

TALKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS >>>

The Church considers most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and the early manifestations of his birth. She celebrates the great mystery of God becoming man in Jesus Christ. While the day may be overshadowed with many activities in our society, the Church compels us to pay attention to the feast and the season. The season begins with the Vigil on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. Throughout the season, we are greeted in our parishes with candles, carols, a Nativity Scene, and white or gold vestments. This is the season of light, hope, peace, and joy.

God's Word



Read **Isaiah 9:1-6** to find the first reading for the Christmas Mass at Midnight. In it the prophet Isaiah describes what it will be like when the Messiah comes.

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Christmas

- The readings of the Christmas season will give you an opportunity to discuss God's command to love and serve others.
- By this age, children should know the protocol for thanking gift-givers and taking care of the gifts they receive. Encourage this practice. It strengthens the virtue of gratitude.

CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

Evergreen Wreaths

Evergreen wreaths and pine trees symbolize God's everlasting love for us. Take a family walk and collect pinecones and pine tree branches. During the Christmas season, place the pinecones and branches in the center of the dinner table as a reminder of God's love.



FAMILY PRAYER >>>



God of love, help us to live in love and unity as a family. Unite us in respect and peace. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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