

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord



St. Charles Catholic Church
Liturgy of the Word with Children
Family Reflection for
December 25, 2022 Christmas Day

Family Prayer:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy birth you give hope to all people. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

"Celebrate the Messiah's birth."

Reflection:

The gospel reading from the second chapter of St. Luke may sound very familiar especially if you have watched Charlie Brown's Christmas Special. Linus recites the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke and explains the real meaning of Christmas.

Read the Gospel slowly and look for deeper meanings.

Just the fact that baby Jesus is placed in a manger, a food trough for animals, suggests that Christ will become "food" for the world.

When Jesus grows to be an adult, he gives us the Eucharist at the Last Supper. After a blessing is spoken, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus.

This Gospel story also introduces us to God's plan of salvation for the world.

Family activities:

1. We call Jesus, "the Light of the World." He came to spread light and goodness to all people. Christ came into the darkness of our world to light the way, so that we could clearly see and follow his path of love. Jesus brought many gifts into the world, such as justice, love, peace, joy, and hope. As followers of Christ, it is our job to share his light with others through our words and actions. Brainstorm ideas of what you can do as a family to share the light of Christ with others. Make a plan to live out one or more ideas during the Christmas season.
2. Christmas is full of family traditions. This year, you may want to research some of your family's cultural traditions or begin new ones that celebrate the day in a meaningful way. Sometimes it can be difficult to manage all of the commercial aspects of Santa and gift exchange with the spiritual message of the Christmas season. Model for your child(ren) what you truly value as a disciple of Christ.
3. Pray for people in today's world who are far from their homes, those who live in fear, and those who live in need.

Discuss these questions as a family:

Gather around a nativity set or picture and read carefully Luke's story of Jesus' birth, Luke 2:1-14. Invite each family member to say one thing about the Christmas story that makes an impression on them.

What do you remember about the following people in Luke's Christmas story: Emperor Augustus, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, an angel, a group of angels, and a group of shepherds?

Why do you think God's angels chose to make the announcement of Christ's birth to shepherds and not to rich or powerful people?

