**THE JESSE TREE**

      The idea for a Jesse tree comes from the Scripture referring to Jesus as being a tree from the root of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David, ancestor of Jesus both through Mary and through his adoptive father, Joseph. It was because of this ancestry that they were both traveling to Bethlehem for the census; Bethlehem was the city of David. Thus, the Jesse tree holds symbols of the ancestors, either physical or spiritual or both, of Jesus.

Traditionally, the Jesse tree is placed in the home at the beginning of the Nativity Fast. For each day, the children add an “ornament” to the tree, one for each of 40 Old Testament saints and prophets. It is left up during the Christmas season as a reminder of the centuries God spent preparing a people for His coming.

How to decorate your Jesse Tree.

For this first year, your child will make a 3-D ornament that symbolizes ***some*** of the more well-known Old Testament prophets, saints, and characters we have already learned about, or will be learning about – e.g., an apple for Adam, a rainbow for Noah, a camel for Abraham, etc. As they continue to learn about the Old Testament in the years to come, they will make ornaments for the ancestors that are missing from this year’s tree. This tree you make this year can be used each year as the children continue to learn.

The ornaments can be made a variety of ways, from simple construction paper drawings, or taking a regular Christmas ball and gluing on a picture or a sticker, or with a multitude of craft styles and skill levels. They can all be in the same style or in a vast array of styles; if you leave them up to the creativity of the children, they’ll be in a vast array of styles, but interesting!

You have been provided with the bare Jesse Tree created from dowels. Your child can decide to paint the dowels first, or leave them as they are. You have also received a bag with a variety of craft materials your child can use to create their ornaments. When you are finished with your tree, please take a picture of it for the Child to share in class 😊

          On the next page are the different subjects and characters that your children will create this year, as well as the suggested ornament to make for the tree. As they are making their ornaments, please take the opportunity to teach them about the person for whom they are making an ornament. The character’s stories are found in their children’s Reader. Remember to have fun, and allow the children to be as creative as they wish!



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| **Subject** | **Ornament** | **Craft Suggestions** |
| Creation | Earth/Globe | The Earth |
| Adam and Eve | Paper person/snake/apple | Bead apple |
| Noah | Rainbow | Rainbow of beads |
| Tower of Babel | Tower | Tower of toothpicks |
| Abraham | Camel | Egg-carton Camel |
| Isaac | Lamb and/or fire | Lamb on Fire |
| Jacob | Angel or ladder | Macaroni Angel |
| Joseph | Many colored coat or chains | Many-colored Coat |
| Moses |  10 Commandments on Tablets | Clay tablets |
| Balaam | Donkey | Spool Donkey |
| Rahab | Basket and rope | Small Basket on Rope |
| Joshua | Gold Trumpet | Gold Trumpet |
| Samson | Scissors with long hair | Scissors with Long Hair |
| Saul | Crown | Paper crown with jewels |
| David | Sling Shot | Slingshot made with twigs and rubber band |
| Solomon | Temple | Temple made from yellow construction paper and decorated with sequins/beads/etc |
| Jonah | Whale | Yarn Whale with Jonah |
| 3 Young Men in Fire |  3 people | Pipecleaner Men |
| Judah Maccabee |  A menorah (7 candles)  | Hanukkah Candles |