


TALKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS >>>

The Church celebrates the Christmas season beginning with the celebration of Christ's birth with a vigil on Christmas Eve, and ending with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord in January. It is a festive season and includes several feasts commemorating the very early life of Jesus and the many ways God reveals himself to humans. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, is a symbol of new life. In the liturgies of the Church, the People of God celebrate with wonder, the Incarnation—God becomes flesh and dwells among us. We also celebrate that God the Father sent Jesus to save us.

God's Word

 Read **Luke 2:1–14**. In the Gospel according to Luke there is a continual focus on Jesus reaching out to those who are on the margins of society, so it is not surprising that poor shepherds are the first to hear the Good News of Jesus' birth.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Christmas

- At this age most children identify with Christmas as the “birthday” of Jesus. It is helpful to deepen their awareness that we are also celebrating the fact that God came among us and still remains with us.
- Gift-getting is important at any age. Giving thanks for gifts is not always the first thing children think about at Christmas. Use this opportunity to help children find ways to express their gratitude for material and non-material gifts. They might also consider how many children do not receive Christmas gifts, and what they can do for those children.




CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

The Nativity Scene

Each time you thank a family member during this season or affirm one of their non-material gifts, you strengthen the awareness of God's presence in your family. Gather around the family Nativity scene. Ask the members of your family to extend their hands over the Nativity scene in a gesture of blessing. Say: “May our Christmas manger be a reminder that our hearts are a home for Jesus.”

FAMILY PRAYER >>>

 Loving God, thank you for all the ways you share your love with us during this Christmas season. Show us how to live as generously as you do. Bless us and teach us to share with those in need. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.