

The Birth of the Lord

25th December 2021

Preparing the prayer space

Place a white cloth on the table or floor (white – the colour for solemnity)
Place a cross, bible, and candle on it. Light the candle or use a battery-operated candle for safety. Add any other symbols relevant to your family.

Prepare materials

- YouTube as listed on sheet: Scripture story and song
- Suggested activities: your choice or other related activity on sheet
- Print out sheet if required



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Gather around the prayer space as a family

Parent/Caregiver: In today's gospel, we hear that Elizabeth's baby leaps with joy at the presence of Mary who is carrying the baby Jesus in her womb.

Opening prayer:

Loving God, help us to trust in your plans and to remember that you will always keep your promises.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (2:1-14)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

Mary was engaged to Joseph and travelled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them.

The shepherds were frightened.

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying in a manger."

Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said: "Praise God in heaven! Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(Gospel text © Lectionary for Masses with Children (1993) Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York)

Prayerfully watch the videos together

The Christmas Story <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dbp24wZQa3Y> (9:34min)

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder what Joseph was thinking...

I wonder how Joseph was feeling...

I wonder what Mary was thinking...

I wonder how Mary was feeling...

I wonder why the angel shared the news of Jesus' birth with the shepherds...

I wonder what it would have been like to see all the angels praising God...

Let us sing together our beliefs as Christians:

I Believe - John Burland ft. Genevieve Bryant <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvYbfojVKGQ> (4 mins)

Intercessions: Let us now spend some time in prayer asking God to listen to our needs.
(We respond to the prayers by saying the words 'Lord, hear our prayer')

1 We pray Pope Francis, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, all Church and world leaders will speak for the voiceless and powerless.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

2 We pray for all immigrants, refugees and the homeless to be welcomed.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

3 We pray for our Church to welcome all who come seeking shelter and love/

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

4 We pause for a moment and pray in our hearts or aloud for any intentions or people we would like to pray for at this time (*pause*)

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

6 We pray for those who are sick and suffering that they may receive the grace of healing and comfort.

Lord, hear us. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer

(Daily Prayer 2021 © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago)

Closing prayer: We lift our hearts and the prayers of our community. We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing song: Silent Night <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofb5FtKpy2g> (3:39min)

Follow up activity suggestions after the time of prayer has end.

- **Prayer journal**

Write a prayer to Jesus in your prayer journal (special notebook).

- **Colouring In**

<https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/1694446>

- **Nativity Ornaments**

Add to your Christmas tree by including important people from the gospel: Mary, Baby Jesus, Joseph, an Angel, and a Shepherd.

Black & White: http://molliejohanson.com/wildolive/PrintableOrnaments_Nativity_bw.pdf

Colour: http://molliejohanson.com/wildolive/PrintableOrnaments_Nativity.pdf

- **Sunday Connection**

God made himself at home with us by taking on flesh and becoming a human person. We call this mystery the Incarnation... Together thank God for this mystery of the Incarnation and the salvation that we received because Jesus was born among us. Sing together a Christmas hymn, such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful" or "Silent Night."

<https://www.loylapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/nativity-of-the-lord-christmas-mass-during-the-day/>