CatholicCulture.org Presents:



The Jesse Tree
Advent 2026

by Jennifer Gregory Miller (editor)

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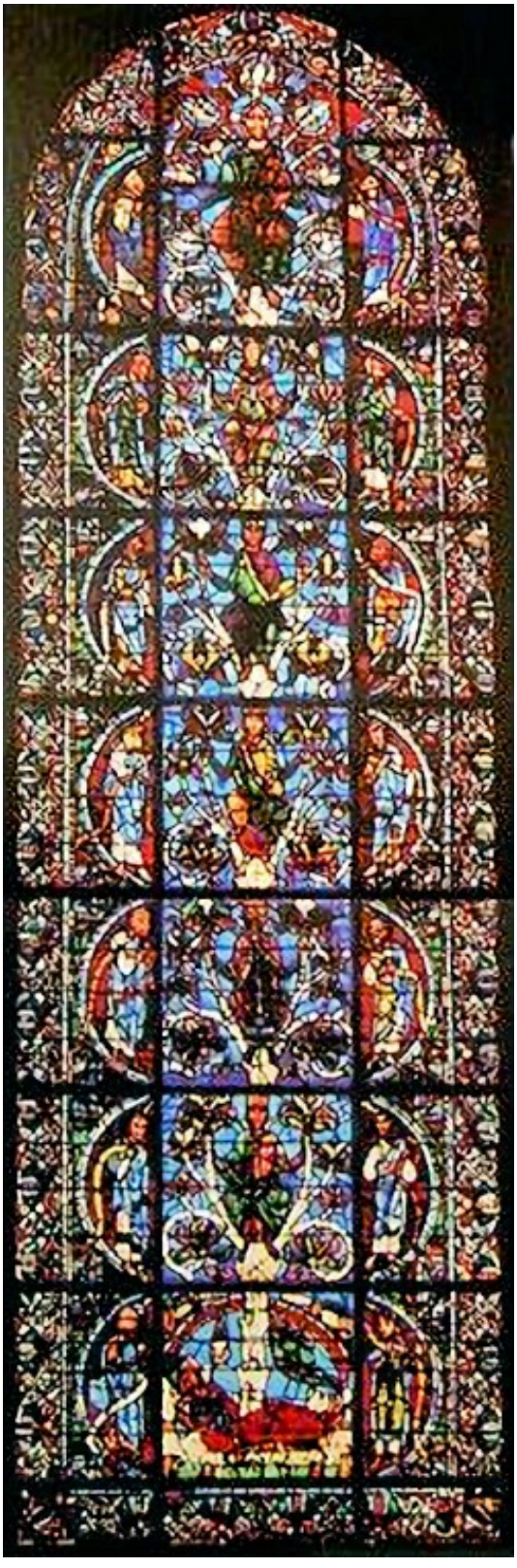
Artwork: *Jesse of the green legs*, 14th century Manuscript
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Catholic Culture's Jesse Tree Overview

by Jennifer Gregory Miller



Isaiah 11:1-3a contains the Messianic Prophecy of the origins of the Messiah:

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

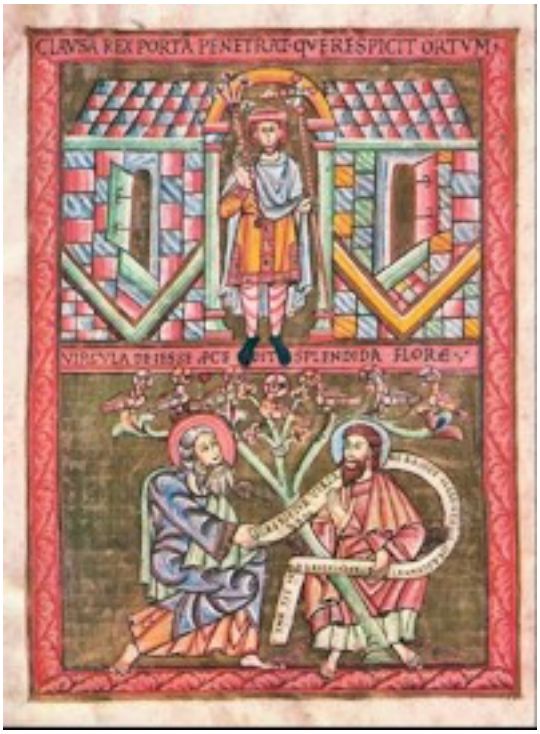
Artistic Expressions

Translations vary for "the stump of Jesse"; it has also been referred to as the rod, root or stem of Jesse. Isaiah's passage and the genealogy of Jesus as found in the Gospels of Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23–38 are the main inspiration for art depicting Jesus' family tree. The earliest example can be found in a manuscript from the 11th century, but there are multiple examples of interpretation and depicted in different media (manuscripts, paintings, wood carvings, stone carvings, stained glass, etc.) through the centuries. Jesse is usually depicted as reclining at the base of the image, with vines or branches or stems coming from his "root" and all the different ancestors of Christ depicted, sometimes with other key "players" included, such as different prophets of the Old Testament, with Jesus shown as the flower of Jesse.

During the Middle Ages there was another

development in religious art, often referred to as "Mystery Plays"—drama that depicted various Biblical accounts or lives of the saints. For many years these plays were performed in churches as part of the liturgical celebrations, but then moved to other venues. One such play was based on the account in the Book of Genesis of the fall of Adam and Eve. The "Tree of Life" used during the play was decorated with apples, and also bread for the manna. (This might be the original inspiration for the modern Christmas tree.)

Beginning an Advent Devotion



Beginning in the 20th century developed a prayerful tradition of the "Jesse Tree" using the inspiration of the art of the Jesse Tree and the Mystery Play's Tree of Life. Within this practice there is a wide range of interpretation of which figures to include in the Jesse Tree. Some choices are very literal and only use the family line of Jesus, others include salvation history with key biblical figures, including prophets, and still others incorporating events and typology and symbols not always connected with a certain person. Each day a person or type of Christ is pondered, sometimes accompanied with Scripture readings and prayers, and an ornament with the symbols is hung on the Jesse Tree. The "tree" can be a real or artificial tree, a tree branch, a felt or quilted fabric hanging, a jewelry tree, dowels and rods, a poster, etc.

Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle on November 30, and always includes four Sundays. This means the earliest Advent can begin is November 27, or as late as December 3. It all depends on what day of the week Christmas falls. If Christmas is on a Sunday, that is the longest possible Advent of 28 days. Christmas on a Monday means the shortest Advent of only 22 days.

Catholic Culture's Jesse Tree

Catholic Culture's Jesse Tree is expanded to include 28 days for the longest length of Advent (November 27-December 24). This list is a combination of both the genealogy of Christ, several prophets, and also some of the key figures of salvation history. The O Antiphons which begin on December 17 will now be simultaneously presented with the Jesse Tree.

