Exploring the *Lectionary*

Answer Questions

Circle the readings that you have been assigned, and read them together with your partner, looking up any unfamiliar words. Then respond to the following questions.

- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: Genesis 3:9–15,20 and Luke 1:26–38
- Christmas (Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord) Mass at Midnight: Isaiah 9:1–6 and Luke 2:1–14
- Solemnity of the Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1–6 and Matthew 2:1–12
- Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:12–18 and Matthew 6:1–6,16–18
- Feast of the Visitation: Zephaniah 3:14–18 and Luke 1:39–56

1. Using your own words, write a brief summary (two to three sentences) of the Old Testament reading.

2. Using your own words, write a brief summary (two to three sentences) of the Gospel reading.

3. What do these two readings have in common? For example, you might notice common images, language, symbols, themes, or ideas.

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4. Why do you think the Church chose this particular Old Testament text to be used with this particular Gospel reading? What is the Church trying to teach us by pairing these readings?

5. How might hearing these two readings proclaimed in the same Eucharistic Liturgy nourish or deepen our faith? In other words, how might these readings, considered together, inspire us, challenge us, or encourage us to live out our faith with conviction?

Create a Poster

Do not begin this part until your teacher indicates that you should do so. Use your answers to the questions above and other points that have surfaced in your discussion to create a poster about your readings. Your poster should include and convey the following:

- *symbols, images, and some words*
- *the content of your readings, including the connections and commonalities between them*
- *how these readings, when proclaimed together at Mass, can nourish and sustain our life of faith*

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