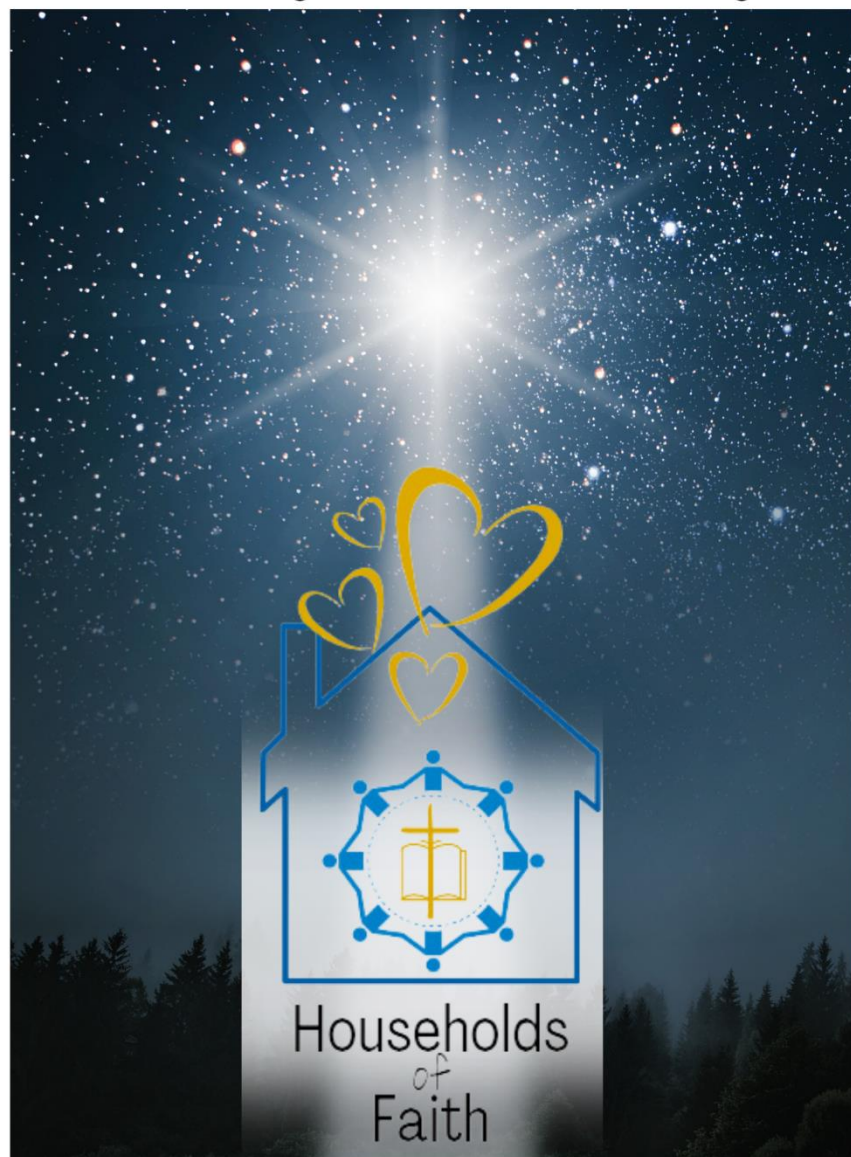


*Advent to Epiphany Journey*

*Silent Night to Star Bright!*



***Households of Faith - A Six Week Starter Set  
for Advent Year B Gospel of Mark December to January***

*By this everyone will know you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another. ~John 13:35*



# What is a "Household of Faith"? The Process...

A "Household of Faith" is a small group of 6 to 10 people from a variety of backgrounds and life journeys who come together on a regular basis, at least once a month, in-person or online, for 60 to 90 minutes. The purpose of this time together is to get to know one another and grow in new friendships, while sharing the Holy Scriptures and some reflection using a simple process.