Advent 2026 is 26 days, so Day 5 is a combination of both Abraham and Sarah (marked as

5a and 5b), and Days 11 Joshua and 12 Samuel are combined as 11a and 11b. The table below has asterisks next to the names that could be combined in other shorter Advents.

There are also two additional pages for substitutes, Option 1--The Annunciation and Option 2--The Visitation.

There is no set program for the Jesse Tree done as an Advent devotion. It can be as simple as adding the Jesse Tree figure and the short Scripture quote to personal prayer and meditation or it can be more elaborate with a "tree" with symbols made into ornaments, a prayer service that includes reading a short Scripture quote. It can be a personal, family, or even school or larger community devotion. There is a Jesse Tree Prayer Service that could be a model for your own family Jesse Tree devotion.

For further reading and meditation, there are suggested Scripture readings and links to sections in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* that are related to each Jesse Tree figure.

For further information regarding the Jesse Tree, see my posts:

- The Jesse Tree, Part 1: Relating the Old Testament to Children
- The Jesse Tree, Part 2: Finding the Essential for the Family
- The Jesse Tree Redux

The following table contains all the Jesse Tree figures with the corresponding day, the symbols and the scripture references.

The Jesse Tree on CatholicCulture.org

Day	Jesse Tree Figure	Symbol	Scripture
Day 1 (Nov 29)	**Creation**	Sun, Moon, Stars, Earth	Genesis 1-2
Day 2 (Nov 30)	**Adam and Eve**	Tree, Man and Woman	Genesis 2:7-9; 18-24
Day 3 (Dec 1)	**Fall of Man**	Tree with Fruit, Apple, Apple or Fruit with bite out of it	Genesis 3:1-7, 9, 14-29, 23-24
Day 4 (Dec 2)	**Noah**	Ark, animals, dove with branch, rainbow	Genesis 6:5-8; 7:11-16; 8:15-16; 9:12-13
Day 5a (Dec 3)	***Abraham**	Torch, Sword, Mountain, Tent, Stars	Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-6; 17:4-6; 21:3-5; Isaiah 51:2; Hebrews 11:8; Romans 4:19
***Day 5b** (Dec 3)	***Sarah**	baby cradle, outline of woman, crown, stars	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-17; Isaiah 51:2; Hebrews 11:11; 1 Peter 3:6; Romans 4:19; Galatians 4:21-31
Day 6 (Dec 4)	**Melchizedek**	Bread and Wine	Genesis 14:17-20; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:5-6; 7:1-28
Day 7 (Dec 5)	**Isaac**	Bundle of Wood, Ram	Genesis 22:1-19; 26:1-5

Day	Jesse Tree Figure	Symbol	Scripture
Day 8 (Dec 6)	**Jacob**	Ladder	Gen. 25:19-34; 27:1-40; 28:10-22; 32:23-33
Day 9 (Dec 7)	**Joseph**	Coat of many Colors, Coat with long sleeves, Sheaf, Silver Coins, Bag with Silver Coins	Genesis 37:3-4, 12-24, 28; 45:3-13
Day 10 (Dec 8)	***Moses**	Baby in Basket, Stone Tablets, Burning Bush, Red Sea, Cloud, Manna, Ark of the Covenant	Exodus 2:1-10, 2: 23-25--3:1-20; Exodus 31:16-18
Day 11a (Dec 9)	***Joshua**	Sword and Trumpet	Joshua 6:1-20
Day 11b (Dec 9)	***Samuel**	Lamp, Temple, Horn with Oil	1 Samuel 1:9-28; 3:1-21; 16:1-13
Day 12 (Dec 10)	***Ruth**	Sheaves of Grain	Ruth 1:1-10, 16-19; 2:1-17; 4:10, 17, 22
Day 13 (Dec 11)	**Jesse**	Crimson Robe, Shepherd's Staff	1 Samuel 16:1-13, 18-22; Isaiah 11:1
Day 14 (Dec 12)	**King David**	Six-Pointed Star, Slingshot and 4 Stones, Harp, Crown, Key	1 Samuel 11:1-17; 17:12-51; 2 Samuel 5:3-4; 12:1-7;
Day 15 (Dec 13)	**King Solomon**	Scales of Justice, Temple, Crown	1 Kings 3:5-14, 16-28; 5:1-15; 8:14-21; 10:1-13

Day	Jesse Tree Figure	Symbol	Scripture
Day 16 (Dec 14)	***Elijah**	Raven, Fire and Altar	1 Kings 17:2-6; 17:9-24; 18; 17-18:21-39; 19:11-13; 2 Kings 2:1, 8-14; Matthew 17:1-13
Day 17 (Dec 15)	***Jonah**	Whale	Jonah 1:11-15; 2:1-16; 3:1-16; Matthew 12:39-41; Matthew 16:4; Luke 11:29-31
Day 18 (Dec 16)	***Judith**	Scale of Justice, Temple, Crown, Sword	Judith 13:1-28
Day 19 (Dec 17)	**Isaiah**	Burning Coal, scroll, tree stump	Isaiah 6:5-8; 7:1, 14; 11:1-3a, 6-9; 40:3-5, 10-11; 60: 3-9; 62:1-3
Day 20 (Dec 18)	**Micah**	small building or city (of Bethlehem)	Micah 5:1-4a; Matthew 2:1-12
Day 21 (Dec 19)	***Daniel**	Lions	Daniel 1, 2, 4, 6, 13, 14
Day 22 (Dec 20)	***Zechariah**	censor or thurible, tablet	Luke 1:5-25; 57-80
Day 23 (Dec 21)	***Elizabeth**	small house	Luke 1:36, 39-57
Day 24 (Dec 22)	**St. Joseph**	Carpenter Tools: Carpenter's Square, saw	Matthew 1:1-17; Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:22-38; Matthew 2:13-15; Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:41-52

Day	Jesse Tree Figure	Symbol	Scripture
Day 25 (Dec 23)	**Mary**	Lily, Crown of Stars	Genesis 3:15; Song 4:7; Sirach 24:20-21; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Revelation 12
Day 26 (Dec 24)	**St. John the Baptist**	Shell, camel hair, grasshopper, sandal, river	Matthew 3:1-12; Matthew 11:2-15; Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; John 1:6-13

In addition, there are two extra pages. The Annunciation and the Visitation could be used to substitute any of the current Jesse Tree figures.

