

Family Page

Background Reflection

When Jesus was born, God chose to share this world-changing, life-altering news with simple people rather than those who were considered powerful or important. God's "birth announcement," brought to the shepherds by an angel, was as simple and humble as Jesus' entry into the world, a newborn laid in a manger.

As the Christmas season can become stressful and complicated with the coordination of events and elaborate gift-giving, we can lose clear sight of the real meaning and purpose of the celebration. Let us pray for the ability to celebrate Christmas in the simple and receptive spirit of the shepherds and find, at the heart of the Christmas season, a reason to be filled with wonder and joy because of Jesus' birth.

Family Activities

- Remind your child that Christmas is not over on December 25. Explain that we celebrate the Christmas season for about two weeks. Discuss how your family can keep the Christmas celebration alive during this special time.
- Find library books that retell the Christmas story and read them together. Notice the different details in each one. Discuss what was different about each of these stories and what each one tells about the story of Jesus' birth.
- Watch the video "THE CHRISTMAS STORY FOR KIDS—told with LEGO Stop Motion," published by the QuadSquad (YouTube, 4:43), together. You may want to stop the video at 3:12, before the story of the Magi begins. Ask your child to describe the part of the story that she or he remembers best.

People of Faith

Saint Nicholas of Myra (d. 346)

Saint Nicholas helped those who were poor, especially children. As a priest and bishop, he taught the truth about the faith. Stories of Nicholas's gifts to children are the origin of the person we call Santa Claus. Saint Nicholas's feast day is December 6.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Loving God, you sent your only Son, Jesus, to Earth to show us what your love is like. Help us be close to Jesus and celebrate the Good News of his birth in our everyday lives. Amen.

