

**December:
A Mother's "YES!", A Child
Blessed**

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Spiritual Adoption: A Reflection- Your Baby is 3-months old!

Hi everyone! Can you believe I am 3 months old? I am now about 3 inches long. I have my own fingerprints now, just like you! My hands can open and close and I can smile. I love to suck my thumb. I am very active but my mommy still can't feel me in here because I am so tiny. I think about you every day and I am so thankful to have someone like you praying for me.

Spiritual Adoption Prayer:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger."

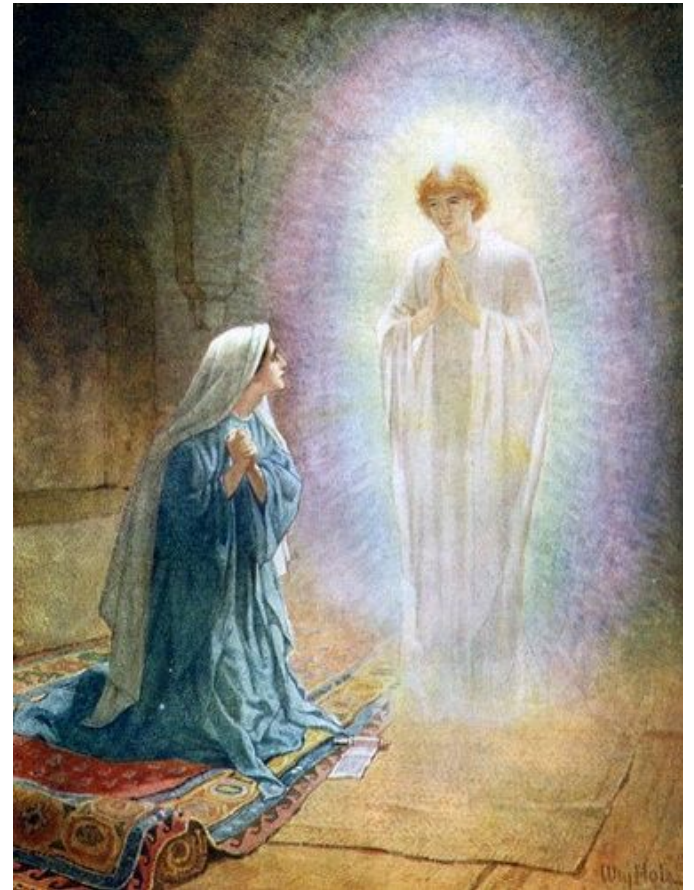
- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



Objective: The Annunciation- "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." Luke 1:38.

Bible Verse:

"Certainly sons are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb." Psalm 127:3



Theme: The "Gift of Life" means that all life is created by God. Although a mother may be unsure or frightened by her pregnancy, her faith in God and the support of others will give her strength and peace. We are called to be peacemakers in this world.

Did you know?

Christmas is the "Perfect Pro-Life Story!" Mary said "Yes!" to life- this is why we have Christmas. We celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Discussion:

The Nativity story , Luke 1:26-38:

"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, 'Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' But Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?' And the angel said to her in reply, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.' Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her."



Questions?

Write the answers in your journal.

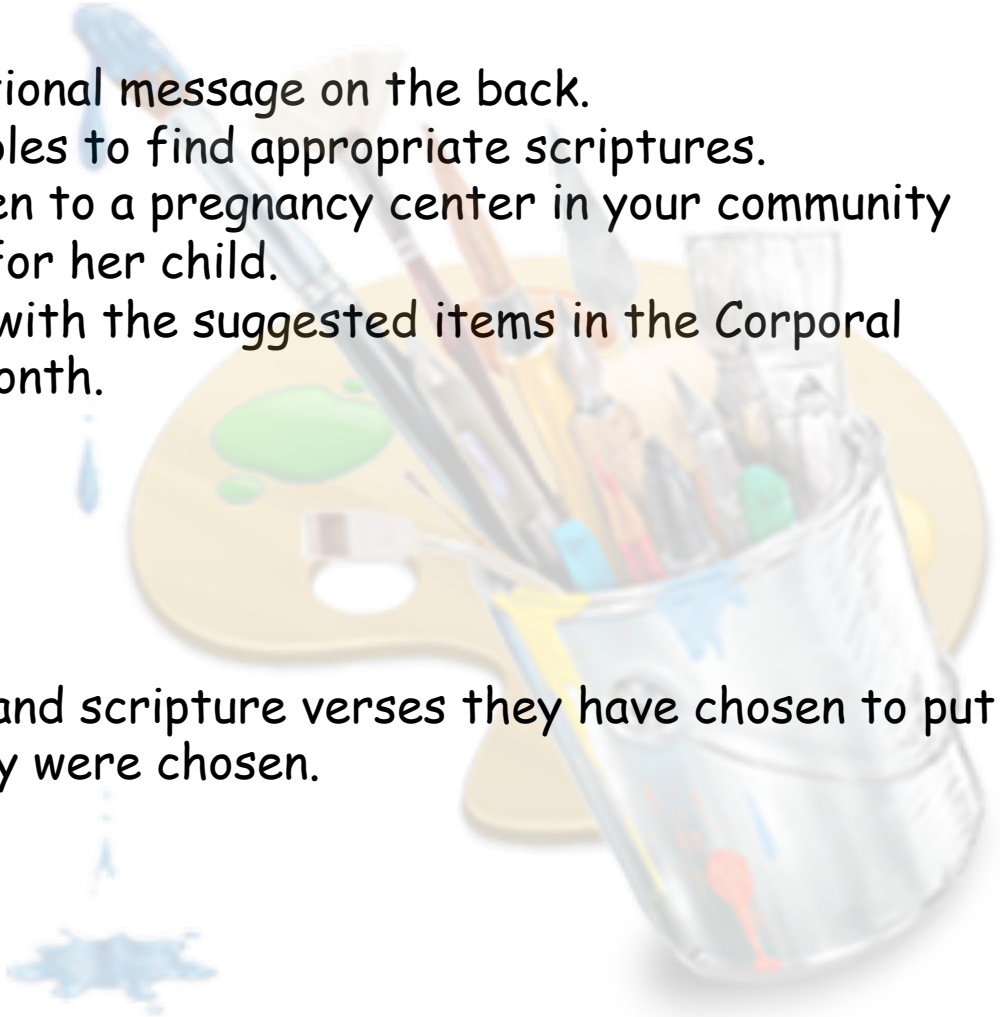
- God chose to come into the world as a tiny baby in a stable. Point out the highlights of the story that support LIFE- Mary was young, poor, scared and betrothed then married.
- Why did Mary say "Yes" to the Angel Gabriel? How do you think Mary felt at that time? Why do you think she felt that way?
- Why do you think God chose to send Jesus as an infant?
- How do you think some women feel when they find out they are pregnant?
- Discuss how the mothers may feel excitement and joy, but that some moms are nervous or scared. They may feel that they don't have the ability, money, or resources to take care of their babies. This is why we pray for these moms and show them our support.
- All of us are called to do God's will. It is important that we pray about His will for our lives and be prepared to say "Yes!"
- What are some other things that God has created? Why is life valuable?
- Read and discuss Jeremiah 29:11.
- Discussion of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Tilma.