Day	Jesse Tree Figure	Symbol	Scripture
Option 1:	**The Annunciation**	lily; fleur de lis; book; Angel	Luke 1:26-38; Song of Songs 2:10-14; 4:7, Sirach 24:13-19; Isaiah 7:14; Revelation 12
Option 2	**The Visitation**	Our Lady's Slipper	Luke 1:39-47; Luke 7:28; Genesis 18:14; Songs 2:8-14

Jesse Tree, Day 1 - Creation



Symbols: Sun, Moon, Stars, Earth

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and a mighty wind sweeping over the waters. Then God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. (Genesis 1:1-4)

During this Advent season, we review God's covenant with us, our salvation history. The Jesse Tree is a way of meditating on God's promise of a Savior. We begin with Creation, the birth of life, beginning of time.

In the creation of world and man, God gave the first and universal witness to His almighty love and His wisdom, the first proclamation of the "plan of His loving goodness," which finds its goal in the new creation of Christ.

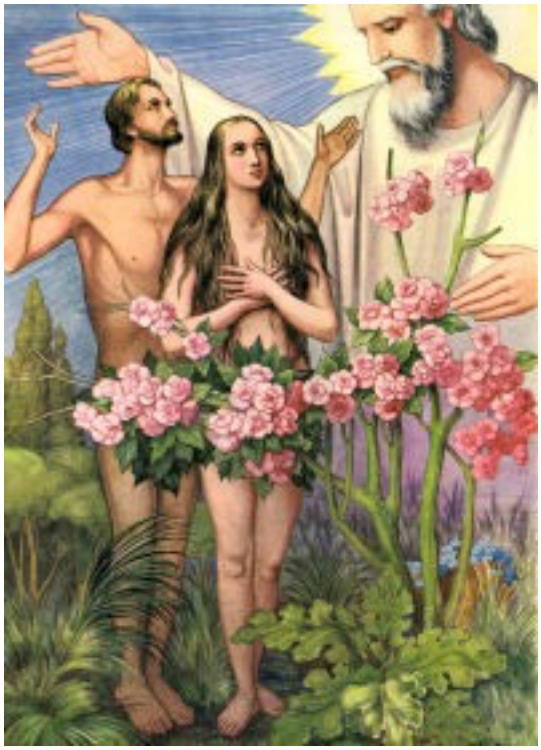
Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 1-2

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 279-314 Catechesis on Creation
- CCC 1145-1148 Signs and Symbols in Liturgy
- CCC 345-349 The Sabbath- - the end of the work of the six days

Jesse Tree, Day 2 - Adam and Eve



Symbols: Tree, Man and Woman

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. (Genesis 2:26-28)

Adam and Eve are the first ancestors of the human race. Christ is called the "second" or "new Adam" because He ushered in the new creation by forgiving sin and restoring humanity to the grace of God's friendship lost by original sin. Mary, because she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, is called the "new Eve," the "mother of the living" in the order of grace.

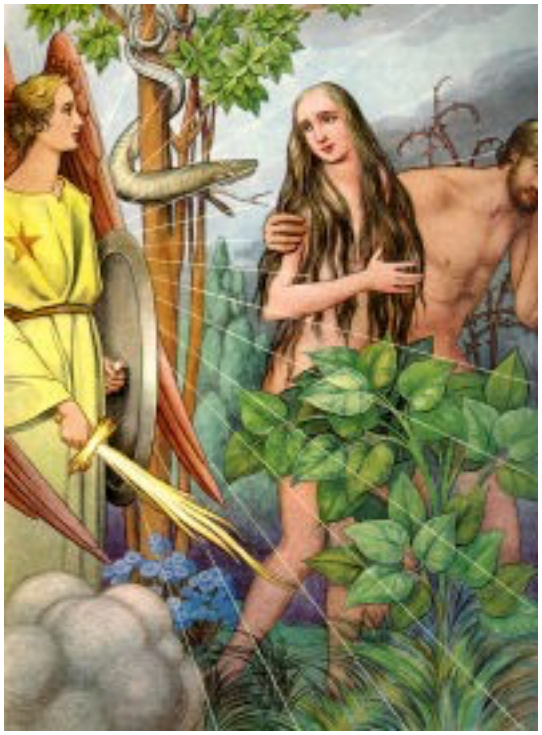
Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 2:7-9, 18-24

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 355-384 Man in the Image of God
- CCC 1080 God's Work as Blessing
- CCC 1601-1605 Marriage in the Order of Creation
- CCC 2201-2206 The Nature of a Family

Jesse Tree, Day 3 - Fall of Man



Symbols: Tree with Fruit or Apple

By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Genesis 3:19)

The parents of the human race, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God's command in the Garden of Eden, thereby committing the original sin, resulting in the closing of the gates of Heaven to mankind.

Even after this sin, man was not abandoned by God. God promises a Messiah and Redeemer: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel (Gen 3:14)." He tells us of a "New Adam" who will have victory over sin.

This victory of Christ has given us greater blessings than those which sin had taken from us. God permits evil in order to draw forth some greater good:

> O truly necessary sin of Adam,
> destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
> O Happy Fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!
> (*Exsultet* from the Easter Vigil).

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 3:1-7, 9, 14-29, 23-24

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 385-421 The Fall
- CCC 502-505 Mary's virginal motherhood in God's plan
- CCC 539 Jesus is the New Adam
- CCC 1262-1264 The Grace of Baptism

Jesse Tree, Day 4 - Noah



Symbols: Ark, Animals, Dove with branch, Rainbow

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth. God said: This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between me and you and every living creature with you for all ages to come: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (Genesis 9:1, 12-13)

When Noah finally left the Ark and settled on dry land, he built an altar to worship the Lord who had saved him. God placed a rainbow in the sky as token of his resolve to never visit such a disaster over the face of the earth again.

Noah was a savior, preserving the natural life of all within the Ark; Christ bring supernatural life to mankind and preserves that life within His Mystical Body, the Church.

The Church also views Noah's Ark "prefiguring of salvation by Baptism" (CCC, 1219). The Easter Vigil blessing of water includes:

> *O God, who by the outpouring of the flood*
> *foreshadowed regeneration,*
> *so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water*
> *would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue.*

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 6:5-8
- Genesis 7:11-16
- Genesis 8:15-16
- Genesis 9:12-13

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 54-64 Revelation: In the beginning God makes himself known
- CCC 701 The Dove
- CCC 1080 Covenant with Noah
- CCC 1217-1228 Prefiguration of Baptism in the Old Covenant

Jesse Tree, Day 5a - Abraham



Symbols: Torch, Sword, Mountain, Tent, Stars

For my part, here is my covenant with you: you are to become the father of a multitude of nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I am making you the father of a multitude of nations. (Genesis 17:4-5)

Abraham is our father in faith. He is the man of faith and patriarch of Israel with whom God made a covenant which promised him land in which to live and many descendants, a great people for whom the Lord would be their God. Through Abraham God formed the people to whom he would later give the law by revelation through Moses. With the advent of Christ, the people of Israel would serve as the root to which the Gentiles would be grafted by their coming to believe.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 12:1-7
- Genesis 15:1-6
- Genesis 17:4-6
- Genesis 21:3-5
- Isaiah 51:2
- Hebrews 11:8
- Romans 4:19

The entire account of Abraham is found in Genesis 11:26--25:18.

