in the darkness -- lit by the "stars" (*switch is on bottom of votive*).

Each night of Advent, place one star on your candleholder. *Do not light the candle again until Christmas Eve.* Say this prayer every night:

“Candle, candle burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.”

“I pray that my candle will shine bright
to show me where baby Jesus sleeps Christmas Eve night.
I pray that this star will help me to remember
That we await the birth of Jesus this December.”

On Christmas Eve night, light the candle. Carry your candle to your family’s crèche. Your candlelight and stars will show you that baby Jesus is there. After Jesus Christ was born in the city of Bethlehem, three wise men came looking for him. Along the journey behold, they saw the star above. It guided them as it twinkled over the young Christ with love. “We have seen his star in the east” they proclaimed. “We have come to worship Jesus” the three wise men exclaimed. So, remember at Christmas wherever you are, to let him be your guiding when you see this shining star.