Advent: 4th Sunday in Advent
Sunday December 24, 2020

Lead Story Headline:
On Peace

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed..."
Isaiah 61:1

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The angel Gabriel was sent from God to the town of Nazareth in Galilee. The angel went to a young virgin who was engaged to Joseph, from the family of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel said to her, ‘Rejoice Mary, you have been blessed by God. The Lord is with you and you are filled with grace.’ Mary was very confused and disturbed by what the angel said, and she wondered what it could mean. The angel said to her, ‘Don’t be afraid, Mary. God has chosen you. You are going to give birth to a baby. You will give him the name, Jesus. He will be great, and he will be called the Son of God. He will be the ruler of the family of David, and his kingdom will never end. Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this happen, since I do not have a husband?’ The angel answered her, ‘The power of God will make it possible. The Holy Spirit will come to you and this Holy Child will be called the Son of God. And your cousin, Elizabeth, is also going to have a baby even though she seems too old, for nothing is impossible with God.’ And Mary said, ‘I am the servant of the Lord. Let what you have said be done.’ And the angel left her.”

This is the Good News of the Lord.

What Do You Think?

1. How do you think you would have responded if you were Mary in this situation? What do you think you would have been feeling?

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2. Why do you think God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother? Do you think we are all chosen in some way? If so, how?

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Activity: A Peace Dove

You will need:
- a brown paper bag
- white and blue acrylic paint
- a paint brush
- glitter
- a needle and thread
- cotton balls

1. Paint two 6” x 6” squares of the brown paper with white acrylic paint.
2. While it’s drying, draw a simple bird shape on scrap paper, about 4” x 5”.
3. Place the two painted papers on top of each other with the unpainted sides together.
4. Using your bird pattern, cut two doves from the painted paper.
5. Stitch them together, but stop before you sew all the way around, and stuff some cotton balls inside.
6. Finish stitching them together and add a string for hanging.
7. Add a wing, an eye and tail feathers with the blue paint, and don’t forget the glitter!

Brainstorm:

The countdown begins this week! We only have 5 days left until Christmas! Come up with five things that you can do on each day before Christmas! Choose one thing that represents hope, love, joy and peace! Then pick one act of kindness that you can do for someone else! Why do you think it is important that each candle has its own meaning for the different weeks of Advent? What are you going to do this week to finish getting ready for Jesus’ birthday?

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; to comfort all who mourn"

Isaiah 61:10

Fourth Week of Advent: Peace

This is the last week of Advent! This means that Jesus' Birthday, Christmas day, is in 5 days! You get to spend the rest of this week preparing for this special day! This week, we light the final purple candle. This candle represents peace! When the Angels came to earth they said, "Peace on earth, good will to men!" What do you think this means? What is the meaning of peace? Think of some ways that you can be peaceful in your own home and demonstrate peace to others. What does that look like? Why do you think peace is so important? All of Advent, we have been waiting and preparing for Jesus' birthday! What are some things that you did well to wait for Jesus? What would you like to do again next year and what do you think you could do better? Why do you think it is so important to get ready for Jesus to be born?


Let's Pray:

"God of strength, I need your courage.
You offer to make firm the knees that are weak. Only you know how frightened I so often am."

Amen.

Archdiocese of Toronto

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"

1 Thessalonians 16-18