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 59-61 Revelation: In the beginning God makes himself known
- CCC 145-147 Abraham--"Father of all who believe"
- CCC 163-165 Witnesses of Faith
- CCC 705-706 The Spirit of the Promise
- CCC 1077-1083 The Father--Source and Goal of the Liturgy
- CCC 1716 The Beatitudes
- CCC 2570-2573 God's promise and the prayer of Faith

Jesse Tree, Day 5b - Sarah



Symbols: baby cradle, outline of woman, crown, stars

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. (Genesis 21:1-3)

Sarah was the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac. God changed the couple's original names, Abram and Sarai, to Abraham and Sarah to reflect how they were entering into a new covenant with Him.

Sarah and Abraham were advanced in age and were childless. God promised them a child. Separately both Abraham and Sarah laughed at the idea that they could have a child in their old age.

> *Abraham fell face down and laughed as he said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah give birth at ninety?"* (Genesis 17:17)
>
> *So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"* (Genesis 18:12)

The Hebrew word for laughed is the form of the name Isaac, their son.

> *Sarah then said, "God has given me cause to laugh, and all who hear of it will laugh with me.*(Genesis 21:6)

Sarah often pointed out as an example of God's wonderful blessings. She is one of the holy women of the Old Testament who kept alive the hope of God's promise for man's salvation, and also prepared the way for Mary.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 18:1-15
- Genesis 21:1-17
- Isaiah 51:2
- Hebrews 11:11
- 1 Peter 3:6
- Romans 4:19
- Galatians 4:21-31

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- 145 Abraham -- "Father of all who believe"
- 64 God forms His people Israel
- 489 Mary's Predestination

Jesse Tree, Day 6 - Melchizedek (Melchisedek)



Symbols: Bread and Wine

The LORD has sworn and will not waver: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Psalm 110:4)

Melchizedek was a king of Salem (sometimes considered Jerusalem) and a priest, but without genealogy. When Abraham returned from battle after rescuing Lot, Melchizedek greeted him and gave him a blessing in honor of his victory (Genesis 14:18-20). In return Abraham offered him 1/10 of everything, the first tithes, because of his priesthood.

In the New Testament the Epistle to the Hebrews associates Christ's priesthood with Melchizedek's by quoting in three successive chapters the invocation from Psalm 110: "You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek and forever." This is also the biblical basis for the Catholic doctrine that, once a man is ordained a priest, his priesthood, like Christ's "in the line of Melchizedek," is forever (Hebrews 5, 6, 7). (Adapted from *The Catholic Dictionary* by Father John Hardon.)

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 14:17-20
- Psalm 110:4
- Hebrews 5:5-6
- Hebrews 7:1-28

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 58 The Covenant with Noah
- CCC 1333 Melchizedek's Prefiguring Gesture
- CCC 1544-1545 The one priesthood of Christ

Jesse Tree, Day 7 - Isaac



Symbols: Bundle of Wood, Ram

"Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the angel. "Do not do the least thing to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you did not withhold from me your son, your only one." (Genesis 22:12)

God promised Abraham to have descendants as numerous as the stars, but he and his wife Sarah were old and childless. Isaac was their long hoped for son, a gift from God, their only son. After receiving this great gift of a son, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son.

Isaac was a type, or symbol of Christ. Both carried up a mount the wood on which they were to be sacrificed. Isaac was the only son of Abraham, Christ was the only begotten son of God.

The altar with the slain lamb is a prefigurement of the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

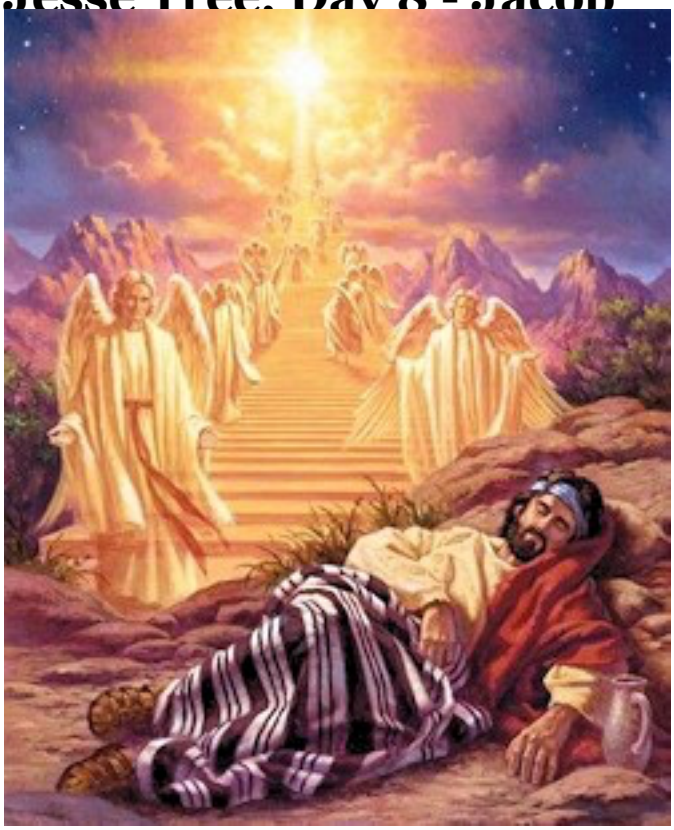
Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 22:1-19
- Genesis 26:1-5

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 205 God Reveals His Name
- CCC 1077-1083 The Father--Source and Goal of the Liturgy
- CCC 1817-1821 Theological Virtue of Hope

Jesse Tree, Day 8 - Jacob



Symbols: Ladder

And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants.(Genesis 28:12-13)

Jacob was the younger of the twin sons born to Jacob and Rebekah. His mother favored him and helped him win his birthright over his brother Esau.

In a vision, Jacob (son of Isaac) saw a ladder reaching from heaven to earth, with angels descending and ascending. Christ, the Incarnate God is the Ladder reuniting earth to heaven, mankind to God.

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2573: "God renews his promise to Jacob, the ancestor of the twelve tribes of Israel. Before confronting his elder brother Esau, Jacob wrestles all night with a mysterious figure who refuses to reveal his name, but he blesses him before leaving him at dawn. From this account, the spiritual tradition of the Church has retained the symbol of prayer as a battle of faith and as the triumph of perseverance."

