

## TALKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS >>>

Christmas is not merely a day. It's an entire season to celebrate. This Christmas, resolve to make the liturgical rhythms and commemorations of the Christmas Season a more significant part of your family's celebration. By participating as fully as possible in these feasts, which extend from the Christmas Eve Vigil through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in early January, your family can focus on the greatest gift—Jesus.

### Scripture



Read **Colossians 3:12–21**. Paul is addressing the Colossians on how they are to live their Christian life in the world. Reflect on how you live your Christian life in today's world.

## HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND >>>

### Christmas

- At this age, children may be less self-centered and more open to seeing Christmas as a season of giving and sharing.
- Some children at this age will be interested in the geography and history surrounding the Christmas events.
- Children at this age can be taught reverence. Remind them to be reverent during the reading of the Word, during prayer, and while in church.



## CATHOLIC FAMILY CUSTOMS >>>

### Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas unless Christmas falls on a Sunday. Then it is celebrated on December 30. The Christmas Season is, in a very real way, a celebration of the Holy Family—and of your family—because you are called to be holy, too. Holiness is not an abstract idea. It includes times of kindness and compassion as well as times of forgiving and asking forgiveness within your own family.

Make the feast a family celebration by having family members share in preparing a meal or inviting another family over for a pot luck dinner. Follow the meal with games and or a sing-along of Christmas music.

## FAMILY PRAYER >>>



Gather around your Nativity Scene on the Sundays of the Christmas season and pray:

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us through all the days of Christmas.

Fill our house with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving, and guide our steps in the way of peace.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).