

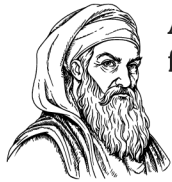
Sign of the Covenant

Genesis 21: 1-5 or Micah 4: 1-4

Old
Testament
Story Time

Out of love for His people, God created covenants -- solemn promises -- with His people throughout salvation history. In the Old Testament we find four major covenants God made with His people. Each covenant has a promise and a visible sign of the promise:

Noah -- God promised never to flood the earth again. As a sign of the promise, God put a rainbow in the sky. So every time we see a rainbow, we are reminded of God's promise.



Abraham -- God promised to make a great nation from the descendants of Abraham and through these descendants the whole world would be blessed. The sign of this promise was for every male to be circumcised.

Moses -- through Moses, God freed the nation of Israel from slavery and claimed them as His own people. Then God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as a sign of his promise.

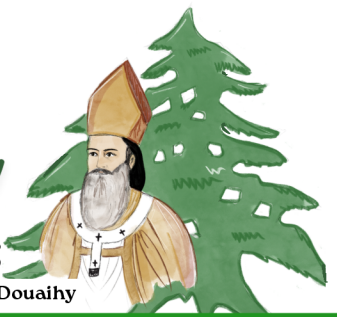


King David -- God promised David that one of his descendants would sit on the throne as king and his kingdom would live forever.

Although God's people were not always faithful, and did not always obey God's commands, the Lord God was always faithful to His people. God never broke the covenant promises, but rather he told His people that one day a Messiah - the promised anointed one - would come to fulfill all of these things. The Messiah would be from the line of David to sit on the throne of an everlasting and eternal kingdom and the whole world would receive a blessing through Him.

Cedar

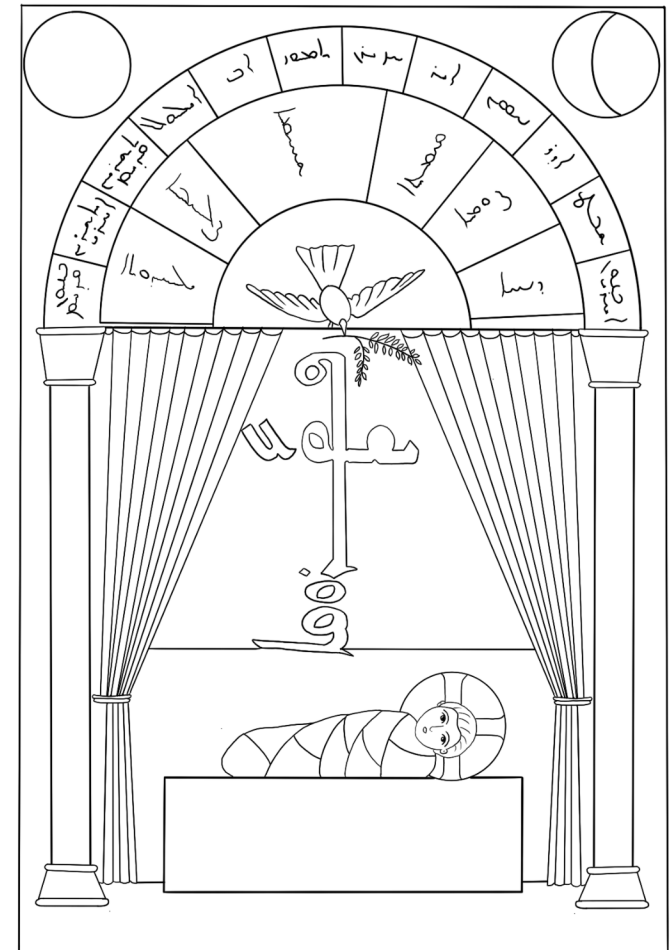
Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Circumcision of the Lord Jesus, Vol 1, No.12

January 1st



Again Paul recalled that Christ was circumcised
to confirm God's truth.

Christ fulfilled the promise made to the patriarchs of old.





Gospel Corner

Luke
2: 21

Today we celebrate the feast of our Lord's naming and circumcision which took place eight days after Jesus was born. Jesus was a Jew, and Jewish law stated that every male Jewish baby was to be named and circumcised on the eighth day after birth. This was to be the outward sign of the baby's belonging to God's chosen people. It was a practice that had taken place for hundreds of years since the time of Abraham.



Jesus was God's Son. There was no need for him to be circumcised in order to become one of God's chosen people. However, through obedience, He was willing to submit Himself to the law and to go through the same traditions of every other Jewish boy.

This act would also pave the way for something new. At the time of Jesus's coming, circumcision was the outward sign for one who belonged to God's chosen people; however, thirty years later, Jesus would make a new way to come into the family of God. The outward sign of our belief in Him and our belonging to the Church would come in the way of baptism and it is available to any and everyone.



Did you know?

A covenant in the Catholic faith is a solemn promise between God and His people, strengthened by an oath. It also contains an outward sign to represent the spiritual reality.

In the Old Testament, the outward sign of one of the covenants between God and His people was circumcision.

Jesus is God and did not need to be circumcised. Jesus submits to the law in order to show us how He fulfills all of God's promises and He is the new covenant.

What you can do

When you enter any Catholic Church, dip your fingers in the Holy Water and cross yourself as a reminder of your baptism.



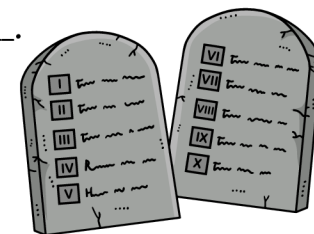
Do an examination of conscience to figure out times in your life when you struggle with obedience. If you don't know how to do an examination, ask your priest, RE teacher, or parent for help.



Fill In the Blanks

Complete the Ten Commandments. Use the words in the word bank if you need to.

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange _____ before me.
2. You shall not take the _____ of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's _____.
4. Honor your _____ and _____.
5. You shall not _____.
6. You shall not commit _____.
7. You shall not _____.
8. You shall not bear _____ witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not _____ your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's _____.



covet father day name gods kill
goods mother adultery steal false