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 25:19-34
- Genesis 27:1-40
- Genesis 28:10-22
- Genesis 32:23-33

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 205 The Living God
- CCC 269 The Almighty--"He does whatever he pleases"
- CCC 2373-2379 The gift of a child
- CCC 2568-2597 In the Old Testament

Jesse Tree, Day 9 - Joseph



Symbols: Coat of many Colors, Coat with long sleeves, Sheaf, Silver Coins, Bag with Silver Coins

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Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. (Genesis 37:3-4)

Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob and the first born son of Rachel. Joseph's brothers were furious that their father favored their younger brother above all of them. When Jacob gave Joseph an expensive, long-sleeved coat (translated in the Septuagint as a "coat of many colors"), they were jealous and conspired against him. Long sleeves would have been worn by rich people who did not do manual labor, as the sleeves would get in the way.

Like Christ, Joseph was sold for silver, but the hand of God led him to become a leader of the nation of Egypt. Later, his brothers, leaders of the Chosen People after their father Jacob, came to Egypt and settled under his rule. The many-colored or long-sleeved coat has become the symbol of Joseph since it was so instrumental in his life.

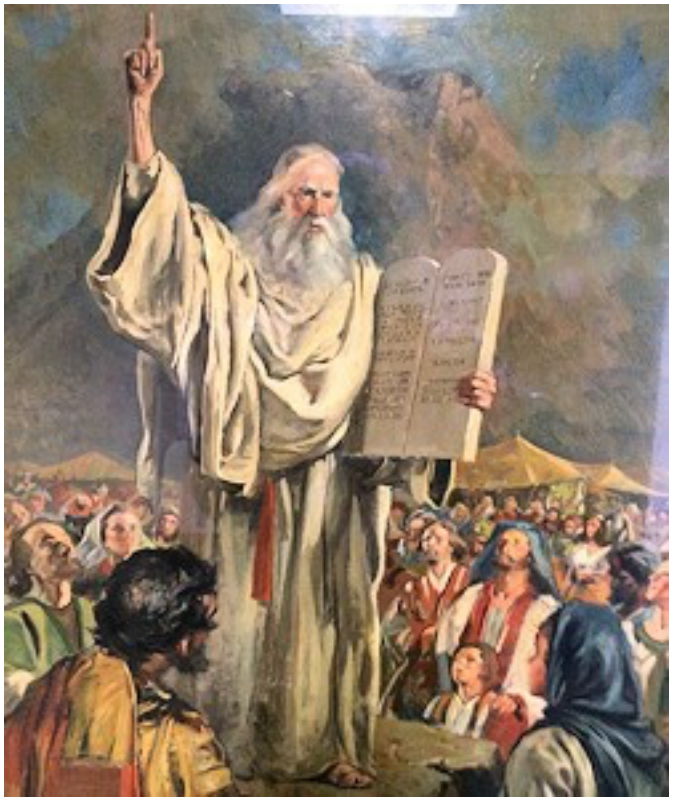
Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 37:3-4, 12-24, 28
- Genesis 45:3-13

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 309-314 Providence and the scandal of evil

Jesse Tree, Day 10 - Moses



Symbols: Baby in Basket, Stone Tablets, Burning Bush, Red Sea, Cloud, Manna, Ark of the Covenant

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God replied to Moses: I am who I am. Then he added: This is what you will tell the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you. God spoke further to Moses: This is what you will say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations. (Exodus 3:14-15)

Moses led the Israelites, the Chosen people, out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Later, he received the Ten Commandments from the hand of God on Mount Sinai.

God appeared to Moses in the form of a bush, which burned but was not consumed, a symbol of the Virgin Birth of Christ. The Law of Moses as symbolized in the tablets which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai, was fulfilled in Christ who brings a law of love.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Exodus 2:1-10
- Exodus 2:23-25--3:1-20
- Exodus 3:1-10
- Exodus 31:16-18

Jesse Tree, Day 10 – Moses (continued)

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

Moses and Exodus

- CCC 128-130 The unity of the Old and New Testaments
- CCC 203-213 God reveals His Name
- CCC 530 The Flight into Egypt
- CCC 574-594 Jesus and Israel
- CCC 1081 The Father--Source and Goal of the Liturgy
- CCC 1151 Signs Taken Up by Christ
- CCC 1363 The sacrificial memorial of Christ and of his Body, the Church
- CCC 2807-2815 "Hallowed be Thy Name"
- CCC 2574-2577 Moses and the prayer of the mediator

The Cloud

- CCC 697 Cloud and Light

Red Sea

- CCC 109-119 The Holy Spirit, Interpreter of Scripture
- CCC 1094 The Holy Spirit prepares for the reception of Christ
- CCC 1217-1222 Prefiguration of Baptism in the Old Covenant

Burning Bush

- CCC 203-211 God Reveals His Name
- CCC 724 "Rejoice, you who are full of grace"
- CCC 2598 Revelation of Prayer
- CCC 2777-2778 "We Dare to Say"

The Ten Commandments or Decalogue

- CCC 1450-1454 Contrition
- CCC 1961-1965 The Old Law
- CCC 2056-2063 The Decalogue in Sacred Scripture
- CCC 2070-2073 The Decalogue and the natural law

Jesse Tree, Day 11a -Joshua



Symbols: Sword and Trumpet

So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. (Joshua 6:20)

Joshua was the son of Nun and belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. He was the military leader and hero for Israel during the Exodus. Moses chose Joshua to be his successor and lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into Canaan. Joshua succeeded in entering the Promised Land. The walls of Jericho fell without any fighting. His symbol of the sword is for his military leadership and the trumpet is the instrument that was blown after three days of marching around Jericho to signal the walls to come down.

Joshua is often referred to as a "Second Moses," as many of the things he did mirrored Moses, including miraculously crossing a body of water. He also had the role of as being covenant mediator with God and Israel as Moses had been.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Joshua 6:1-20

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 707 Theophanies or Manifestations of God

Jesse Tree, Day 11b - Samuel



Symbols: Lamp, Temple, horn with oil

When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and stood there, calling out as before: Samuel, Samuel! Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:9b-10)

The Prophet Samuel's parents were childless. Hannah, his mother, prayed for years for a child. God answered her prayers, and she offered her son Samuel to the service of God in the Temple under Eli, the High Priest.

Samuel was a young boy living in the Temple, sleeping at night near the Ark of the Covenant. In Samuel 3: 1-18 we read of Samuel's calling by God, although he did not recognize the voice yet. But after being called twice and going to Eli, Eli instructed him to answer "Speak, for your servant is listening" if the voice called him again. Samuel did, and God responded, giving Samuel his vocation.

Samuel was the last Judge of Israel. Although God did not want Israel to have a King, the people of Israel insisted. God revealed to Samuel that Saul would be the first King of Israel. Samuel's role then became as a seer and prophet.

Saul was not a good king, nor faithful to God. God helped Samuel find David among Jesse's sons and anoint him as the King of Israel, eventually replacing Saul.

