

## ***Celebrating Advent***

### **Engage: Page 57**

- ▶ Together with your child, share family memories of past Advent seasons you have celebrated.
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text on page 57. Discuss the pictures. Then ask your child to turn to page 151 in his or her book and locate the season of Advent on the liturgical calendar. **Say:** *In this session we will learn about Advent—the time of year when we pray and prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus.*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Advent by thinking of a special way to show love for his or her family on each Sunday before Christmas. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### **Explore: Page 58**

- ▶ Together recall symbols of Advent that your family displays, such as the figures in a Nativity scene or an Advent calendar. **Say:** *Families have their own ways of preparing during Advent.*
- ▶ Read aloud We Prepare During Advent. **Ask:** *How can we open our hearts to make room for Jesus? (by helping others) How were Mary and Joseph faithful to God? (Mary agreed to become the mother of Jesus. Joseph agreed to marry Mary and become the foster father of Jesus.)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud We Prepare, We Remember and complete the activity. Help your child complete the third sentence.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *Jesus' birth was a sign to the world that God loves us. The story of his birth is told each year at Christmas Mass.*

### **Reflect: Page 59**

- ▶ Together sing or read aloud the lyrics to "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." **Say:** *God sent his Son, Jesus, to show us how to live and to save us from our sins.*
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Advent and What We Experience on page 59. **Ask:** *What are some items that you see in our church during Advent? (evergreen trees, poinsettias, tree with tags of children's names so that parishioners can purchase gifts) What is the color of the priest's vestments or altar cloth during Advent? (purple)*
- ▶ Have your child complete the My Advent Hymn activity and share his or her ideas with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Ask:** *Why is the arrival of Jesus so important? (It shows God's love for us.)*

### Art Exploration: Page 236

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows a family preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including the setting and the actions of the people.
- ▶ **Say:** *While we wait for the anniversary of Jesus' birth, we work to fill our hearts and actions with God's love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 236. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud Celebrating Advent. **Ask:** *What does Advent prepare us for?* (the anniversary of Jesus' birth, Christmas)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud Family Traditions. Discuss your own traditions as your child completes the activity.
- ▶ Together with your child play a memory game. **Say:** *I'm preparing myself during Advent, and I'm going to . . .* (make an Advent wreath, go to church, pray the Rosary) Take turns saying the sentence starter and then complete it with your idea. Each time you say the sentence starter, repeat the ideas mentioned prior to your new idea until your list gets too long to remember. See how many ideas you and your child can come up with.

### Respond: Page 60

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can put someone else's needs first.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.