

# Year C - Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Luke 1:39-45

### Preparing the Manger



## Overview

- One of the ways we can help prepare our hearts for Christmas is to prepare a space for Jesus. Laying straw in a manger can help children think about the infant Jesus who will soon be placed in that space and how Mary and Joseph helped prepare the manger. In our lives today there are things we can do to make our own hearts a place for Jesus to reside.

## Option 1: Preparing the Manger

- Set up a nativity scene with a manger large enough for the children to add to. Have three bowls of straw available (you could use three different coloured bowls or use different coloured straw or different coloured paper straws available).
- Each bowl represents a different prayer:
  - a. Things to thank God for
  - b. Things to say sorry for
  - c. Things to ask God for
- Invite the children to collect straw from as many bowls as they want and as they do to think of something for each one, as they lay the straw in the manger ask them to think of it like they are giving them to God.
- Explain to the children that very soon, Jesus will be laid in the manger. Christmas is a time we remember Jesus came into the world, it's a time we remember to invite Jesus into our hearts and we do that by praying like we have today.

## Option 2: Hail Mary

Using the prayer cards on the following page, teach the children the Hail Mary prayer and pray it with the children.



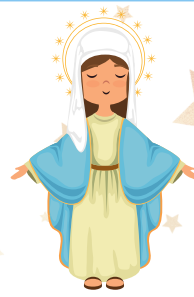


Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen



Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
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Amen

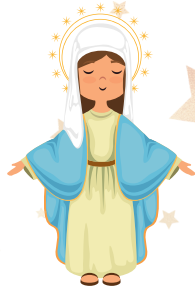


Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen

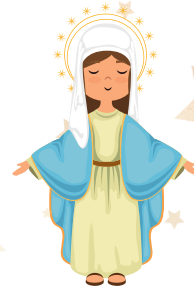


Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen

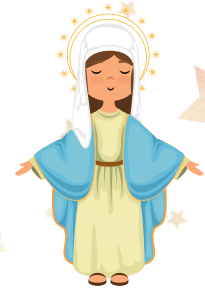


Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen



Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen

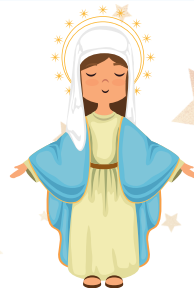


Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen

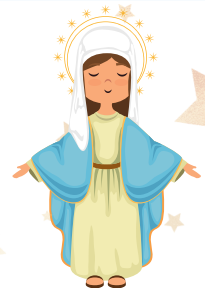


Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen



Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb  
Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.

Amen



Hail Mary full of Grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your  
womb Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now  
and at the hour of death.  
Amen