The lamp is a symbol for the Word of God, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." (Psalm 119:105) Samuel became a prophet, the light of God to His people.

The horn with oil represents Samuel answering God's call to anoint David as King of Israel.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- 1 Samuel 1:9-28
- 1 Samuel 3:1-21
- 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 489 Preparing for the Savior
- CCC 2578 David and the prayer of the king

Jesse Tree, Day 12 - Ruth



Symbols: Sheaves of Grain

"Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Ruth was a Moabite woman who married an Israelite. When her husband, her brother-in-law and father-in-law all died, her mother-in-law Naomi decided to return to the land of Israel. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, so they moved together to Bethlehem. One day Ruth with the other women was gleaning the fields of Boaz, a kinsman of Naomi's husband, and she met Boaz himself, who was impressed by her. Eventually Boaz married Ruth, and she became the mother of Jesse, and the great-grandmother of David.

In Ruth's embracing of family and the faith of Israel, she becomes an ancestor of Christ, part of His genealogy, and plays a role in our salvation history.

Ruth was a gentile and converted to the faith of Israel. Her conversion gives a glimpse of how gentiles will become part of David's kingdom, but also the greater Kingdom of God, where there is a universal call to holiness: all nations are called to be part of the Body of Christ.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Ruth 1:1-10, 16-19
- Ruth 2:1-17
- Ruth 4:10, 17, 22

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 489 Holy Women preparing for the Messiah
- CCC 1611 God's covenant with Israel in the image of faithful married love

Jesse Tree, Day 13 - Jesse



Symbols: Crimson Robe, Shepherd's Staff

Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he arrives here." Jesse had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes, and good looking. The LORD said: There—anoint him, for this is the one! (1 Sam 16:11-12)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots. (Isaiah 11:1)

The crimson robe is a symbol of royalty and is used for Jesse because he was the father of King David. Jesse was the ancestor of many kings, most importantly the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

The Jesse Tree is actually named after Jesse, the father of David. The inspiration is from medieval religious art and stained-glass representations of the genealogy of Christ on earth. The symbol often used is a tree with many branches, with main characters of the genealogy or story of the Redemption depicted on each branch. Christ is usually at the summit, and Jesse is the root of the tree.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- 1 Samuel 16:1-13
- 1 Samuel 18-22
- Isaiah 11:1-3

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 711-716 Expectation of the Messiah and his Spirit

Jesse Tree, Day 14 - King David



Symbols: Six-Pointed Star, Slingshot and 4 Stones, Harp, Crown, Key

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Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David. (1 Sam 16:13)

David was the son of Jesse, the youngest of the eight brothers, and the grandson of Ruth and Boaz, of the tribe of Judah. David was the second and greatest king of Israel. He reigned forty years, and is held as the model of Jewish kingship.

The six-pointed star is the emblem of the Royal House of David even to this day. Christ, who is born of the House of David, can truly claim this emblem as His own.

The crown and scepter signify Christ's universal kingship. Christ is not only the King of the Jewish Nation but the "Desired One of all," the cornerstone which unites both Jew and Gentile. David is considered a type of the Messiah.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- 1 Samuel 11:1-17
- 1 Samuel 17:12-51
- 2 Samuel 5:3-4
- 2 Samuel 12:1-7

Jesse Tree, Day 14 – King David (continued)

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 436-440 The Word "Christ"
- CCC 487-498 Mary's Predestination
- CCC 559-560 Jesus' messianic entrance into Jerusalem
- CCC 695 Symbolism of Anointing with Oil
- CCC 709-716 In the Kingdom and the Exile
- CCC 1077-1083 The Father--Source and Goal of the Liturgy
- CCC 1480-1484 The Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance
- CCC 1736 Freedom and Responsibility
- CCC 2538 The Disorder of Covetous Desires
- CCC 2578-2580 David and the prayer of the king

Jesse Tree, Day 15 - King Solomon



Symbols: Scale of Justice, Temple, Crown

The Lord was pleased by Solomon's request. So God said to him: Because you asked for this—you did not ask for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies—but you asked for discernment to know what is right—I now do as you request. I give you a heart so wise and discerning that there has never been anyone like you until now, nor after you will there be anyone to equal you. (1 Kings 3:10-14)

Solomon is honored in Scripture as the wisest monarch. Though he used a real sword to make his point, he used his wisdom, the sword of justice, to divide truth from lies.

God foretold that David's son and heir, Solomon, would be the one to build a temple to the Lord God. Solomon did, in fact, complete the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem during his reign.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- 1 Kings 3:5-14
- 1 Kings 3:16-28
- 1 Kings 5:1-15
- 1 Kings 8:14-21
- 1 Kings 10:1-13

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 590 Jesus and Israel's Faith in the One God and Savior
- CCC 697 Cloud and Light
- CCC 1611 Song of Solomon
- CCC 2580 Temple of Jerusalem

Jesse Tree, Day 16 - Elijah (or Elias)



Symbols: Raven, Fire and altar

Then the LORD said: Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will pass by. There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind; after the wind, an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake, fire—but the LORD was not in the fire; after the fire, a light silent sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. (1 Kings 19:11-13a)

Elijah was the "father" of the prophets of the Old Testament and considered a major prophet. He lived in the 9th century B.C. in the northern Kingdom of Israel. He fought against the different religious cults against God, particularly that of Baal, and goes against the wrongdoings of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel.

There are many different stories of Ezekiel's work within the books of 1 and 2 Kings. Highlighted in the readings are the feeding of Elijah by the raven, the feeding of the widow and her son with the unending flour and oil and the raising of the dead of the widow's son, the contest with the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel, the flight to Horeb and Elijah's final journey. His main work was stressing the Lord being God and utterly powerful, and urging the Israelites to be faithful to the Law of Moses and the covenant with God. At the end of his life he departs mysteriously, which gave the idea that he was to return at some time.

Jesus was often mistakenly identified as Elijah. Moses and Elijah who appeared with Christ at the Transfiguration, with Elijah representing the prophets (Matthew 17:3). To this day at the Jewish Passover the door is opened to welcome his possible return, and a cup of wine is poured and reserved for him.

Jesse Tree, Day 16 – Elijah (continued)

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- 1 Kings 17:2-6
- 1 Kings 17:9-24
- 1 Kings 17-18:21-39
- 1 Kings 18
- 1 Kings 19:11-13
- 2 Kings 2:1, 8-14
- Matthew 17:1-13

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 523 St. John the Baptist
- CCC 554-558 Jesus' Ascent to Jerusalem
- CCC 697 Cloud and Light
- CCC 2581-2584 Elijah, the prophets and conversion of heart

Jesse Tree, Day 17 - Jonah



Symbols: Whale

But the LORD sent a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he remained in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah prayed to the LORD, his God, from the belly of the fish. (Jonah 2:1-2)

Jonah is one of the minor prophets who lived around 800-750 B.C.. God called him to prophesy and preach repentance to the city of Ninevah to warn them they would be destroyed by God for their sinfulness. Jonah initially ran away from God, going to the opposite direction. He was swallowed by a great fish or whale, and remained for 3 days, just as Christ remained three days in the earth after His death.