**§ The facilitator of this gathering may have been determined beforehand.**

**§ An open Bible and a lit candle will be placed on the table.**

## The process of the gathering

- 1. The handing out of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel or find it in your Bible.** (From the *Living with Christ* Mass booklet or on <https://dailygospel.org/AM/gospel>)
- 2. Opening Prayer. Example:** † "Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day." † - Pope Francis (or another prayer or song) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pXFmZBTTEU>
- 3. Before the 1<sup>st</sup> proclamation of the Gospel:** Be attentive to a word or a phrase as the Word is being proclaimed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Proclamation of the Gospel** – The reader stands to proclaim the Word of God. To proclaim means to read with faith and conviction.

### **A period of silence**

Each one shares the word or phrase that touched them and why it moved them. We simply listen to the person who is speaking, without commenting. Then each one takes their turn sharing.

**We are not to enter a discussion of what was shared.**

4. **Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> proclamation of the Gospel:** ask this question: “What is the Good News that I discovered in this reading today and how is it reaching my own faith?”

**2<sup>nd</sup> proclamation of the Gospel** – The reader stands to proclaim the Word of God. To proclaim means to read with faith and conviction.

**A period of silence**

Each one shares the Good News that they discovered in this Gospel.

**Reminder:** In order that the sharing remains on a personal level, each person has to make an effort to express themselves using “I language”: “I ..., For me ..., I see in this text ... , I discover in this text...” it’s about personal sharing.

**We are not to enter a discussion of what was shared.**

We simply listen, and each one takes their turn in sharing.

**§ Make people feel confident that what is shared here, stays here.**

5. **Personal prayer or contemplation**

**3<sup>rd</sup> proclamation of the Gospel** - The reader stands to proclaim the Word of God. To proclaim means to read with faith and conviction.

**A period of silence**

Each person prays silently on their observations, their meditation and on what they heard from the others. Some people may choose to use, this booklet or a journal and jot down their thoughts and perhaps write a prayer. Each one chooses the form of prayer that suits them based on the Gospel: blessing, praise, thanksgiving, petition, intercession ... and they ask the Lord how they can apply the Word of God in their life today.

## 6. Sharing Prayer

Finally, each person who wishes to, shares one or two aspects of their prayer or journal. It is good to share with the group the fruits of our dialogue with the Lord. The Word of God, welcomed, shared, and prayed over can nourish the group and help to conclude in fellowship, our dialogue with the Lord.

***§ If possible, to develop leadership among the participants, have a different facilitator at each gathering and determine who will be the next one.***

***You don't need to be an expert in facilitating. Just follow the guide.***

## 7. Faith Reflections (optional)

If you have time, choose a short video, podcast or an article, and share with each other what caught your attention.

## 8. Friendship Time

If you like, enjoy some conversations, beverages, or light snacks. Keep it simple.

## My Notes

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Questions/Comments: [households@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:households@archsaintboniface.ca)

[www.archsaintboniface.ca](http://www.archsaintboniface.ca)



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**Saint-Boniface**  
Archdiocese

**Households of Faith A Six Week Starter Set for Advent Year B Gospel of Mark  
December to January - Advent to Epiphany Journey - Silent Night to Star Bright!**

Week One: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man traveling abroad.

He leaves home and places his servants in charge,

each with his own work,

and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.

Watch, therefore;

you do not know when the lord of the house is coming,

whether in the evening, or at midnight,

or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

Three readings or proclaiming of the Gospel with three moments:

**First, "What word/phrase caught me?** (Hear in your heart, listen well, what are you called to pay attention to, and share the word or phrase aloud.)

**Second, after listening to the next reading of the same Gospel, ask the question "What is the Good News for me in this Gospel?"** (Take a few minutes to answer the question aloud.)

**Third, have a quiet time of prayer, journaling, or meditating on "What is God speaking to me through the Gospel and our sharing? What is my response?"** (Share aloud, if agreed upon.)


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Week Two: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside

and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem

were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River

as they acknowledged their sins.

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.”

Three readings or proclaiming of the Gospel with three moments:

**First, "What word/phrase caught me?"** (Hear in your heart, listen well, what are you called to pay attention to, and share the word or phrase aloud.)

