

This Week at Home
Grades 1 – 8

Week 15: Monday, December 20: Getting Started

Welcome to “Getting Started”! Here’s an overview of content from your child's Religion program, *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*.

Your child is near the end of Unit 2 in the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* program. Your child has explored the many ways we are called to prepare our hearts to bring Jesus into the world through Advent and Christmas.

Christmas break begins during the last week of Advent. Students may learn the concepts presented in this document a week prior, due to the Christmas break.

All parent resources can be viewed using the following information:



 **GROWING IN FAITH** 
GROWING IN CHRIST

Our School uses the *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* program for Religious Education!

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ features a Student-Home Website with videos, songs, bible stories, prayers, interactive activities and more—all designed for students and families to explore their faith together.

Log in at:
www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home

Grades: 1-8 available!
Username: ecsd99
Password: Student99

Sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Alberta Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

Getting Started in Advent

Grade 1

[Grade 1 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

This fourth week in the Advent and Christmas unit is focused on the question “How does Jesus bring us love?” and includes the story of the nativity. It is a very busy week at school as it is for your family at home. Since Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we would encourage your family to take time on Christmas to celebrate it as you do your child’s birthday by singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus. This will help your child understand the true meaning of the day.

Grade 2

[Grade 2 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

Like the shepherds, we too are called to offer God our faithfulness, humility, and love.

Grade 3

[Grade 3 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

For our salvation, the Son of God became man by the Holy Spirit, and was born of the Virgin Mary.

Grade 4

[Grade 4 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

The birth of Jesus was the fulfilment of God’s promise to send a Saviour. Jesus Christ, the Father’s gift of love, fills us with hope and peace.

Grade 5

[Grade 5 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

The New Testament begins with the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The four Evangelists tell the Good News of the life of Jesus and the redemption that He accomplishes for our sake. The Father sent Jesus as the New Covenant to be our Messiah and Saviour, just as He promised in the Old Testament. The Sacred Traditions and rituals of Advent and Christmas unite us in faith to celebrate the Good News of a merciful God and His generous Son.

Grade 6

[Grade 6 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

God places the desire to be in relationship with Him through prayer in every human heart. Therefore, we are called to raise our minds and our hearts to God in prayer at all times. We pray to be delivered from evil, for the grace to persevere in our faith and good works, and for the gift of peace in our hearts and in our world. Prayers are usually vocal, meditative, or contemplative; they can be formal or spontaneous, and they can be enriched by reading Scripture or reflecting on sacred imagery. We must learn to take time to pray, and to do so with humility, trust, and perseverance.

During Advent, we pray *Maranatha*, which means “Come Lord Jesus” as we prepare our hearts to encounter Him as His faithful disciples.

Explore how Advent prayer helps us to deepen our relationship with God and how it brings us peace.

Grade 7

[Grade 7 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

People whom the Church can testify have attained Heaven are canonized as saints. They are witnesses to a life of holiness, and they serve as role models of a life lived in Christ. Through their prayers, writing, and example, they teach us to know, love, and serve God. Since they are humans with no power of their own, they depend entirely on Jesus to answer their intercessions for us and for the whole world.

Vatican II taught us that we are all called to be holy. Holiness is living the Christian life and the perfection of Christian love to the fullest. To achieve this, we must devote ourselves totally to live for the glory of God and in service to our neighbour. Our own growth in holiness causes a growth in the holiness of all the People of God.

Grade 8

[Grade 8 Advent Resources Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ](#)

During the liturgical year, the Church honours the Mother of God, who is joined to the saving work of her Son and the memory of the martyrs and the other saints. Mary “stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from Him” (Lumen Gentium 55). Mary is the first disciple and our spiritual Mother in the Universal Church. Everything she says and does, and everything the Church teaches about her, further enlightens our faith and understanding of Christ. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Mary becomes the perfect model of faithfulness and love for the Church.

With the words of her Magnificat (Luke 1:46–55), Mary accepts, on behalf of all humanity, the One sent by the Father to be the Saviour of humankind. These words proclaim the advent of the mystery of salvation and speak to the coming of a Messiah, as prophesied in Isaiah (see Isaiah 61). The fact that Jesus was born in a stable to parents who were experiencing poverty, and revealed first to meek shepherds, shows much about the role of humility in preparing ourselves to enter the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus celebrated the joy of those who were experiencing poverty and those who were humble, who must totally rely on and trust in God’s Providence. He called us to be poor in spirit, gentle, meek, and humble, which will lead to a world order that is filled with justice, love, and peace. This is the kingdom of God coming to fruition.