



CATHOLIC
FAMILY
CRATE

THE TWELVE DAYS OF *Christmas*

A Guide to a Catholic Christmas

Breathe life into your faith during this holy season.
Use this guide to keep Christmas simple, prayerful,
and joyful for your entire family.



THE TWELVE DAYS OF *Christmas*

Directions

Use this guide to help you plan a beautiful, simple Christmas season!

HOW CAN YOU CELEBRATE THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS?

1. Use this guide to intentionally plan your celebrations.
2. Check out the simple ideas included.
3. Print the activity pages (we recommend setting your printer to “bleed”).

OUR FAMILY PLAN

Use the Christmas planner on page 6 to plan your Christmas celebrations. You will find ideas on pages 3-4 or you can come up with your own. Involve the whole family, you might be surprised by some of their ideas. **Remember, just adding one new tradition each year helps make future years easier and more festive.** Keep it simple, doable, and fun!

What's the difference between Advent and Christmas?

As Catholics, we separate Advent and Christmas. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds towards Christ's birth. We are called to penance, contemplation, and joyful hope during this time of waiting. Advent also marks the beginning of a new year in the Church, reminding us to begin anew with enthusiasm and a renewed commitment to the faith.

While Advent is a time of preparation, Christmas is a time to celebrate Christ's birth. The world stops celebrating Christmas on December 25th, but Catholics celebrate Christmas for twelve days! We call this Christmastide. Celebrations begin on Christmas Eve and last twelve days until the day before the Epiphany, January 5th.



Celebrate the holiness and joy of Christmas.

SIMPLE IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING THE SEASON THROUGH THE EPIPHANY

- + Leave your decorations up.
- + Move the Three Kings from your nativity scenes around the house every day until they reach Jesus.
- + Play Christmas music through the Epiphany.
- + Spread out Christmas gifts over the twelve days.

FEAST DAY NOTES:

There are several special feast days celebrated throughout the Christmas season. A feast day honors and celebrates a specific saint. Some families choose to include these saints in their celebrations by sharing a story about the saint's life, asking for the saint's intercession, or baking a special treat in honor of the saint.

The feasts during Christmas are listed on page 6 in parenthesis. If this tradition is new to you, we suggest starting with the Feast of the Holy Family which is celebrated the Sunday after Christmas. This honors the Holy Family as a perfect model for all families.



More Ideas to Celebrate the Christmas Season

PACE YOURSELF BY PICKING ONE IDEA PER DAY. WRITE THEM IN YOUR PLAN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.

- + Reserve a day for siblings to exchange gifts with each other.
- + Enjoy hot chocolate as you write your Christmas thank yous. *(Recipe on page 20)*
- + Watch your favorite Christmas movie together. Stay up late!
- + Eat peppermint ice cream for dessert.
- + Decorate a gingerbread house.
- + Jump in the car and look at Christmas lights in your pjs. *(Christmas light scavenger hunt on page 19)*
- + Decorate Christmas cookies.
- + Go to Mass or Adoration in fancy Christmas clothes.
- + Sing Christmas Carols around the neighborhood. *(See pages 11-14 for some of our favorites!)*
- + Pray a shortened version of the Litany of Jesus. *(Prayer on page 10)*
- + Color the coloring page from this guide. *(Coloring page on page 8)*
- + Work on the maze included in this guide. *(Maze on page 9)*
- + Pick out a new ornament (on clearance post Christmas)!
- + Host an Epiphany party. *(Invitation included on page 17)*
- + Celebrate the New Year by recounting your blessings as a family. *(Gratitude list on page 18)*
- + Celebrate one of the Feast Days that falls in this season. *(See Feast Day Notes on page 3 and a list of feast days on page 6)*

Feeling inspired? ADD YOUR OWN IDEAS.

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Shopping list:

REVIEW YOUR CHRISTMAS PLANS AND MAKE A LIST OF ANYTHING YOU NEED TO GET FROM THE STORE.



THE TWELVE DAYS OF *Christmas*

DON'T FORGET the Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated the Sunday after Christmas.

DECEMBER 25TH
1st Day of Christmas

DECEMBER 31ST
7th Day of Christmas (*St. Sylvester*)

DECEMBER 26TH
2nd Day of Christmas (*St. Stephen*)

JANUARY 1ST
8th Day of Christmas (*Mary, Mother of God**)

DECEMBER 27TH
3rd Day of Christmas (*St. John*)

JANUARY 2ND
9th Day of Christmas

DECEMBER 28TH
4th Day of Christmas (*Holy Innocents*)

JANUARY 3RD
10th Day of Christmas

DECEMBER 29TH
5th Day of Christmas (*St. Thomas Becket*)

JANUARY 4TH
11th Day of Christmas

DECEMBER 30TH
6th Day of Christmas

JANUARY 5TH
12th Day of Christmas


 **Epiphany!**  **JANUARY 6TH**

**Mary, Mother of God is a Holy Day of Obligation – don't forget to make Mass part of your plans!*

Gift List

If you'd like to spread gifts out over the twelve days of Christmas, use this section to map out your gifting plans. Print multiple copies based on the size of your family. Gift tags to keep it all straight provided on pages 15 and 16.



