

# ICCS-EM and ICCG-E tool for the Advent 2017



## Introduction to the Advent 2017



*Advent (from the Latin word Adventus, meaning "Coming") is considered to be the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in the Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec 24). If Christmas Eve is a Sunday, it is counted as the fourth Sunday of Advent, with Christmas Eve proper beginning at sundown.*

*The season is for most Christians one of anticipation and hope, although at its beginnings the emphasis was much more on penitence, fasting and sin. For most Christians it is not just a celebration of a moment in time when a baby was born, but also looks beyond to a time when the Bible tells us that Jesus will come again, not as a weak and vulnerable baby but in power and with authority. The traditional Scripture readings for this time emphasize both the First and Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and our accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment on sin and the hope of eternal life.*

*As Catholics Scouts & Guides our Logo is to be prepared we have to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord Jesus by meditation, Reading, Praying & Fasting and by our Scout Way & Promise to serve People we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus.*

*Activity: Decorate a message jar; on each day of December until Christmas, write down something you're grateful for and put them in the jar.*



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Week One

Always Watch

Sunday 3.12. 2017, Evangelium: Mk 13: 33-37

## Let us Watch as the Doorkeeper

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Mk 13,33.

### **The doorkeeper must keep alert throughout the watches of the night.**

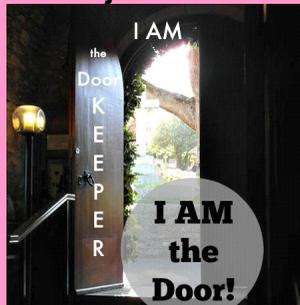
We as scouts and guides should be special doorkeepers and serve to the others as well.

One moment's sleep might give an intruder the opportunity to sneak in, or the master might return and charge him with dereliction of duty. Especially during the Advent period, we are as doorkeepers, awaiting Jesus to come.

Jesus' warnings affirm that only those who are valiant under fire and vigilant during the delay will be vindicated in the end. We are to work faithfully because the Master will return; we are to work with assurance because it is the Master who returns.

Christians can be assured of two things: that the coming of the Lord is certain and that it will occur someday. Looking for premonitory signs can only agitate Christians, sidetrack them from the important business at hand, or become simply a cerebral amusement.

**If one loses any sense of expectation one becomes like the doorkeeper who falls asleep on the job.**



## **Activity:**

On this first Advent Sunday, we propose you to create two oil lamps. The first one to light while reading and praying the Gospel each day, when you feel most comfortable. The second one to make a present.

To always be prepared.

## **To make the oil lamp :**

- Take a small cup with a lid
- Drill a little hole in the lid of the cup, to pass the wick through
- Fill the cup with the special oil for oil lamps or sunflower oil, while leaving 1/3 of the cup empty
- Light the wick



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Week Two

Always Prepare

Sunday 10.12.2017, Evangelium: Mk 1: 1-8

**A Voice cries out:**

**“In the Wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”**

**Isaiah 40:1-11:**

Three prophecies declare the hope of God's coming to rescue the exiles from captivity. In verses 1-4, a voice is to cry out "Prepare God's way" as a highway forms across the desert from Babylon to Judea. In verses 5-8, a second cry announces human ephemerality and the eternity of God's word. In verses 9-11, whoever may still be keeping some sort of watch in Jerusalem, a city still in ruins, is called to declare from the highest height the victory of God bringing the exiles home and sustaining them.

**Mk 1: 1-8**

The gospel begins with the ministry of John the Baptizer, calling all to repentance and baptism for forgiveness to get ready for the kingdom of the one to come, the one who baptizes not simply with water, but with the Holy Spirit, as scouts & Guides we used to live in the wilderness not only to call people to prepare the way of Lord but even to meet the Lord in the wilderness & in his perfect creatures.

**Activity:**

Prepare a Reconciliation Meditation for the Group with Prayers & Songs (or use the “Guide of confession”



## A Guide for Confession

The basic requirement for a good confession is to have the intention of returning to God like the "prodigal son" and to acknowledge our sins with true sorrow before the priest.

### Sin in my Life

Modern society has lost a sense of sin. As a Catholic follower of Christ, I must make an effort to recognize sin in my daily actions, words and omissions.

The Gospels show how important is the forgiveness of our sins. Lives of saints prove that the person who grows in holiness has a stronger sense of sin, sorrow for sins, and a need for the Sacrament of Penance or Confession

### The Differences in Sin

As a result of Original Sin, human nature is weakened. Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, takes away Original Sin, and turns us back toward God. The consequences of this weakness and the inclination to evil persist, and we often commit personal or actual sin.

Actual sin is sin which people commit. There are two kinds of actual sin, mortal and venial.

