***Family Advent: Week 2***

*Dear OLG Families, if you haven’t yet picked-up one of the small booklets in the back of the church after mass, please feel free to use this as a bit of a guide for prayers at your family table! As we enter our second week of Advent in our school, we focus this week on* **Peace.** *Our reading reminds us that before Jesus came, people were preparing…*

***Light 2 Candles (2 purple)***

**Leader**: God, come to my assistance.

*All*:  Lord, make haste to help me.

**Leader**: Lord, Open my lips.

*All*: And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

**Leader**: Come, let us sing to the Lord

and shout with joy to the Rock who saves us.

Let us approach him with praise and thanksgiving

and sing joyful songs to the Lord.

*All*: Come, let us worship the Lord.

**Leader**: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

*All*:   as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

**Leader***:* A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

*All*: Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader**:

For fifteen years Emperor Tiberius had ruled that part of the world, and Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests. At that time God spoke to Zechariah’s son John, who was living in the desert.

So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, “Turn back to God and be baptized!
Then your sins will be forgiven.” Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said,

“In the desert someone is shouting,
‘Get the road ready for the Lord!
Make a straight path for him!
Fill up every valley and level every mountain and hill. Straighten the crooked paths and smooth out the rough roads.
Then everyone will see the saving power of God.’”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

*All*: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In our reading today, we hear John telling the people to “Turn back to God!” John the Baptist was getting the people ready for Jesus by baptizing them with water. John reminds us that we need to really think and pray about our relationship with Jesus. Are we feeling close to Jesus right now? Or are there things that are making our hearts feel heavy…things we need to ask forgiveness for…unloving choices that we have made that are keeping our hearts from being close to Jesus? John reminds us that all we have to do is ask Jesus to forgive us, and He will…every time.

In this 2nd week of Advent, our candle represents Peace. Let’s each name one thing we need to do to make our hearts more peaceful. (Ask forgiveness? Show kindness to someone? Forgive someone else?) Then, let’s think of one way our family can spread that Peace to others this week (giving a hug/smile, using kind words, helping people in need).

Using the words Jesus gave us, we ask God to be with us in a special way as we spread Peace in our world this week. Our Father…. Amen.