Jonah repented for running away and did his task in Ninevah. The people believed in God and repented. The king proclaimed a fast, and all of Nineveh, man and beast, put on sackcloth, fasted and asked for forgiveness. God did not destroy Nineveh because of their repentance.

Jesus himself points out that Jonah being in the fish/whale for three days is a type of Christ's own burial and resurrection.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Jonah 1:11-15
- Jonah 2:1-16
- Jonah 3:1-16
- Matthew 12:39-41
- Matthew 16:4
- Luke 11:29-31

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 590 Jesus and Israel's Belief in the One God and Saviour
- CCC 992-996 The progressive revelation of the Resurrection

Jesse Tree, Day 18 - Judith



Symbols: Scale of Justice, Temple, Crown, Sword

Judith stood by Holofernes' bed and prayed silently, "O Lord, God of all might, in this hour look graciously on the work of my hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem. Now is the time for aiding your heritage and for carrying out my design to shatter the enemies who have risen against us." (Judith 13:4-5)

Judith was a pious Jew of the Old Testament. She killed Holofernes, the leader of the Assyrian army of Nebuchadnezzar, with a sword, saving the Israelite nation.

Judith is a type of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whose "Fiat" brought salvation to all mankind.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Judith 13:1-28

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 64 The Stages of Revelation
- CCC 489 Holy Women Preparing for Mary

Jesse Tree, Day 19 - Isaiah



Symbols: Burning Coal, scroll, tree stump

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it. "See," he said, "now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!" (Isaiah 6:6-8)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Isaiah 7:1)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful-Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:5- 6)

Isaiah's lips were impure from sin, and he realized this imperfection. Yet, he trusted the Lord to purify him. One of the seraphim, in a symbolic action, took a coal from the altar and touched his lips to cleanse them. Isaiah became a great prophet for the Lord, proclaiming the coming of a Messiah that would be a king, but also a suffering servant.

Isaiah is one of the major figures or voices in the liturgy during the Advent season, with numerous prophecies regarding the coming of the Messiah.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Isaiah 6:5-8
- Isaiah 7:1
- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 11:1-3a
- Isaiah 11:6-9
- Isaiah 40:3-5

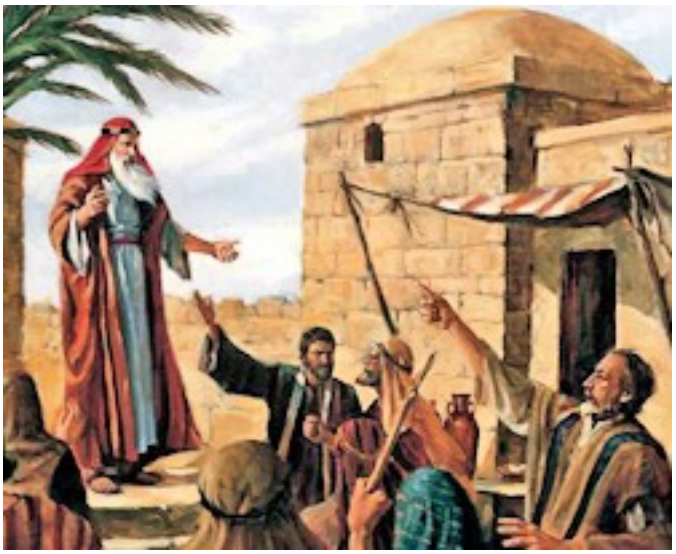
Jesse Tree, Day 19 – Isaiah (continued)

- Isaiah 40:10-11
- Isaiah 60: 3-9, 40:5
- Isaiah 62:1-3

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 208 God Reveals His Name
- CCC 497 Born of the Virgin Mary
- CCC 601 Suffering Servant
- CCC 711-716 Expectation of the Messiah and his Spirit
- CCC 1063 The Hope of New Heaven and a New Earth
- CCC 1502 The sick person before God

Jesse Tree, Day 20 - Micah



Symbols: small building or city (of Bethlehem)

But you, O Bethlehem, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me One who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1)

Micah was one of the minor prophets of the Old Testament during the eighth century B.C. before the fall of Judah. He was a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah.

His messianic prophecy of where the Messiah was to be born, the birthplace of King David, is referred to in the Gospel of St. Matthew.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Micah 5:1-4a
- Matthew 2:1-12

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 423 The Good News: God has sent his Son
- CCC 563 The Mysteries of Jesus' Public Life

Jesse Tree, Day 21 - Daniel



Symbols: lions

Then King Darius wrote to the nations and peoples of every language, wherever they dwell on the earth: "May your peace abound! I decree that throughout my royal domain the God of Daniel is to be reverenced and feared: "For he is the living God, enduring forever whose kingdom shall not be destroyed, whose dominion shall be without end, A savior and deliverer, working signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who saved Daniel from the lions' power." (Daniel 6:25-28)

Daniel is another one of the prophets. He was a young man when he was deported to Babylon in 605 B.C. before the destruction of the Temple. He was placed in the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar. Similar to Joseph, he interpreted kings' dreams and writing on the wall and was placed in a high position in court. He also saved Susanna from false accusations of adultery, and twice thrown into the lions' den and survived by God's mercy.

Some of the visions Daniel had depicted the triumph of the Son of Man in his eternal Messianic Kingdom. Parts of the visions in the Book of Daniel laid the foundations of understanding the Resurrection and Ascension and are also applied to Parousia, or the Second Coming.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Daniel 1, 2, 4, 6, 13, 14

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 58 Figures of Christ
- CCC 664 The Kingdom of the Messiah

Jesse Tree, Day 22 - Zechariah (Zachariah)



Symbols: censor or thurible, tablet

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. (Luke 2:76)

Zechariah was a Levite priest, the husband of Elizabeth, and father of St. John the Baptist. They were old and childless, and the angel Gabriel appeared to him when he was offering in the Temple. Zechariah doubted, and was struck dumb.

