

TALKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS >>>

The Christmas Season, which lasts from the Christmas Eve Vigil until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, is a joy-filled and hopeful season. The liturgical colors of white and gold and the festive decorations in church raise our hearts to hear the angels' message: "Peace to those on whom [God's] favor rests" (**Luke 2:14**).

Scripture



Read **Luke 2:1–14**, in which we see that one function of the angels is as messengers of God.

How do you imagine an angel delivered the message from this passage?

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

Peace

- Usually children this age are aware of the need for peace in the world. In fact, situations of unrest are often unsettling for them.
- Most children at this age are not naturally peacemakers when they are personally involved in a conflict. It is sometimes difficult for them to see options other than what they want or need. They need to be shown various options.



FEASTS OF THE SEASON >>>

Feast of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

January 1

The feast of the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is a Holy Day of Obligation. At some point during the day, gather your family to say prayers for peace by asking for the intercession of Mary and her Son, the Prince of Peace, to bring peace to nations and families torn by conflict.

In the Ukrainian tradition, children gently toss handfuls of wheat (which symbolizes new life in Christ) at their parents, while wishing them a healthy and blessed New Year.

FAMILY PRAYER >>>



Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Amen.



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