

# FAMILY FAITH

## Liturgical Year: Christmas

*During the Christmas season, we remember the events of Christ's Birth.*

### Chapter Summary

During the Christmas season, we walk with the Holy Family through the Birth of Jesus and rejoice at the coming of the Savior. This season begins with the Masses on the evening before Christmas Day and goes all the way to the Baptism of Jesus (Sunday after January 6). The color for the Christmas season is white, which reminds us to rejoice. Churches often put up nativity scenes, which help us imagine what the Birth of Jesus was like. One way we can participate in the Christmas season is by decorating a Christmas tree. As we decorate the tree, we can remember that Jesus came to give us everlasting life.

### More for Parents

Christmas is a season of great joy. One way to enter into this joy is by decorating your home. This year, include your children in putting up the decorations. As you decorate your tree this season, discuss the symbolism of the tree. Talk with your children about how the evergreen tree represents the everlasting life given to us by Jesus. As you string the lights, remind your children that Jesus is the Light of the World. If possible, put up a nativity scene in your home a few days before Christmas, but leave the manger empty. As you approach Christmas, discuss the story of Jesus' Birth with your children as you look upon the nativity scene. On Christmas, have your children put Jesus in the manger as a reminder of what this great feast is all about. After you have worked hard to decorate, make sure to keep your decorations up for the whole Christmas season to remember the great joy brought to us through Christ's Birth.

### Virtue in the Family

It's sometimes difficult to remember that Christmas continues past the actual day itself! In little ways, like keeping our decorations up, we can witness to others and remind ourselves of the ongoing celebration.

### Keeping Christ in Christmas

- Family prayer activity
  - Kneeling or sitting before a nativity scene, read the account of Jesus' Nativity found in Luke 2:1–7. Lead your family to reflect on the following:
  - Imagine yourself in the manger with Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds.
  - Look at Jesus. He is God, yet He humbled Himself to be a baby out of love for you.
  - In your own words, tell Him “thank You.”
  - End by praying a Glory Be.
- Keep the wise men out of the nativity scene until the Feast of Epiphany (January 6). Instead, each day move them throughout the house as though they're on a journey. On the feast day, place them near the manger and read the gospel account from Matthew 2:1–12.
- As an act of charity, bake Christmas cookies for your neighbors. Before and after you make them, pray a Hail Mary for those who will receive them. If you deliver them after Christmas Day, be prepared to explain that Christmas is not over yet!
- Attend daily Mass once or twice during the Christmas season to remain focused on Jesus and to continue celebrating His Birth with thanksgiving.

### 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.