

FAITH FORMATION

This Week's Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 and Matthew 2:1-12

God blessed us by becoming a member of the human family. This is what Christmas celebrates. The Holy Family and God's incarnation is why there is something so very human about this feast, something that touches us in a way deeper than mere nostalgia. Christmas celebrates God's becoming one of us and one with us. Jesus comes as an infant, placed in the care of a struggling, but lovely family. We are reminded at Christmas that our families are shrouded in the same holiness that Jesus' family is. We look to their lives together as an example of how to love each other through celebrations and struggles. We also remember the Epiphany in this week's lesson. The Magi remind us that Jesus came for everyone on Earth. Exploring the Gospel Message

Promise (Grades Pre-School, K & 1): Be sure to visit the manger in your parish church during Christmas time. While you are there, thank Mary for being a wonderful mother to Jesus. Say a prayer there that everyone will hear the Good News of Jesus.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This week's lesson focuses on the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi. Talk to your child about how Mary fulfilled her calling to be Jesus' mother with her whole heart. Assure your child that you try your best to follow Mary's example.

Venture (Grades 4-6): Christmas time is often filled with various activities, and it may be difficult to find time to share as a family. Try to set aside time with your child to talk about the Christmas story. It is good to remember that Jesus Christ came so that all people could be saved. Talk about all the elements of Jesus' birth—the journey to Bethlehem, the vision of the angels, the shepherds at the manger, and the visit of the Magi. Talk about the ways your family celebrates the feast and decide on ways you can make sure that Jesus is at the center of your family's Christmas.