

CGS NEWS

The Prophecies in CGS | Advent Lessons | Christmas Pageant

CGS ADVENT LESSONS

Level I Lessons

- + Advent Prayer Service
- + Prophecies of the Light, Star and Scepter, Names, the City, or the Mother
- + The Annunciation
- + The Visitation to Elizabeth

Level II Lessons

- + Synthesis of the Level I Prophecies
- + Prophecies of the Peaceable Kingdom, of the Shoot of Jesse, and of the Valleys and Mountains
- + Synthesis of the Infancy Narratives

Level III Lessons

- + Advent Readings and Prayer
- + Advent Readings
- + Synthesis of the Infancy Narratives
- + Epiphany Celebration



Prophets Long Foretold

Sometimes we hear in church that Advent is about waiting for Christmas. This is true, but we use a different verb with the children in CGS. We say that Advent is a time for *preparation*. This is true in our schools, our homes, and our faith. In each we prepare in different ways: at school children have holiday programs and days off, in our homes we decorate, cook special meals, welcome guests, and travel to see family, and at church we hear stories from the Old Testament of the great Jewish prophets telling stories of the savior that would come.

The Old Testament readings that we hear at Mass on the Sundays in Advent are also used to help prepare our children for the coming of Jesus too. Starting in Level I, we present five prophecies:

- The Prophecy of the Light (Isaiah 9:2)
- The Prophecy of the Star and Scepter (Numbers 24:17)
- The Prophecy of the Names (Isaiah 9:6)
- The Prophecy of the City (Micah 5:1-2)



St. Peter's Christmas Pageant

St. Peter Christmas Pageant will be held Friday, December 23 from 6 pm – 8 pm.

The pageant will be held in Church with a reception to follow in Biss Hall. This will be a fun night for the whole family to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas!

All children of any age are invited to participate as angels, shepherds, and beasts. Those who wish to participate may come in costume or in their Christmas finery. Participants meet in Biss Hall at 5 pm.

Please bring a Christmas treat to share at the reception immediately following the pageant in Biss Hall.

For more information contact Joanne Shea at joannesh@carolina.rr.com

The Prophecy of the Mother (Isaiah 7:14)

In Level II we add on three prophecies:

The Prophecy of Peaceable Kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9)

The Prophecy of the Shoot of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1-3a)

The Prophecy of the Valleys and Mountains (Isaiah 40:3-5)

The Advent prophecies set the stage for the birth of Jesus by describing the theological purpose of His coming. We hear that he will literally be “God with us” and that with this God-child will come a new world where the lion lays with the lamb, the nations will beat their swords into plowshares, and all injustices will be remedied. These stories could have predicted the details of Jesus’s birth, but instead describe the God’s greater purpose: the physical and spiritual salvation that we experience in Jesus.

The students in Level III revisit these prophecies, but focus more directly upon this greater purpose of the prophecies. They read and interpret the Advent prophecies to discover God’s vision for a justice kingdom where the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, and Peace dwells among us.

This year the Sunday readings include the *italicized prophecies* from above, as well as a two other readings from Isaiah which describe the dramatic change that we look for in Jesus and continue to work to bring about in the world. As we always say in Atrium II, these readings remind us of the time when “God will be all in all” and “His kingdom will have no end”.

Prophecies to Read with your Family

This advent, try reading any of the following prophecies with your children:

Isaiah 9:2, Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 11:1-3a, Isaiah 11:6-9, Isaiah 40:3-5, Numbers 24:17, Micah 5:2

Questions for you to reflect on together:

- What does this prophecy tell us about God’s kingdom?
- What does this prophecy tell us about Jesus?
- If you read multiple in the same sitting, you can ask your child to compare. What themes do they have in common?