

Keeping the Christmas Season at Home

DECEMBER 25, 2018—JANUARY 13, 2019

Christmas

SEASON

CHRISTMAS DAILY PRAYER

Your gift to me, O Lord:
to grow in faith
during these holy Christmas days.

Your gift to me, O Lord:
to increase in hope
throughout the joyful days
of Christmas.

Your gift to me, O Lord:
to live in love,
beyond the days of this
Christmas season.

TABLE PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Glory to the newborn King!
Glory to the newborn King!

May this meal strengthen us
to serve you by serving others
as we acclaim your marvelous birth.

Glory to the newborn King!

May this bountiful table nourish us
to share the glad tidings
as angel voices fill the heavens.

Glory to the newborn King!

May this be a season of grace
so others will see divine love
in our celebration of love made flesh.

Glory to the newborn King!

Bless this meal, bless our lives
during these joyful Christmas days.
Amen.

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EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

Items needed: chalk and a small bottle of holy water. Gather with family members, friends, and perhaps some neighbors at the front door.

Leader: In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray: *Christus mansionem benedicat.*
May Christ bless this house, Amen.

The main doorway is signed
[20 + C + M + B + 19]

Leader (or other Reader): A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength. These commandments I give you are to be in your hearts. Place them on the doorframes of your home and on your entry gate. The Word of the Lord.

Each room is sprinkled with holy water.

Living room:

Bring us to live with you one day in heaven.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

Kitchen:

The celestial feast awaits us.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

Dining room:

Seat us at the heavenly banquet.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

Bedrooms:

Be our renewal and our rest.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

Bathroom:

Make us clean with fresh water.
Bless this room, O Lord. Amen.

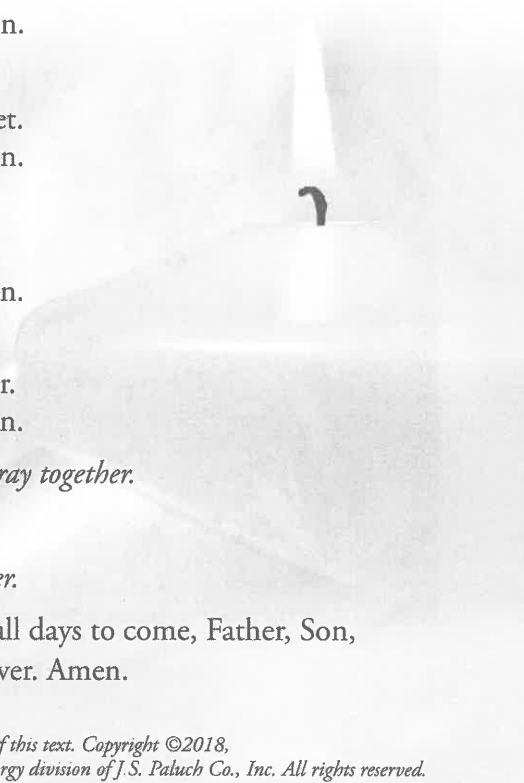
All return to the front door to pray together.

