

Chapter 14 Christmas

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Three Days

Easter

Ordinary Time

Christmas

Next to the yearly celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 32)

Overview

In this chapter students will learn that the season of Christmas is a time to rejoice in the Incarnation.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 457 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

What do you love best about the Christmas season?

The Church celebrates Christmas as a season of rejoicing in the Incarnation of the Son of God. As we proclaim in the Nicene Creed, Christ “came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.”

The Word became flesh so that we might be saved and reconciled with God.

From sundown on December 24 to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Christmas season celebrates the mystery of God-with-us. The seasonal liturgies celebrate the wonder of the Son of God's becoming man. The Word became flesh so that we might know God's love and be made “*partakers of the divine nature*” (CCC 460). Our belief in

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this central truth is a distinctive sign of our Christian faith.

The Masses of the season begin with the Christmas Vigil on the evening of December 24. They continue on December 25 with the Christmas Midnight Mass, the Mass at Dawn, and the Mass of Christmas Day. The Old Testament readings from the Hebrew prophets prepare us for the Nativity narratives from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The readings from the Epistles look ahead to the coming of Christ in glory.

How will you celebrate and experience God-with-us during this holy season?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Focus

Presentation

Materials

1 WE GATHER

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| <p>page 121 Introduce the Season</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the <i>Chapter Story</i>. • Introduce the Christmas Season. • Proclaim the words on the banner. | |
| <p>page 122</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the question about celebrating. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beach towels • baby doll in blanket |

2 WE BELIEVE

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| <p>pages 122–124 <i>The season of Christmas is a time to rejoice in the Incarnation.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about and discuss the season of Christmas and the three Masses. • Discuss Epiphany. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poster board • markers |
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3 WE RESPOND

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| <p>page 124</p> |  Make a chart of ways people celebrate the Christmas season. | |
| <p>Text page 125 Guide page 125–126 We Respond in Prayer</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make pipe-cleaner figures (optional). • Listen to Scripture.  Respond in song. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prayer space items: nativity scene; electric candles; bells and tambourines (optional); religious Christmas music (optional) • pipe cleaners, glue, fabric scraps (optional)  “Calling the Children,” Matthew Wooten, #12, Grade 5 CD |
| <p>Text page 126 Guide pages 125–126, 126A Project Disciple</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Project Disciple activities. • Complete Reproducible Master 14 activity. See Guide pages 126A and 121C. • Discuss/send home Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 126B. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of Reproducible Master 14, guide page 126A. • copies of Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 126B. |

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier’s

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com