

## HS RCIA Lesson 4: Wed, Dec 6: Advent

Link: <https://bit.ly/3RtBg4g>

### Prayer: **Feast Day of St. Nicholas**

- Not Santa Claus
- Changed by Luther because of anti-Catholicism (veneration of saints)
- “Heretics Fight Club”

### Warmup:

- List three of your favorite “Jesus stories” and be prepared to discuss why

### Review of Last two weeks’ homework:

Week 2: Using the “two wings” of the Gifts of Reason and Faith, ***When has God revealed himself to you this week?*** Examples:

Reason: the sun rose this morning; a deliberate decision to do right or not do wrong

Faith: seeing God in somebody; the Eucharist; overcoming temptation via prayer

Week 3: **Reflect and be prepared to discuss how you participate in the sacrifice of Christ at Mass**

### Lesson 3 (Nov 29) to complete:

1. Covenant
2. Sacrifice
3. Christ’s sacrifice

### This week’s homework:

1. Identify one or two parts of the Mass that speak/s the most to you
  2. Optional Symbolon video [The Story of Salvation: Creation, Fall, & Redemption](#) (here for [full version](#))
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## I. **Liturgical Calendar:** see handout

- handout “Liturgical Year”
- see also:
  - [Liturgical Year and Calendar | USCCB](#)
  - [LITURGICAL CALENDAR \(usccb.org\)](#)

## II. **Advent**

- The “Jesse Tree” tradition
  - [Isaiah 11:1](#):  
“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump\* of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.”
- Images:
  - [Tree of Jesse by Greek Orthodox “iconographer](#)
  - [Tree of Jesse by Hans Holbein \(1501\)](#)
- Celebrate Jesse Tree website: [The Jesse Tree: A Guide to the Advent Tradition | Faithward.org](#)
- The Last Judgment ([CCC 1038](#))
- “The Mystery of Christ’s Birth”: [CCC 522](#) and [523](#)

### III. Birth of Christ

- December 25
  - Jewish and early Church tradition holds that prophets/ saints were born 9 months after their death
  - i.e., their death is the date of conception
- the Hypostatic Union: the God-man
- St. Anselm "[Cur Deus Homo?](#)" pp. 66-67
  - Man cannot pay the debt of sin
  - God does not owe

### IV. Review of major points

- Sin
- Thoughtful prayer
- Senses of Scripture
- The Mass
- Trinity
- Jesus' clarification of the Ten Commandments