Mortal sin is a deadly offense against God, so horrible that it destroys the life of grace in the soul. Three simultaneous conditions must be fulfilled for a mortal sin: 1) the act must be something very serious; 2) the person must have sufficient understanding of what is being done; 3) the person must have sufficient freedom of the will.

### Remember

If you need help-especially if you have been away for some time-simply ask the priest and he will help you by "walking" you through the steps to make a good confession.

### Before Confession

Be truly sorry for your sins. The essential act of Penance, on the part of the penitent, is contrition, a clear and decisive rejection of the sin committed, together with a resolution not to commit it again, out of the love one has for God and which is reborn with repentance. The resolution to avoid committing these sins in the future (amendment) is a sure sign that your sorrow is genuine and authentic. This does not mean that a promise never to fall again into sin is necessary. A resolution to try to avoid the near occasions of sin suffices for true repentance. God's grace in cooperation with the intention to rectify your life will give you the strength to resist and overcome temptation in the future.

### Examination of Conscience

Before going to Confession you should make a review of mortal and venial sins since your last sacramental confession, and should express sorrow for sins, hatred for sins and a firm resolution not to sin again.

## During Confession

After examining your conscience and telling God of your sorrow, go into the confessional. You may kneel at the screen or sit to talk face-to-face with the priest.

Begin your confession with the sign of the cross, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. My last confession was \_\_\_\_\_ weeks (months, years) ago."

The priest may read a passage from holy Scripture.

Say the sins that you remember. Start with the one(s) that is most difficult to say. (In order to make a good confession the faithful must confess all mortal sins, according to kind and number.) After confessing all the sins you remember since your last good confession, you may conclude by saying, "I am sorry for these and all the sins of my past life."

Listen to the words of the priest. He will assign you some penance. Doing the penance will diminish the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven. When invited, express some prayer of sorrow or Act of Contrition such as:

### An Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. But most of all because I have offended you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.

### At the End of Confession

Listen to the words of absolution, the sacramental forgiveness of the Church through the ordained priest.

As you listen to the words of forgiveness you may make the sign of the cross with the priest. If he closes by saying, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good," answer, "For His mercy endures forever."

### After Confession

Give thanks to God for forgiving you again. If you recall some serious sin you forgot to tell, rest assured that it has been forgiven with the others, but be sure to confess it in your next Confession. Do your assigned Penance.

Resolve to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. We Catholics are fortunate to have the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is the ordinary way for us to have our sins forgiven. This sacrament is a powerful help to get rid of our weaknesses, grow in holiness, and lead a balanced and virtuous life.



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Week Three

Always Proclaim

Sunday 17.12.2017, Evangelium: Jn 1: 6-8.19-28

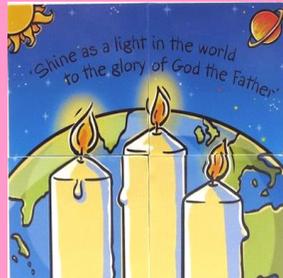
**"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; to proclaim liberty to the captive and release to the prisoners..."**  
IS 61:1-2A

## ***John is sent to proclaim that Jesus is the Light***

Does John see himself as a figure in some way calling Israel to justice? Is he putting the nation on notice because God is about to intervene?

John first denies that he is "the Christ." and after identifies who he is. He is "a voice". He does not elevate himself as having a stature of importance and never identifies his own name. He is a tool in God's hand, pointing to Another on the horizon.

The promise on the horizon is not a new religion but a person, the "Light". Untying a sandal thong was a chore never done by disciples for their teacher. Rather, it was a chore reserved for slaves. John says he is unworthy even to do the work of a slave for this One - the Light who is coming. This is the measure of Jesus' greatness. **Let us proclaim it as John did.** We as scouts and guides can do it very easily by showing our way of life, doing the service and at least one good deed in a day.



**Activity 1:** Gather all the participants in a circle and give them each an unlit candle. Explain that it is simply, and unlit candle, doing nothing, producing nothing. Use the candle as a metaphor for their own "lights."

If you are able, turn the lights off so that the room is fairly dark. Light one person's candle and pass the light along. This is showing how they share their "lights." Explain that when the flame flickers, the wax melts, the smoke rises, and the area is illuminated – this represents us. When our "flames are lit," we shine for others. When the candle is not lit, it is useless. But when it is lit, as we should be LIT UP, it produces action. Our lights are better when shared with the world, giving inspiration, light, etc... to others.

