**Our Church Celebrates Advent          Grade One**

Objective 1.2.10    Identify and experience the tradition and symbols of Advent that prepare the church for the celebration of Christmas

**Lesson 1  Learning to Wait**Objective   This lesson helps students understand that Advent signifies Waiting for Jesus

**Step 1**  Show children an egg timer and explain it's purpose.  Have them put their heads down and wait until they they think the sand has run out before they put them back up.  Then ask them how hard it was to wait for the sand to run out.  Explain that every year Christmas has a special time of waiting called Advent, in which we wait for Jesus.
**Step 2**  Discuss about waiting for Jesus and how we prepare our homes
**Step 3**  Explain to the children that one symbol of Advent is the Advent Wreath.  Use the Smart board to familiarize them with how it looks.  The site is SMART Exchange-USA-Advent Wreath.
**Step 4**  Give each child an Advent wreath picture to color.  Write the words O Lord Jesus Come on the whiteboard.  Tell them to write one word on each candle.
**Step 5**  Have them bring their pictures and gather in a circle.  Ask them to join you and say the prayer that they wrote on the candles.

**Lesson 2  Counting the Days of Advent**
Objective  This lesson helps the children to consider the length of the Advent season

**Step 1**  Watch the video The Meaning of Advent for Kids on YouTube

**Step 2**   Prepare ahead a poster board calendar of this year's Advent season.  Mark the Sundays of Advent by drawing on the correct # of candles in the squares.  Display the calendar  and point out the 4 Sundays.  Count aloud with them the number of days in Advent.  As each day passes let them take turns putting stickers on the squares.

**Step 3**  Copy the poem We Welcome Jesus on the board
Four three two one.     (Hold 4 fingers up and count down)
Count the weeks till Jesus comes    (count back up to four)
Each week we add another light      (mime lighting a candle)
Our hope for Jesus glowing bright    (cup hands in front of body then extend arms)
We pray   (fold hands)
We share   (hold hands
Have them stand in a circle and do the movements while reading the poem.

**Step 4**  Tell them they can get ready to welcome Jesus by praying, sharing, helping, and caring.  Encourage them to think of specific ways they can welcome Jesus.  Then have them draw on construction paper a picture showing how they can welcome Jesus.  Put on the CD with the song O Come O Come Emanuel while they are drawing.  Then let them share their pictures with the class.

**Lesson 3   Talking About Getting Ready**
Objective  This lesson helps the children to appreciate Advent as a time to prepare for Christmas

**Step 1**  Talk to the children about the different things they do each night before getting ready for bed.
**Step 2**  Tell them there are also things that we must do to get ready for Jesus
**Step 3**   Talk about all the things you do at your house to get ready for Christmas.  Encourage answers such as putting up a crib, decorating a tree, putting lights on house, baking, etc.
**Step 4**   Let each child draw a picture depicting one of their favorite ways to get their house ready for Jesus.
**Step 5**  Watch the video  A Christmas Story    The site is [catholiclink.com](http://catholiclink.com)

**Lesson 4  Preparing for Jesus' Birthday**
Objective  This lesson helps the children prepare for Christmas by making an Advent chain.

**Step 1**  Explain to the children how to make a chain using strips of paper, crayons, and glue.  It is helpful to pre-cut the strip ahead of time.
**Step 2**  Tell them to start their chain with 4 links.  Invite them to put their name on one link and write the words pray, share, and help on the other 3.
**Step 3**  Show them how to glue the ends together to form a circle.  Then add more links by putting them through the other link.
**Step 4**  Collect the chains and display them in the room.  Put some extra strip s nearby.
**Step 5**   Encourage them to find ways to show love during the season so that they can continue to add to their chains.
**Step 6**  Let them take their chains home for Christmas to put on their tree.
**Step 7**  Play the game Advent- true or false using 2 clothespins and a container. The site is Catholicmom.com. .This is a good way to see how much they really learned.