

Octave of Christmas Mary, Mother of God 1st January 2022

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 Mary listened to all that the shepherds told her, and she pondered these things in her heart.

Opening prayer:

Lord God, even when we don't understand your plans let us always hold your Word close to our hearts.

Gospel: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (2:16-21)

All: Glory to you O, Lord.

The shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying in the manger.

When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised. But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

Eight days later Jesus' parents did for him what the Law of Moses commands.

And they named him Jesus, just as the angel had told Mary when he promised she would have a baby.

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 Story of Christmas (Jesus and the Shepherds) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo>

Scripture reflection and time of sharing:

I wonder what the shepherds did when they saw baby Jesus...

I wonder what Mary was thinking and wondering...

I wonder who the shepherds told the wonderful things to...

I wonder how the shepherds were feeling after all the things the angel said came true...

I wonder what they needed to do to as, 'the Law of Moses commands'...

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 ponder and reflect on the best interests of the communities under their care.

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

2 We pray for all who feel uncertain or concerned about their future. May they find the peace that Jesus offers.

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

3 We pray that all the members of our Church will know and feel that they are deeply loved by God.

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 our world, especially for all those people who are afraid or experience confusion, that they will find comfort in the love that God has for them.

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

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

Closing song: Mary Did You Know? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1H1-scfD1s>

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://www.thecatholickid.com/mary-with-baby-jesus-in-bethlehem-coloring-page-cnt-mls/?epik=dj0yJnU9bjVGSmZJdzVjNVdoNnZrYzRDaGpWVTVPdkRuZDN4Z1AmcD0wJm49UVIwTjRBcGxNdGR1TVhrOHd6aWFFQSZ0PUFBQUFBR0cybWtF>
- **Draw your own Mary**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wymV099cmZ4>