

FAITH ALIVE @ HOME!

A DIGITAL GUIDE TO FAMILY FAITH FORMATION AND PRAYER!

Created for you by the Office for Lifelong Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Newark

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a season!

Did you know that Christmas is not just a day, it is a whole season of the Church's Liturgical Year!

Advent was meant to help us get ready to welcome Jesus into our home and hearts not only for a day, but forever!

The Church gives us a whole season to celebrate and think about how our lives have changed because Jesus came to live like us and with us.

So don't take down that Christmas tree.

Leave those lights up!

How can you celebrate this beautiful season with your family? Here are some ideas.

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CHRISTMAS MORNING FAMILY PRAYER

Loving God, during this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families. Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty. Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love. May the grace that encircles the Holy

Family widen to embrace all families.

For this we pray. Amen.



<https://mycatholicprayers.com/prayers/christmas-prayer-for-families/>

Going to Mass Together: Make it a Tradition!

Christmas Day is a Holy Day of Obligation, and Catholics must attend Mass. It makes sense for the Church to remind us that Christmas is about celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, who loved us so much, that he became human! Going to Mass together is a powerful experience. (Yes, it can be daunting with little ones - but it will be worth it as they grow into understanding Christmas!)

PLAN AHEAD: Find a *family* Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Plan your schedule, what you'll wear, & pack a bag for the kiddos!



The Twelve Days of Christmas is more than a song!

Did you know that between Christmas Day and the Feast of the Epiphany (Three Kings Day) there is something to celebrate every day?

Watch to learn:

- About how Advent helps us prepare to celebrate beyond just one day.
- About the feasts and solemnities we celebrate during these 12 days.
- How the Feast of Epiphany helps us to move beyond the season.



Celebrating the Feasts and Solemnities during Christmas!

St. Stephen, First Martyr

December 26th, 2026

Patron of Deacons and Altar Servers

AS A FAMILY: In Greek the word "Diaconia" means service. Do a charitable work today.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



St. John the Evangelist

December 27th

St. John was almost poisoned with wine, but he blessed the wine and the poison didn't work so he survived.

AS A FAMILY: Bless a bottle of wine or cider. It is a tradition around the world.

[READ THE GOSPEL OF JOHN HERE](#)



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

(Sunday after Christmas)

December 26th, 2026

AS A FAMILY: Spend the day together and share why you are grateful for each other.

[PRAY THIS PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY.](#)



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1st

This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Plan to go to Mass. (Maybe a vigil Mass on 12/31 if you'll be out late.)

AS A FAMILY: Pray the rosary together.

[HOW TO PRAY THE ROSARY](#)



The Epiphany of the Lord

(Traditionally January 6th. In the U.S. celebrated the first Sunday after Jan. 1st)

January 4, 2026

AS A FAMILY: Bless your home!



The Baptism of the Lord

(The Sunday after the Epiphany)

January 11, 2026

AS A FAMILY: Renew your baptismal promises and bless each other with Holy Water.

[BAPTISMAL PROMISES](#)



Epiphany Home Blessing

- Gather together at the door of your home. (Have chalk & Holy Water.)
- Start with the Sign of the Cross. Ask God to bless the home and those in it.
- On the doorframe above the door write: 20 + C + M + B + 26
- Walk around and bless the home with Holy Water.
- Conclude with a prayer asking Jesus to dwell in the home and protect it.

[HERE IS A BEAUTIFUL EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING PRAYER.](#)

[LEARN ABOUT THE BLESSING AND WHAT THE INSCRIPTION MEANS HERE.](#)

Traditions around the world.



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