Activity: Bookmarks for New Moms

- The students will create bookmarks for new moms who experience unplanned pregnancies and choose life.
- Have the student draw the word "Mom" on the bookmark and decorate the bookmark.
- They may write an inspirational message on the back.
- Students can use their Bibles to find appropriate scriptures.
- The bookmarks can be given to a pregnancy center in your community for a mom who chose life for her child.
- They can also be included with the suggested items in the Corporal Work of Mercy for this month.

Discussion

Discuss the various quotes and scripture verses they have chosen to put on the bookmarks and why they were chosen.



6th-8th Grade Additional Activity: "Thank You" Letters

- Have the students write "Thank You" letters to women who chose life for their babies.
- Explain the importance of these letters.
- Help the students brainstorm what they may want to say in the letters.
- Although the students don't know who the specific women are, they can write a letter thanking them.
- The letters can be given to a pregnancy center in your community for moms who chose life for their children.
- These can also be included with the suggested items in the Corporal Work of Mercy for this month.

Discussion:

Explain the importance of these letters.



Activity: Jesus' Birthday Party

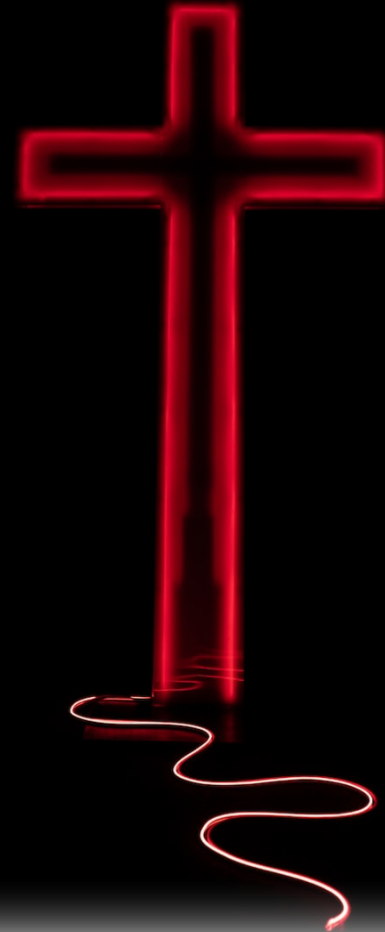
- Plan a birthday party for Jesus.
- It doesn't have to be an actual party, but it can be the Class Christmas party.
- The idea is to have the students think about and plan as if they were hosting a large celebration of Jesus' birth.



Closing Prayer:

Glory be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit, as it was in the
beginning is now, and ever
shall be, world without end.

Amen.



Spiritual Works of Mercy Novena for December

Let us pray...

Dear Jesus, please be with all newborn babies and their families, especially their mothers. Help these new mothers care for their tiny, new babies, and help their families to grow in love as the baby grows. May all new mothers know that You love them and are with them as they are for their babies. Help us to remember to pray for them. In Jesus' name we pray...Amen.



Virtue: PRUDENCE: The virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstances and to choose the right means of achieving it; 'the prudent man looks where he is going.'
(CCC1806)

... meaning... your ability to discipline yourself by use of reason- good judgement ; alertness, carefulness, caution