	NAME: _____	NAME: _____	NAME: _____	NAME: _____	NAME: _____
DECEMBER 25TH					
DECEMBER 26TH					
DECEMBER 27TH					
DECEMBER 28TH					
DECEMBER 29TH					
DECEMBER 30TH					
DECEMBER 31ST					
JANUARY 1ST					
JANUARY 2ND					
JANUARY 3RD					
JANUARY 4TH					
JANUARY 5TH					
JANUARY 6TH					

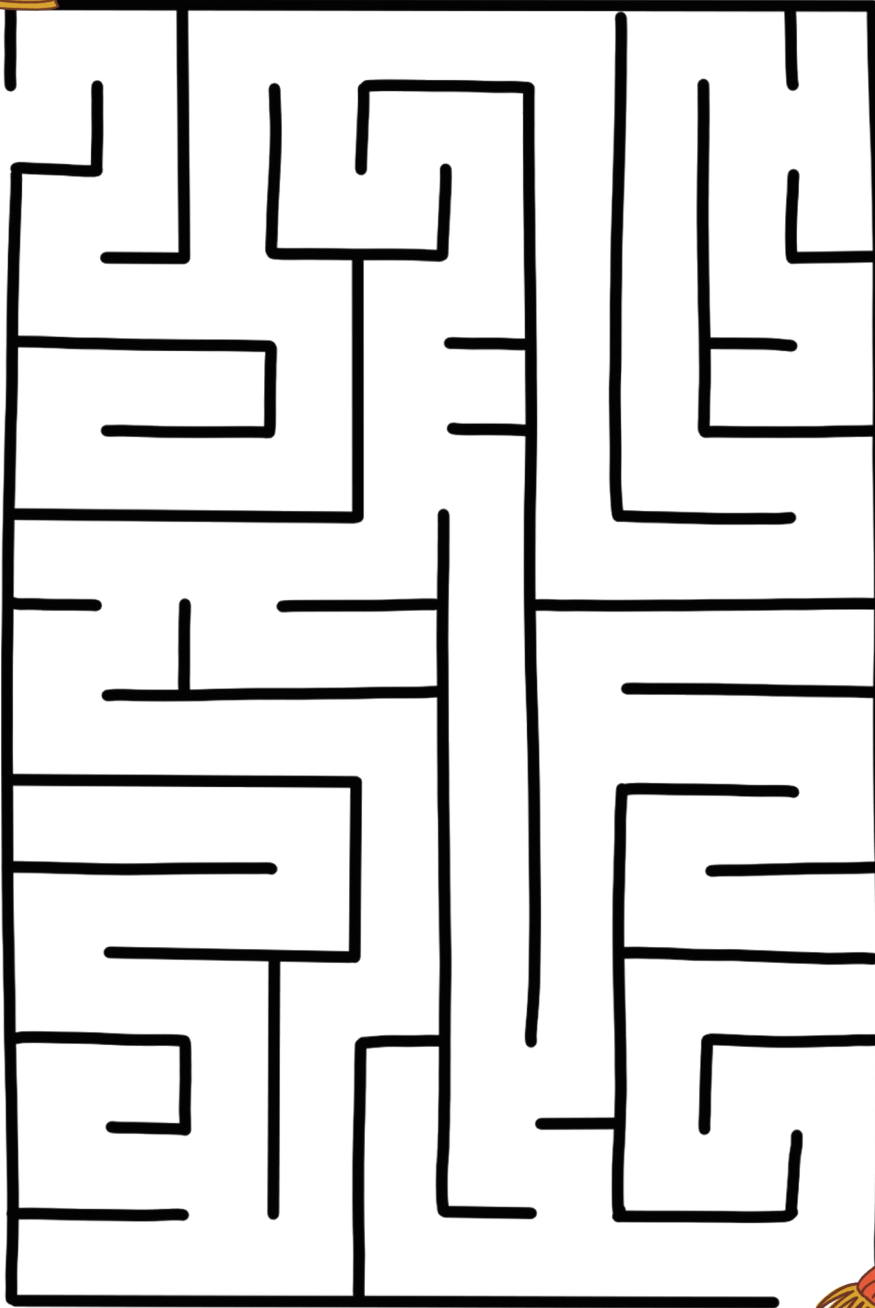




Wise Men Maze

Help the Wise Men deliver gifts to baby Jesus!

START ↑



FINISH ↗





LITANY of JESUS

A litany is a form of prayer used in services and processions. Litanies express a number of petitions. This Litany honors the Holy names of Jesus and petitions for God's infinite mercy. We have provided a shortened version. You can find the full version [online](#).

