

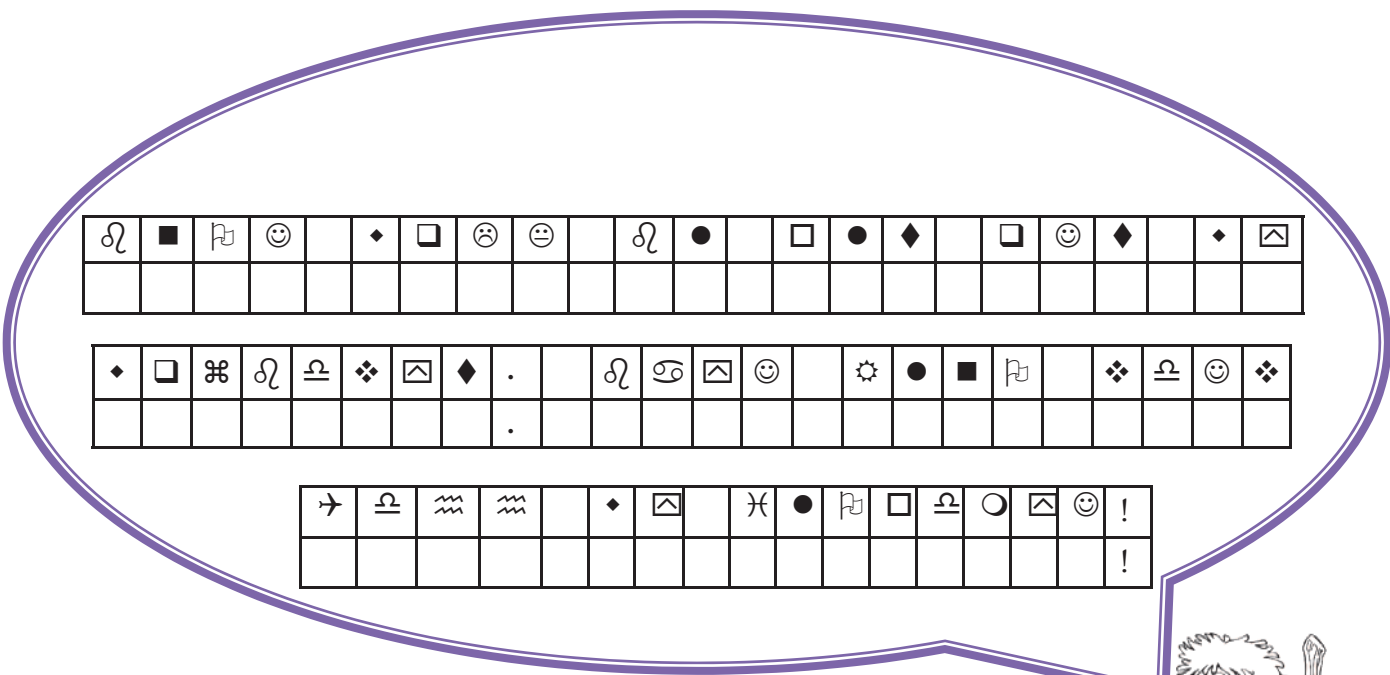
## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

### THEME: PREPARE!



This week's Gospel tells us about John the Baptist, whose job it was to tell the people to **prepare** for Jesus' coming. Crack the code to reveal John's message.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	I	j	K	l	M	N	o	P	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
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Hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Isaiah wrote about John the Baptist. He knew that John would be the one to help the people to **prepare** for Jesus. Isaiah said,



*In the desert, someone is shouting, "Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him. Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill. Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads. Then everyone will see the power of God."*

HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO JOHN'S MESSAGE TO **PREPARE** FOR JESUS' BIRTH?

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**SACRED SPACE FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT**

Place a bottle of holy water in your sacred space. This reminds us of our own Baptism. Open your class Bible at **Luke 3:1-6** and read this Gospel during the week. Add a statue of Mary to celebrate December 8<sup>th</sup> and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. You could also put a picture of Saint Nicholas in your sacred space. Thank God for his example of generosity this week.



## SAINT NICHOLAS

DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Saint Nicholas. Saint Nicholas was born in Turkey long, long ago. He could have been a very rich man, but he gave all of his money away to people who were poor and sick. He was a very generous man. We remember him in a special way on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

This year, December 6<sup>th</sup> is also the Second Sunday of Advent. Saint Nicholas helps us to **prepare** for Christmas by reminding us to be generous and to always share with others.

### FIND THE WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH.



santa

sack

present

nicholas

give

poor

s	a	n	t	a	a	s	d	n
f	y	j	l	k	p	x	b	i
s	g	i	v	e	h	f	w	c
p	k	g	s	s	a	c	k	h
k	r	u	c	g	h	k	s	o
t	p	r	e	s	e	n	t	l
l	q	e	y	d	h	k	n	a
p	o	o	r	s	f	h	k	s

### PUT THE WORDS INTO A SENTENCE.

**Santa:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sack:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Nicholas:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Give:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

## DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>



Every year, on December 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception. On this day, we remember that Mary was conceived without sin, and so chosen from the very first moment of her life to be the mother of Jesus. The Angel Gabriel told Mary:

"God has blessed you more than any other woman!"

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is one of the special days during the year that we are asked to go to Mass, no matter what day of the week it is. We call these special days **Holy Days of Obligation**.