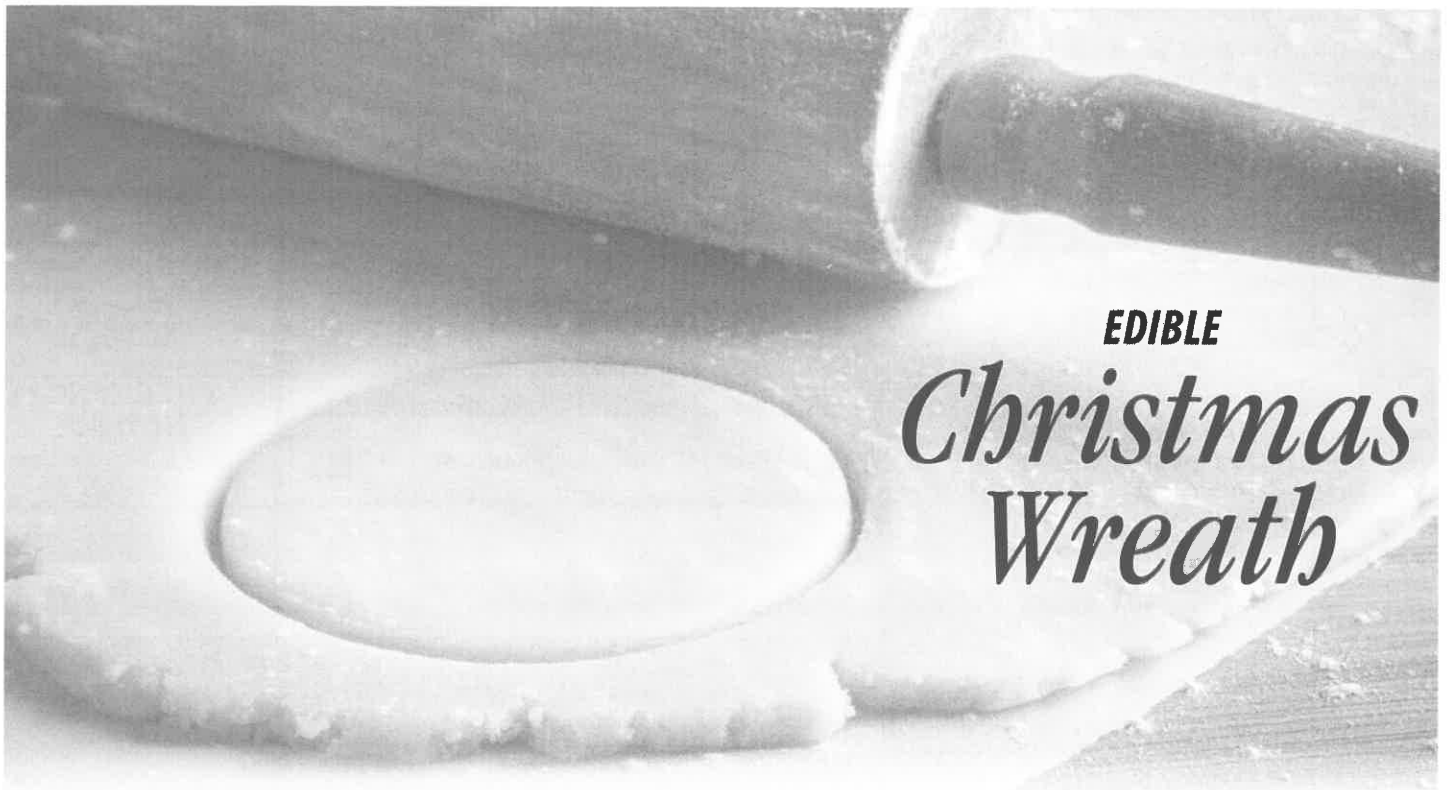
Our Father . . .

All are sprinkled with holy water.

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

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EDIBLE
*Christmas
Wreath*

Every family has holiday dessert traditions. But if you'd like a change of pace—or a chance to explore the kitchen—try your hand at making an edible Christmas wreath.

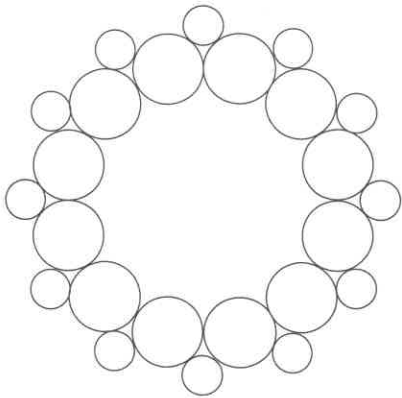


Diagram for Methods 1 & 2

Method 1: Prepare your favorite sugar cookie recipe and add green gel food coloring (which is designed to avoid changing the consistency of the dough). Roll out the dough and cut 12 small and 12 medium round cookies. Arrange them on a large baking sheet, cookies touching, in the shape of a wreath.

Bake according to directions. Line the cookie sheet with parchment paper for ease of moving the wreath afterward. Frost with green icing.

Method 2: Make chocolate sugar cookies from scratch by substituting 1/2 cup of cocoa powder for 1/2 cup of the flour. Skip the green food coloring; frost the baked wreath with green icing.

Method 3: Make cupcakes and arrange them on a serving platter in a circle, then frost liberally with green icing.

Once the cookies are cooled and frosted, work with your children to decorate each circle with a Christmas symbol. Be sure to talk through each symbol with your child. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Animal crackers to represent the manger scene
- Piped icing decorations, such as a star or an angel
- An evergreen tree, symbolizing God's undying love
- Star, manger, and angels
- Gift box, representing the gifts of the magi
- Shell, for the Baptism of the Lord
- Stick figures for the Holy Family
- Shepherd's crook made of a mini candy cane
- Crown, representing Jesus' kingship

Use your imagination, and don't worry about making your artwork internet-worthy. The point is to give your family a tactile way to connect the symbols of the season with their original meaning.

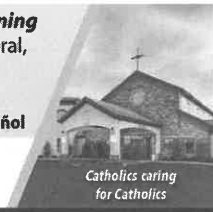
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