

Opening our Doors to Christ

Pray that everyone may let Jesus into their hearts.



Once upon a time a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Mary was about to have a baby and they needed somewhere warm and safe to stay for the night. She and Joseph knocked on many doors, but no one had room for them. Finally, an innkeeper let them stay in his stable, and there, with the animals, Jesus was born.

What would you have done if Mary and Jesus came to your door late at night and they asked you for a safe place to stay? Would you be kind and helpful, or would you tell them there was no room?

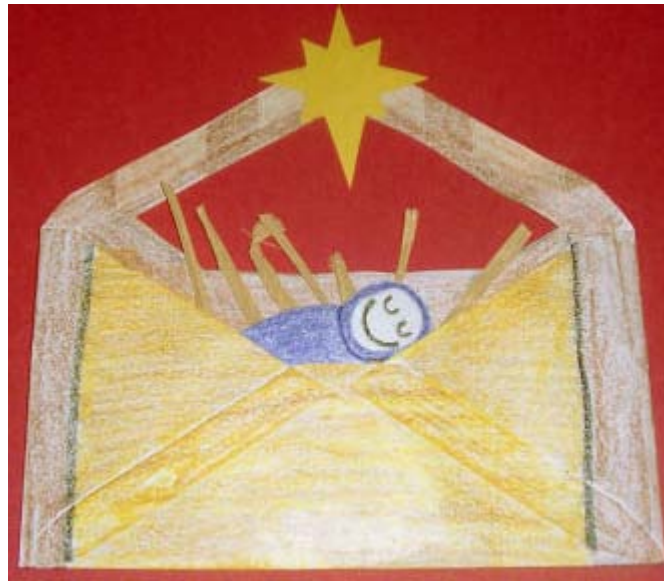
Two thousand years later Jesus is still knocking. He isn't knocking at doors, but he is asking us to let him into our hearts. Pope Benedict tells us that the world would be a better place if we opened our hearts to Jesus. The Pope is asking us to pray this month that all people answer Jesus' call and open their hearts to him, because Jesus gives us love, peace, and eternal life.

Thousands of years ago, while everyone in Bethlehem slept, a tiny baby named Jesus was born in a stable. The shepherds in the fields were the only ones awake, and they were the first ones to know the good news - that Jesus Christ was born. Be awake when Jesus knocks on your door.

Think about it!

- What happened when Joseph and Mary knocked on the doors in Bethlehem?
- What would you do if Joseph and Mary knocked on your door?
- Will you let Jesus into your heart?

A Soft Bed for Baby Jesus



Advent is a time for us to get ready for the arrival of Baby Jesus. Here is an activity for you to do during Advent to make sure that your heart is ready when Jesus comes at Christmas.

Make a manger from a paper envelope, like in the picture shown above. Color it and decorate it.

Draw and color a Baby Jesus that you will add to the manger on Christmas Day.

Cut another piece of paper into little strips.

Every time you do a good deed for someone, write it on a strip of paper and put it in the envelope. These little strips of paper will add up, and make a nice, soft bed for Baby Jesus when he arrives.