You can sing the song: "This little light of Mine"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCN893hzueQ>

## **Activity 2: The Light of the World**

What you need :

- Prepared pieces with activities in a hat ( suggestions are below)

BE THE LIGHT ACTIVITY SLIPS

Do 10 Jumping Jacks

Sing or Hum, "Happy Birthday to You" while running around the room.

Give each person a high five.

Pretend to be a Monkey for 15 seconds.

Shake hands with your friend

Sing song you like in a whisper.

Spin around in a circle 7 times.

Do "The Wave."

Jump up and down 10 times, then yawn and say, "I'm tired."

Clap your hands six times, touch two walls, and then say, "Jesus is the Light!"

Activity :

Choose a volunteer—This volunteer will reach in the hat and pull out a slip of paper. The slip of paper will instruct this scout or guide what to do. He or she will be the "Light," showing everyone else what to do. The Light may not speak (unless the instructions say so) but should lead everyone in accomplishing what is written. Once you, as leader, see that the instructions have been followed, tell everyone to give him/her a hand, then point to someone else and say, "Be the Light." They'll come forward and thus the game continues. If a kid doesn't want to lead, don't make them, but let everyone who wants to go have that opportunity. (For an even greater challenge, set up with another scout group or even unit a fun competition, where, after doing this game, the two meet together. Each group forms a line. On "Go" the first person races down and shows everyone else on his team what to do. Everyone else on his team does the action and he races back and tags the next person, and so forth, until all the challenges are complete.)

After that make a small circle and reflect on this activity

Suggested questions:

What was hard about being the Light?

What was fun about being the Light?

Did anyone feel embarrassed about being the Light? Why?

Was anyone concerned about looking silly or foolish? Why?

Conclusion :

It can be hard to be a light. But when we shine Jesus' love to our friends, we're doing the best thing we can, which is showing someone about Jesus. By being a light Jesus isn't asking you to do silly things, like what we did in our game. Jesus wants you to bring hope, courage, and joy to people. He wants you to follow God's Word and tell everyone that Jesus saves us.



# ICCS-EM and ICCG-E tool for the Advent 2017



## Week Four Always Rejoice

Sunday 24.12.2017, Evangelium: Lk 1: 26 - 38

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to Your Word."

### 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Nathan brings good news and a reality check to David. The good news: God intends to establish David's lineage permanently, though conditionally. The reality: God has been present with God's people by being in their midst as they have traveled (the tabernacle, or in Christian theological terms, "incarnation"), so God has no need for David to build a temple.

### Lk 1: 26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will become pregnant by God and bear the Son of the Most High whose throne will be eternal. She consents. Do we?

As Scouts & Guides we previously said I do in our promise so let's remember our promise & be always doing our Duty to God & do his will with Rejoice.



**Activity:** Bake some Cookies & share it with Children's to rejoice them. (Recipe Below)

Soft cut out sugar cookie recipe that keeps its shape and dough does not need to be chilled before baking- perfect edges every time!  
38 minutes

### **Ingredients**

Vegetarian

· Makes 3 dozen cookies

### **Refrigerated**

1 Egg

### **Baking & Spices**

- 3 cups All purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp Almond extract
- 2 tsp Baking powder
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- 1 cup White sugar, granulated

### **Dairy**

- 1 cup Butter, unsa

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/227291112421869288/?lp=true>



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Christmas Eve

Always Glorify

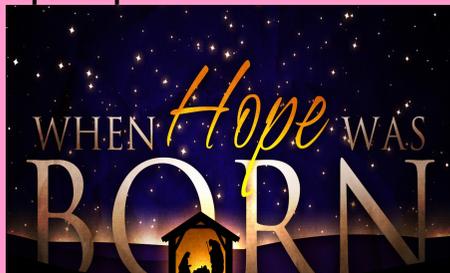
Sunday 24.12.2017, Evangelium: Lk 1: 26-38

**"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."**

### ***Joseph glorifies the new-born Messiah***

"Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary." In the situation of finding his betrothed wife pregnant, Joseph knows he is not the father. He wanted to release her but once the angelic announcement is made to him, Joseph is immediately obedient and takes the lead in carrying out the angel's instructions. Joseph conducts himself as an obedient leader in his marriage and family and as a godly man throughout. Obedience to God is Joseph's way to glorify the new-born Messiah.

To be obedient to God and glorify his holy name is to acknowledge that Jesus is our king. **In Jesus, God is now with us personally as our Savior. This is the heart of a personal relationship of Jesus with us that is building a unique form of discipleship.**



**Activity:** Write the word CH-R-I-S-T-M-A-S on a page. Ask the others to write to each letter of the word what does Christmas and glory of the birth of Jesus mean to them (example: CH - charity, R-rejoice, S-Shepherd etc.). After short time, you can share the thoughts in the group and explain each word.