### TRUE OR FALSE?

*Circle the correct answer.*

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Mary lived in Jerusalem.                                   | True / False |
| 2. Mary was married to Joseph.                                | True / False |
| 3. The angel Geraldine told Mary that she would have a baby.  | True / False |
| 4. Mary's sister was called Elizabeth.                        | True / False |
| 5. Jesus was Mary's only child.                               | True / False |
| 6. Mary is the only woman who never sinned in her whole life. | True / False |
| 7. The Church honours Mary in a special way in May.           | True / False |
| 8. Mary's mother's name was Amelia.                           | True / False |
| 9. Mary's baby was born on November 25 <sup>th</sup>          | True / False |
| 10. Mary is sometimes called the Queen of Heaven              | True / False |

#### PREPARE!

Just like us, Mary had to **prepare** for the birth of Jesus.

Make a list of all the things that Mary had to do.

In what ways are we **preparing** for Jesus' birth at home, in school and in our parish community?

#### RESEARCH!

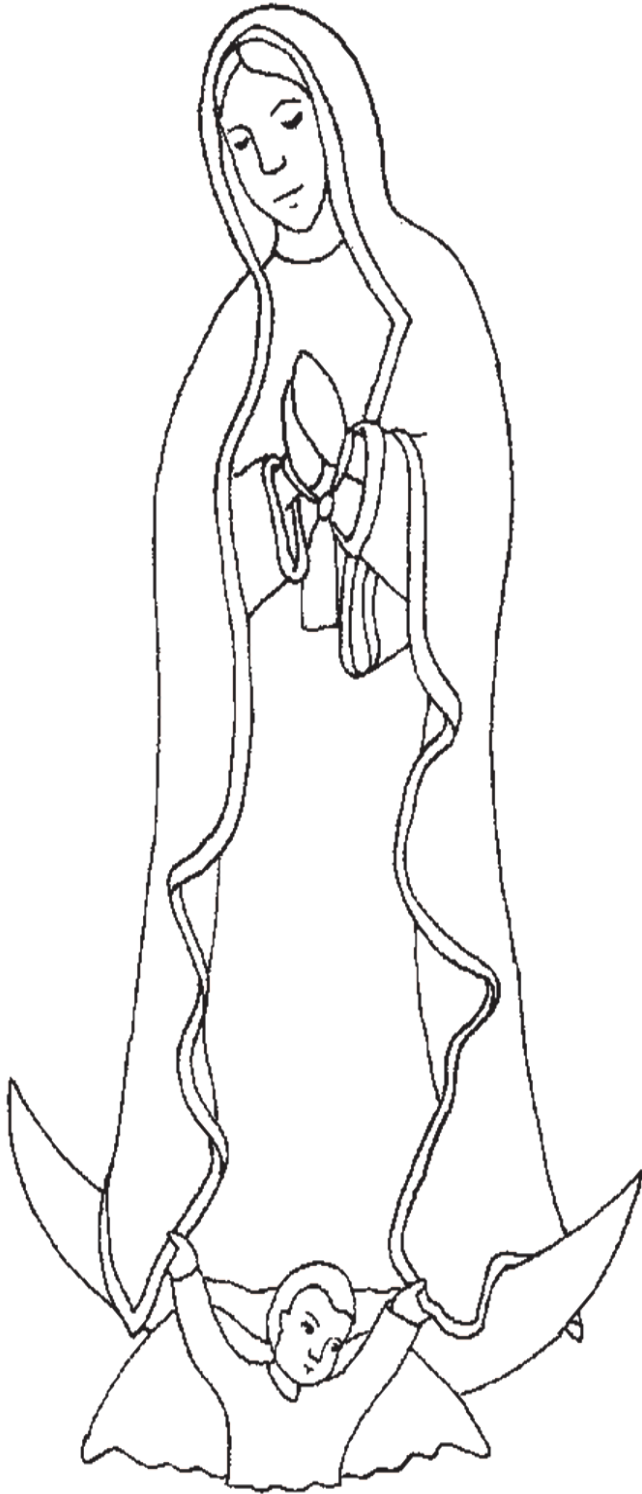
What other days in the Church are **Holy Days of Obligation**?

Use the internet to help you find the answer!

Make a list of the Church's **Holy Days of Obligation** in your Religion copy.



## FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>



Our Lady has appeared in many places throughout the world to many different people.

She often brings a message of hope, inviting people to turn back to God, and to pray.

Mary appeared to a girl called Bernadette in Lourdes in 1858, and also to three children in the Portuguese town of Fatima in 1917. In 1879, Mary appeared in a village called Knock in County Mayo.

In 1531, Our Lady appeared to a man called Juan Diego on a hill called Tepeyac near Mexico City. Mary told Juan that she wanted the local bishop to build a church on that hill. Juan went to the bishop, who asked for a sign that the woman really was Our Lady. The next time Juan saw Mary, she told him to go to the top of the hill, where he would find roses, even though it was the month of December. Juan did what Mary asked him, and, sure enough, the roses were there as she had said. Juan picked the roses and carried them in his cloak to the bishop. When Juan took the roses out of his cloak, an image of Our Lady was left on the fabric. The picture on the left is the image of Mary which appeared the cloak.

Juan Diego's cloak – with the image of Mary on it – can still be seen today. It is kept in Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.