

# **THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE**

## **UNIT 3**

### **The Word Made Flesh (Advent)**

#### **Lesson 2**

#### **Symbols of Advent**

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### The Word Made Flesh (Advent)

#### Symbols of Advent

##### Lesson Overview

Students will discuss ways in which Advent is celebrated and participate in a church visit (if accessible) to look for signs and symbols of the Advent season.

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

##### Religious Education:

##### Grade 4:

**CL3.2:** Identify within the church, sacred space that is dedicated to the celebration of the sacraments (e.g. sanctuary, tabernacle, pulpit/ambo, sacristy, high altar, side altars, baptistery, confessional, stations of the cross, choir loft) and explain how they are connected to the signs/symbols used for the celebration, the sacred images of our faith, the sacramentals, and used in the celebration of the Liturgical seasons. [CCC nos. 1159-1171; 1179-1186; 1667-1679]

##### Grade 5:

**CL3:** Understand that the Liturgical year celebrates both the mysteries of Christ's life and memorial celebrations for the saints who are examples to us of Christ. [CCC nos. 1145-1178]

##### Grade 6:

**BL2:** Demonstrate an understanding of the Church's teaching concerning the mysteries of the hidden and public life of Jesus Christ (incarnation, suffering and death, rising

#### ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

The **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations** evident in this lesson include:

**CGE4f:** applies effective communication, decision-making, problem-solving, time and resource management skills;

**CGE5a:** works effectively as an interdependent team member;

The **Catholic Social Teachings** evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

<p>from the dead and ascending into heaven. [CCC nos. 50-73; 101-141; 422-682]</p> <p><b>Arts – Oral Communication:</b> 1. listen in order to understand and respond appropriately in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes;</p>	
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Guiding Questions (coming out of the Big Idea)	
<b>Big Idea:</b>	<p>The Liturgical seasons are marked by specific rituals, prayers, signs, images and colours which have developed throughout the Tradition of the Church and which have become part of our experience of faith in Christ as expressed in the yearly life of the Church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the Church celebrate Advent?</li> <li>• What changes take place in the physical church during the Advent season?</li> </ul>

LEARNING GOALS	
At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe ways in which Advent is celebrated</li> <li>• recognize changes in their parish church during the Advent season.</li> </ul> <p><b>Success Criteria</b>, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.</p>

INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT	
<p><b>Terminology:</b> Advent Advent wreath Advent calendar Jesse Tree Chasuble Dalmatic Stole</p>	<p><b>Materials:</b> Pens/Pencils Paper</p> <p><b>Resources:</b> Parish contact info (to book a Church visit) Appendix A: Photos of a Church During Advent Further info: Searching for Symbols of Advent (Loyola Press) <a href="http://www.loyolapress.com">www.loyolapress.com</a></p>

### MINDS ON

- Establishing a positive learning environment
- Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences
- Setting the context for learning

Discuss ways in which Advent is celebrated. Students may share some traditions such as the Advent wreath, Advent calendars, the Jesse Tree, prayer services, the liturgical colour of purple.

### ACTION

- Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning
- Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided → independent)

1. Advent Church Visit – Students will visit their school parish and will tour the church to recognize how it looks different from ordinary time. A discussion will take place for each of the symbols that are present during Advent (See Searching for Symbols of Advent – Loyola Press).  
*Planning considerations:*
  - a) Contact the parish to arrange a class visit to the church. The visit should take place after the first Sunday of Advent, so that the church will be decorated for the liturgical season.
  - b) Teachers may consider an advance tour to familiarize themselves with the symbols in the church that the students will find.
2. Prior to the visit, it is important to review appropriate church behaviour with the class. Students should be respectful and reverent, even during the activity.
3. The students may tour looking for symbols of the Advent season in small groups or as a class, depending on the needs of the group.
4. As a class, the teacher (or priest) may explain the significance of each symbol as the students find it. In small groups, the students can make a list of the symbols that they find, which will be discussed upon their return to class.
5. The following symbols can be found in most Catholic churches during Advent:  
The Advent wreath, purple banners, purple altar cloths, purple chasuble – priest, purple dalmatic – deacon, purple stole, nativity scene (inside or outside of the church), Jesse tree, and possibly other items specific to your church.

*\*Note: If it is not possible to visit a church, students may participate in this alternate activity: The teacher may share pictures of the church with students, who will be asked to recognize changes in the church (See Photos of a Church During Advent).*

	<p><b>CONSOLIDATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection</li> <li>• Helping students demonstrate what they have learned</li> </ul> <p>Review the symbols that were recognized in the church. Students may be asked if any of these symbols are present in their school (eg: Advent wreath, Jesse Tree, the colour purple). Students are reminded to look for the symbols the next time that they visit their Church, or during a School Advent Mass or celebration.</p>
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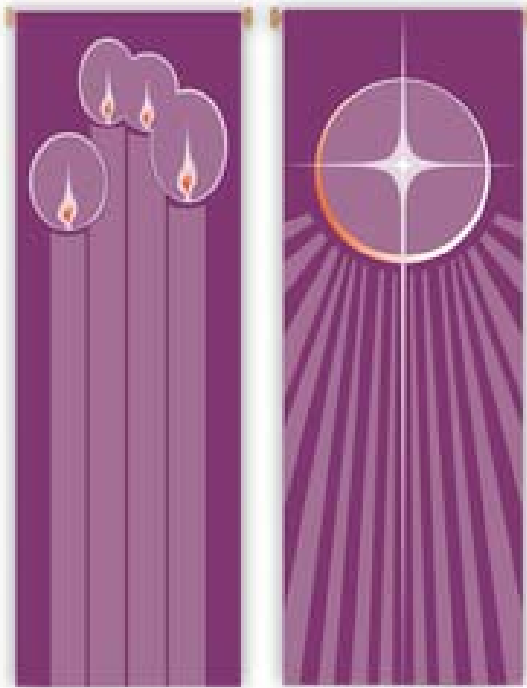
	<p><b>CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES</b></p>
	<p>Further extensions to this lesson might include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider a church visit during the Christmas season. This may be possible upon the first few days back in the New Year, dependent on the liturgical and school calendars. If this is not possible, students can be encouraged to take note of the differences in their church between Advent and Christmas.</li> <li>2. Learning about the different objects in a Catholic church (baptismal font, confessionals, ambo, tabernacle, altar, etc).</li> </ol>

**Appendix A**

**Photos of a church during Advent**

*(Alternate resource when a church is not accessible)*

**Purple Advent Banners with Advent symbols**



**Advent Wreath (2 styles)**



Altar & Ambo (with purple linens)



Jesse Tree



Lectionary or Gospel Covering



Nativity Scene (sometimes without Baby Jesus)



Chasuble (priest)



Dalmatic (deacon)



Stole