When his son was born, Zechariah wrote on the tablet, "His name is John," fulfilling what the angel Gabriel had told him. God opened his mouth and Zechariah was able to speak again. His first words were praise of God, known as the *Benedictus* or Canticle of Zachariah. His Canticle is prayed every day in the Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Luke 1:5-25; 57-80
- Benedictus or Canticle of Zechariah, Luke 1:68-79

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 332 Gabriel Announces
- CCC 523 "Prophet of the Most High"
- CCC 1196 Liturgy of Hours

Jesse Tree, Day 23 - Elizabeth



Symbols: small house

“Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:42-45)

Elizabeth was the wife of Zechariah, the mother of John the Baptist, and cousin of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She and Zechariah were old and childless, but God answered their prayers and sent them a child, St. John the Baptist, who was the precursor or forerunner of Christ.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Luke 1:24-26
- Luke 1:36-37
- Luke 1:39-57

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 148 Elizabeth's Greeting
- CCC 495 "Let it be done to me according to your word. . ."
- CCC 717 John, precursor, prophet, and baptist
- CCC 2676-2679 In communion with the holy Mother of God

Jesse Tree, Day 24 - St. Joseph



Symbols: Carpenter Tools--Carpenter's Square, hammer, saw

When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:18-21)

Jesus' earthly father was St. Joseph, the Carpenter. He was part of the line of King David, as the prophecy of Isaiah had said, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." (11:1).

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Matthew 1:1-17: Genealogy of Jesus
- Matthew 1:18-24: Birth of Jesus, the Angel appears in a dream to St. Joseph
- Luke 2:22-38: Presentation in the Temple
- Matthew 2:13-15: The Flight into Egypt
- Matthew 2:19-23: The Return from Egypt
- Luke 2:41-52: Finding in the Temple

Jesse Tree, Day 24 – St. Joseph (continued)

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 437 Birth of Christ
- CCC 488 Mary's predestination
- CCC 496-501 Mary's virginity
- CCC 522-534 The preparations of the Messiah
- CCC 583 Jesus and the Temple
- CCC 1014 Patron of Happy Death

Jesse Tree, Day 25 - Blessed Virgin Mary



Symbols: Lily, Crown of Stars

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name, Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

During Advent, on December 8, the Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, an event that heralds God's choice of Mary to be the Mother of the Redeemer. The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that the Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from any stain of sin, including original sin, from the moment of her conception in her mother's (St. Anne) womb.

The Virgin Mary, chosen Mother of the Redeemer, is robed in the splendor of her stainless innocence, and clothed with the beauty of one redeemed in Christ and prepared to receive Him in her womb.

Recommended Scripture Readings:

- Genesis 3:15
- Song of Songs 2:10-14
- Song of Songs 4:7
- Sirach 24:13-19
- Isaiah 7:14
- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 1:26-38
- Revelation 12

Jesse Tree, Day 25 – Mary (continued)

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 148 Mary--"Blessed is she who believed"
- CCC 484-511 Conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit
- CCC 721-726 "Rejoice, you who are full of grace"
- CCC 963-975 Mother of the Church
- CCC 2617-2622 The prayer of the Virgin Mary

Jesse Tree, Day 26 - John the Baptist



Symbols: Shell, grasshopper, camel hair, sandal, river

John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit." (Mark 1:6-8)

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)

St. John the Baptist was the son of Mary's cousin Elizabeth and Zechariah. He was the last of the prophets and the precursor of Christ. He is also the cousin of Jesus. He baptized Jesus in the Jordan, and was beheaded by King Herod.

The shell with three water drops is a symbol of baptism generally, and particularly of the baptism of Christ. The three droplets remind us of the Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — into which Christians are baptized. The shell alone may also be used as a symbol for pilgrimage and is often used as an emblem for saints known for their travels or whose shrines have become destinations for pilgrims.

Recommended Readings:

- Isaiah 40:3-5
- Matthew 3:1-12
- Matthew 11:2-15
- Matthew 14:1-12
- Mark 1:1-8
- John 1:6-13

Jesse Tree, Day 26 – John the Baptist (continued)

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 717-720 John, precursor, prophet, and baptist
- CCC 523 The Preparations for the Jesus' Hidden Life
- CCC 535 The Baptism of Jesus
- CCC 608 "The Lamb who takes away the sin of the world"
- CCC 696 Symbolism of Fire
- CCC 1223 Christ's Baptism
- CCC 2684 A cloud of witnesses

Jesse Tree, Option 1 - The Annunciation



Symbols: lily; fleur de lis; book; Angel

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. (Galatians 4:4)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-5, 14)

Of Jesse's lineage was the Virgin Mary. Into her chamber came the Spirit of the Most High.

V. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

The lily is a symbol of Our Lady's purity, though becoming a mother she remained a virgin.

(The Annunciation is one option to insert in the Jesse Tree and replace another figure. See also Option 2, The Visitation.)

Jesse Tree, Option 1 – The Annunciation (continued)

Recommended Readings:

- Luke 1:26-38
- Song of Songs 4:7
- Song of Songs 2:10-14
- Sirach 24:13-19
- Isaiah 7:14
- Ephesians 1:9-10
- Galatians 4:4
- John 1:1-14
- Revelation 12

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 333 The Angels in the Life of the Incarnate Word
- CCC 430-435 The Name Jesus
- CCC 461-463 The Incarnation
- CCC 470-483 How Is the Son of God Man?
- CCC 484-486 Conceived by the Holy Spirit
- CCC 487-511 Born of the Virgin Mary
- CCC 965, 969-970 Mary's Motherhood with Regard to the Church
- CCC 2603, 2617-2622 Prayer in the Fullness of Time
- CCC 2673-2679 Way of Prayer--In communion with the holy Mother of God

Jesse Tree, Option 2 - The Visitation



Symbols: Our Lady's Slipper

"Arise, make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one, and come. For winter is now past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers have appeared in our land, the time of pruning is come; the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig tree has put forth her green figs; the vines in flower yield their sweet smell. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come. My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hollow places of the wall, show me your face. Let your voice sound in my ears, for your voice is sweet, and your face comely." (Song of Songs 2:10-14)

After hearing from the Angel Gabriel that Mary's cousin Elizabeth was about to have a son in her old age, Mary immediately traveled to visit her cousin. This was such a beautiful moment of cousins to have that shared wonder of God's blessings upon them. When John the Baptist as a babe in the womb hears Mary's voice, he leaps for joy. The Church has marked this as the moment that John was cleansed of original sin. And the exchange between Mary and Elizabeth we have part of the *Hail Mary* and the Canticle of Mary or Magnificat, that the faithful pray daily.

(The Visitation is one option to insert in the Jesse Tree and replace another figure.
See also Option 1, The Annunciation.)

Recommended Readings:

- Luke 1:39-47
- Luke 7:28
- Genesis 18:14
- Songs 2:8-14

Jesse Tree, Option 2 – The Visitation (continued)

Selections from *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

- CCC 148-149 Mary--"Blessed is she who believed"
- CCC 495 Mary's divine motherhood
- CCC 717 John, Precursor, Prophet and Baptist
- CCC 721-722 "Rejoice, you who are full of grace"
- CCC 2096-2097 Adoration
- CCC 2617-2622 The prayer of the Virgin Mary