**Second, after listening to the next reading of the same Gospel, ask the question "What is the Good News for me in this Gospel?"** (Take a few minutes to answer the question aloud.)

**Third, have a quiet time of prayer, journaling, or meditating on "What is God speaking to me through the Gospel and our sharing? What is my response?"** (Share aloud, if agreed upon.)




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## Week Three: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ."

So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?"

And he said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?"

He said:

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,  
'make straight the way of the Lord,'"  
as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent.

They asked him,

"Why then do you baptize  
if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John answered them,

"I baptize with water;  
but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,  
the one who is coming after me,  
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan,  
where John was baptizing.

Three readings or proclaiming of the Gospel with three moments:

**First, "What word/phrase caught me?"** (Hear in your heart, listen well, what are you called to pay attention to, and share the word or phrase aloud.)

**Second, after listening to the next reading of the same Gospel, ask the question "What is the Good News for me in this Gospel?"** (Take a few minutes to answer the question aloud.)

**Third, have a quiet time of prayer, journaling, or meditating on "What is God speaking to me through the Gospel and our sharing? What is my response?"** (Share aloud, if agreed upon.)


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Week Four: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth,  
to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph,  
of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,

"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said  
and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father,  
and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,

and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel,

"How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,

and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age,

and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;

for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

Three readings or proclaiming of the Gospel with three moments:

**First, "What word/phrase caught me?"** (Hear in your heart, listen well, what are you called to pay attention to, and share the word or phrase aloud.)

**Second, after listening to the next reading of the same Gospel, ask the question "What is the Good News for me in this Gospel?"** (Take a few minutes to answer the question aloud.)

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The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - Mass During the Day: John 1:1-5, 9-14

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 not one thing came into being.  
What came into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of the human race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.  
The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.  
He was in the world,  
and the world came into being through him,  
yet the world did not know him.  
He came to what was his own,  
but his own people did not accept him.  
But to all who received him,  
who believed in his name,  
he gave power to become children of God,  
who were born not of blood  
or of the will of the flesh  
or the will of man,  
but of God.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only begotten son,  
full of grace and truth.

Three readings or proclaiming of the Gospel with three moments:

**First, "What word/phrase caught me?"** (Hear in your heart, listen well, what are you called to pay attention to, and share the word or phrase aloud.)

**Second, after listening to the next reading of the same Gospel, ask the question "What is the Good News for me in this Gospel?"** (Take a few minutes to answer the question aloud.)

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## Week Five: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.

This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.

And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Three readings or proclaiming of the Gospel with three moments:

**First, "What word/phrase caught me?"** (Hear in your heart, listen well, what are you called to pay attention to, and share the word or phrase aloud.)

**Second, after listening to the next reading of the same Gospel, ask the question "What is the Good News for me in this Gospel?"** (Take a few minutes to answer the question aloud.)

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## Week Six: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Three readings or proclaiming of the Gospel with three moments:

**First, "What word/phrase caught me?"** (Hear in your heart, listen well, what are you called to pay attention to, and share the word or phrase aloud.)

**Second, after listening to the next reading of the same Gospel, ask the question "What is the Good News for me in this Gospel?"** (Take a few minutes to answer the question aloud.)

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After the Six Week Starter for Households of Faith...

1. Give thanks to God for your time with The Word and one another!
2. Journal some key points to what you have experiences in the six week starter of HoF.

*What have I noticed in my day-to-day life during these weeks...*

*What have I noticed about the world around me during these weeks...*

*What have I noticed about God's presence during these weeks...*

3. Share your experience with us and others! Email us with your comments or encouragement for others to [households@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:households@archsaintboniface.ca)
4. Decide together how you will continue your HoF experience...weekly, every second week, monthly? (Or continue reflecting in this manner at home then gather for the season of Lent, a similar resource will be available!)

*"À ceci, tous  
reconnaîtront  
que vous êtes  
mes disciples,  
si vous avez  
de l'amour les  
uns pour les  
autres."*

*~Jean 13, 35*



*"By this  
everyone  
will know  
that you are  
my disciples,  
if you have  
love for one  
another."*

*~ John 13. 35*