

# FAMILY FAITH

## Chapter 9: The Savior Is Born

*Jesus, our Savior, was born in Bethlehem.*

### Chapter Summary

“The Word became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with God” (CCC 457). The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. He said she would be the Mother of God. Mary said yes to God’s plan. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread.” He was protected by His foster father, Joseph. Jesus was laid in a manger, a food box for animals. In so doing, He foreshadowed the Eucharist. Jesus was visited by shepherds and wise men. The shepherds left, joyfully praising God. The wise men gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts reveal that Jesus is King, as well as truly God and man.

### More for Parents

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph formed the Holy Family. This family is aptly called holy because in a very literal way, Christ was the center of the family. What is at the center of your family? Does it revolve around sports, vacations, money, or relaxation? Many families order their day-to-day lives around these good activities and then try to squeeze Christ and the Church in where they can. But our families must be like the Holy Family! We should order our entire family life around God, prayer, and church. When we make Christ the center, we can become transformed by God’s grace and virtue.

### Virtue in the Family

There are many different ways to make Christ the center of your family. But the first step is a change in mindset. Is prayer, church, or the sacraments the first thing that is sacrificed when there is a conflict in your schedule? Sometimes, making Christ the center requires sacrifices, but it is the greatest gift you can give to your children.

### Growing as a Holy Family

- As a family, remain actively engaged in your parish community.
  - First, this means that you attend church every Sunday. It is ideal to have a home parish that is familiar to you and your children. This will enable you to form friendships and become part of a local church community.
  - Second, participate in the church community. Volunteer as a family for fish fries, festivals, and food drives. This will make Christ a more central part of your family’s life.
- As a family, talk about sacred topics. Many times, families talk about sports, work, or other activities. These are good, but God should also be a regular topic around the house.
  - Ask your children what they thought about the homily on Sunday.
  - Read a saint story to your children.
  - Talk to them about what they are learning in catechism class.

### Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **Bethlehem**
- **manger**

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



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