

## Liturgical Year: Christmas

*We celebrate the Birth of Jesus during the Christmas season.*

### Chapter Summary

Christmas is the second season of the liturgical year. We celebrate the season of Christmas with the color white, which symbolizes joy. At Christmas, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, the long-awaited Savior. God sends Jesus into the world as a baby, born of the Virgin Mary in a stable. Shepherds and wise men went to Jesus to worship Him. Jesus' Birth is depicted in a nativity scene. When we see the nativity scene, we are reminded of the joy of Christ's Birth and the coming of the Light of the World.

### More for Parents

The birth of a child is a remarkable experience and one that gives parents a unique perspective on Christmas. We can relate to the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph in their anxiety and joy that accompanied the miraculous Birth of Christ. As parents, we can help our children enter into Christmas from our perspective. Christmas is certainly a time of joy, but it is also a time of great thanksgiving. Opening presents becomes a wonderful opportunity to practice thanksgiving to God and to others for their generosity. Going to Mass on Christmas can be hectic because of the large crowds, but it is the most appropriate way to give thanks to God for His incredible love shown to us by Jesus' becoming man to save us from sin.

### Virtue in the Family

Families come together for Christmas to celebrate the joy and peace of the holy day. These moments are not always peaceful, however. Nevertheless, they all offer opportunities to practice and grow in virtue and holiness. The most important way we can model virtue for our children is to show joy and gratitude during this season.

### Celebrating Christmas as a Family

- Share the story of your children's birth with them. How was it similar to or different from Jesus' Birth? Have your children list ways they can show gratitude to Jesus for the humble circumstances in which He was born.
- Take time this Christmas to kneel in front of a crucifix or nativity scene to express thanksgiving to Jesus for becoming man to save us from sin.
- Have everyone in the family write thank-you cards to the people who gave them gifts.
- Ask your parish if there is any way you can volunteer your time in assisting at Christmas Masses.

### Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **Christmas**
- **nativity scene**

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



For more family faith formation resources, go to the parent portal.