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
God our Father in heaven
have mercy on us
God the Son,
have mercy on us
Redeemer of the world
have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit
have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God
have mercy on us
Jesus, Son of the living God
have mercy on us
Jesus, splendor of the Father
have mercy on us
Jesus, brightness of everlasting light
have mercy on us
Jesus, king of glory
have mercy on us
Jesus, dawn of justice

have mercy on us
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary
have mercy on us
Jesus, worthy of our love
have mercy on us
Jesus worthy of our wonder
have mercy on us
Jesus, mighty God
have mercy on us
Jesus, father of the world to come
have mercy on us
Jesus, prince of peace
have mercy on us
Jesus, all-powerful
have mercy on us
Jesus, pattern of patience
have mercy on us
Jesus, model of obedience
have mercy on us
Jesus, gentle and humble of heart
have mercy on us
Jesus, lover of chastity
have mercy on us
Jesus, lover of us all
have mercy on us

Jesus, God of peace
have mercy on us
Jesus, author of life
have mercy on us
Jesus, model of goodness
have mercy on us
Jesus, seeker of souls
have mercy on us
Jesus, our God
have mercy on us
Jesus, our refuge
have mercy on us
Jesus, father of the poor
have mercy on us
Jesus, treasure of the faithful
have mercy on us
Jesus, Good Shepherd
have mercy on us
Jesus, the true light
have mercy on us
Jesus, eternal wisdom
have mercy on us
Jesus, infinite goodness
have mercy on us

LET US PRAY.

As we venerate the most holy Name of Jesus, mercifully grant us, Lord, that, savoring its sweetness in this life, we may be filled with everlasting joy in our heavenly homeland.

Through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

What Child is This?

What Child is this,
Who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with
anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

REFRAIN

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear:
for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

REFRAIN

So bring Him incense, gold,
and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

REFRAIN



CHRISTMAS CAROLS

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain,
Moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

REFRAIN

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

REFRAIN

Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worship God on high.



REFRAIN

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb

REFRAIN

Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sounds through the earth and skies.

REFRAIN

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ, our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray.

REFRAIN

O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name.

REFRAIN

"Fear not," then said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior,
The true and radiant light,
To free all those who trust in him
From Satan's pow'r and might."

REFRAIN

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And in true love and fellowship
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
Is filled with heav'nly grace.

REFRAIN



Gift Tags

FOR YOUR LITTLE SAINTS

To: _____

1ST DAY OF
Christmas
From: _____



To: _____

2ND DAY OF
Christmas
From: _____



To: _____

3RD DAY OF
Christmas
From: _____



To: _____

4TH DAY OF
Christmas
From: _____



To: _____

5TH DAY OF
Christmas
From: _____



To: _____

6TH DAY OF
Christmas
From: _____



Gift Tags

FOR YOUR LITTLE SAINTS

To: _____

1ST DAY OF
Christmas



From: _____

To: _____

8TH DAY OF
Christmas



From: _____

To: _____

9TH DAY OF
Christmas



From: _____

To: _____

10TH DAY OF
Christmas



From: _____

To: _____

11TH DAY OF
Christmas



From: _____

To: _____

12TH DAY OF
Christmas



From: _____

Throw A Party!

CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY AS A FAMILY (AND MAYBE INVITE SOME FRIENDS!)

Print out this invitation and enlist your saints-in-training to help you cut them out and fill in the details.





WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR THIS YEAR?

_____ 's

End-of-Year Gratitude List

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____

I'm grateful for... _____



Christmas Light Scavenger Hunt

Can you spot these Christmas items as you look at Christmas lights?
Put a check mark next to the item when you find it.



NATIVITY SCENE

SOMETHING THAT GIVES YOU

joy

CANDY CANE



CANDLE



CHRISTMAS TREE



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



ANGEL



STAR



HOLLY



TWINKLE LIGHTS

Homemade Hot Chocolate

MIX YIELDS 15-18 CUPS

INGREDIENTS

- + ¼ cup cocoa powder
- + ½ cup hot water
- + 20 ounces chopped semi-sweet chocolate
- + 10 cups whole milk
- + 2 ½ cups heavy cream
- + 1 (12 ounces) can evaporated milk (not fat-free)
- + ½ cup sugar (optional)
- + ¼ teaspoon salt

SUPPLIES

- + mixing bowl
- + whisk
- + can opener
- + measuring cups and spoons
- + 6 quart (or larger) slow cooker

DIRECTIONS

- + Add the cocoa powder to a bowl, pour in the hot water, and whisk until mixed.
- + Add the cocoa mixture along with the chopped chocolate, milk, heavy cream, evaporated milk, and salt to a 6-quart slow cooker or larger. **If you're serving this with hot chocolate toppings, consider leaving out the sugar to avoid the hot chocolate being too sweet. If you're serving the hot chocolate solo, add in the sugar.**
- + Cook the hot chocolate on the high setting for 3-4 hours or on low for 6 hours. Stir the hot chocolate every hour to keep the chocolate from settling to the bottom.

Leftover hot chocolate can be refrigerated for up to one week and warmed in the microwave before serving.

OPTIONAL TOPPINGS

- + marshmallows or mini marshmallows
- + toffee bits
- + coarse sea salt
- + mini chocolate chips
- + crushed peppermints or candy canes
- + whoppers
- + milk chocolate truffles
- + white chocolate shavings
- + whipped cream
- + dark chocolate syrup
- + caramel sauce



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