

# good news

Family Connect Newsletter  
Week of December 17-23  
Preparing for December 24,  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

[Click for Sunday's Readings](#)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 23-24  
Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

## Parent Connect

Thoughts on Luke 1:26-38

John was sent to prepare the way of the Lord. In this lesson we learn how the Lord will come among his people. As the prophet foretold (Isaiah 7:14), God himself will come as a child born of a virgin, a child who will be called Immanuel, which means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

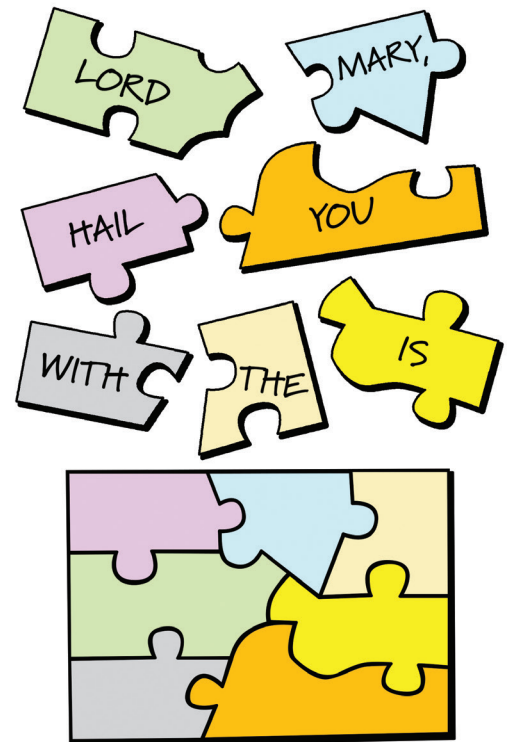
The angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will have a son. That son will be John, who will prepare the way of the Lord. When Elizabeth becomes pregnant, she stays hidden at home for five months, perhaps to shelter the coming child from harm. In the sixth month (Luke 1:26) of Elizabeth's pregnancy Gabriel is sent to earth again to announce another birth. This time the angel is sent to a virgin named Mary in the town of Nazareth. Mary is betrothed to a man named Joseph, a descendant of the great King David. Betrothal was a serious form of engagement before marriage. The man and woman were promised to each other and considered husband and wife, although they did not yet live together.

When Gabriel tells Mary she will give birth to a son, Mary rightly wonders, "How will this be?" She is an unmarried virgin! She is faithful to Joseph and faithful to the laws of God. How could she become pregnant? The angel answers, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." The coming child will be Mary's son and the Son of God! Mary is to name her son Jesus, a name that means "salvation" or "God saves." It's the perfect name for Mary's baby! Mary responds in faith to this astounding news: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."



## Full of Grace

Unscramble the words of the angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary. Which words did he say? Don't be puzzled! Just put together the pieces below.



Read Luke 1:26-38 for the whole story.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saturday, December 23

**St. John Kanty**

1390-1473

St. John St. John of Kanty was born in Kanty, Poland, and attended the University of Krakow. As a gifted physicist, he gained a reputation for being an excellent university professor. His work in the field of physics anticipated the great work of Galileo and

Newton. He was ordained a priest and earned notability as a scripture scholar. Beyond his academic work, St. John was well known for his generous spirit of giving to the poor while he sustained himself on only the basic necessities.

## Let's Talk Around the Table!

- Discuss how it feels when we know a new baby is coming to a family. What questions do children ask their mothers?
- Who gave Jesus his name? Who/what determined the names of your family members?
- Who gave John the Baptist his name? (an angel) In the Bible, special babies are sometimes given their names through God's special messengers, the angels.



## Pray Today!

Lord God, thank you for your good will toward me and all people who need your Son as our Savior and friend.