

### Extending Activities

#### November 19, 2017 • 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Thanksgiving Activity** • Cut a 8 1/2" × 1 1/2" paper band for each child. Have each child trace one hand on construction paper and decorate it as a turkey. Cut out the turkey shape and attach the band to the back of the turkey. Staple or tape the end of the band when it is wrapped around a child's hand. The children make their turkey puppets move as they sing the Thanksgiving song:

One little, two little,  
 three little feathers,  
 Four little, five little turkey feathers,  
 Little feathers on my turkey  
 for Thanksgiving Day.  
 Thank you for the food we eat.  
 Thank you for the food we eat.  
 Thank you for the food we eat.  
 On Thanksgiving Day.

#### November 26, 2017 • Feast of Christ the King

**Thank-You Cards** • As illustrated in the discussions today, many people bless the children in your class with their love and assistance. Provide colored paper and crayons or markers. Talk about the people the children are grateful for and to whom they might give a thank-you note this Thanksgiving. As the children write and draw, go around the room, talking to them individually. This is a good opportunity to learn about the home lives of the children in your class.

#### December 3, 2017 • 1st Sunday of Advent

**Make a Paper Advent Wreath** • If you cannot have an Advent wreath of evergreen boughs and real candles, make a paper one. Trace around the children's hands on green construction paper. Cut out the hand shapes and use them to form a wreath on a bulletin board. If your class is small, the children can trace and cut out both left and right hands. Make paper candles to put on the wreath. Make the flames for the candles from red or orange paper. The children can "light" the candles by pinning the flames on the candles.

**A Christmas Gift** • Children are always thinking about the gifts they hope to receive for Christmas. Help them, instead, think about a gift they can give, a gift that comes from the heart and doesn't cost money. Discuss as a group what kind of moneyless gifts they can give. Then help individuals as they write or draw their gifts.

#### December 17, 2017 • 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Advent Countdown Chain** • The children are probably getting restless and eager for Christmas to come. Help them mark the time by making chains of colored paper to count the days until Christmas. Give each child as many slips of 6" × 2" construction paper as there are days until Christmas. Write the dates of the remaining days on one side of the strips. On the other side, have the children write the name of a person or draw a picture of a person they will pray for on each of those days. Help the children glue, tape, or staple the strips of paper into a chain, being careful to keep the dates in sequence. Each morning when they wake, they can break off a piece of the chain and say a prayer for the person or concern written there. When they break off the last piece of chain, it is Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Tree** • You probably won't have a Christmas tree in your classroom, so let the children make one. Get the largest sheet of paper or cardboard you can find and draw a Christmas tree outline on it. Provide scraps of colored paper for the children to make ornaments to glue on the tree and a star for the top. Glue the ornaments from your copy of this week's *Promise* on the tree. You can add the Nativity scene from your own copy of the *Promise* Christmas issue beneath the tree.

#### December 25, 2017 and January 7, 2018 Christmas and Epiphany

**Taking the Gospel Message Home** • The following Table Grace is meant for the children's families. If you have email addresses, scan the prayer into a Christmas greeting email. This is also a good time to remind the parents to have their children tell the Christmas story to them.

**Table Grace for Christmas** • Plan to make your Christmas gathering special by setting the table with candles and glasses for a Christmas toast. You can use both regular wine and sparkling cider or fruit juices so everyone can make the toast. Invite the oldest, youngest, and newest persons at the table to light a candle and read a part.

**Oldest:** Help us remember all we have to be thankful for since last Christmas. (*Remember new babies, newlyweds, new boy- or girlfriends, graduations, new jobs, all the big events in people's lives.*)

**Youngest:** Bless this food. Bless each of us. We welcome all to our table the same way we welcome the Christ Child to our world.

**Newest:** We pray for peace on earth. May this be a Christmas when all people will find room at the table of blessing and plenty.

**All:** Amen.

**Oldest:** Let us drink a toast. Merry Christmas!

## January 14, 2018 • 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Telephone Game** • Play this game to experience how a message gets passed along. Have the children sit in a circle, then extend their arms so their hands are on their neighbors' shoulders. They scoot back until their arms are stretched out straight on each side. This gives them enough room to lean over and pass on the secret sentence without other children overhearing it. Write out some simple sentences ahead of time, such as, "The ground is white, and the air is cold." Do not show them to the children. Whisper a sentence in the ear of the child next to you and tell him or her to pass it on. When the last child hears the sentence, he or she will tell the class what the sentence is.