



# Living CHRISTMAS

## KEEPING JESUS IN YOUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

### GO TO MASS

Invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to join you. Christmas Eve or Christmas Day – whatever works. Dress up for Mass – this is a special event!

### READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Read the Christmas story (one version can be found in Luke 2:1-20). Kids enjoy doing their own Christmas pageant or processing with pieces from your crèche and candles. If you've hidden Baby Jesus, bring him out and place him in the manger! If Christmas morning is crazy, do this Christmas Eve, – making Jesus primary. Sing him a lullaby before you go to bed.

### MORE IDEAS TO INCORPORATE JESUS INTO YOUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

- After the Christmas story or grace before a meal, pass around or file by an image of Baby Jesus, giving him a kiss to show your love and gratitude. Sing *O Come All Ye Faithful*.
- An old Irish tradition is to place a lit candle in the largest window all through Christmas Eve to welcome Mary and Joseph.
- Have a Christmas carol sing-along around the tree. Include religious carols in your background music playlist.
- Dress up for Mass and dinner – Jesus, the long-awaited Guest, is coming to your house today! Trim the dining room table, use your best china.
- Start your gift exchange thanking God, especially for the gift of Jesus. Give Jesus the “first gift” – your family’s Advent efforts, recalled simply or presented symbolically. Live the exchange with joy and gratitude. Take turns. Teach children to say “thank you.”
- Bake a loaf of Christmas bread and share it at your meal. A beautiful Polish tradition is the breaking and sharing of a Communion-like-wafer called oplatki. Read about this ritual, maybe order your own oplatki.
- Make a birthday cake for Jesus and sing “Happy Birthday” to him.
- Light a fire in the fireplace, sip some cocoa, and snuggle on the couch for a classic Christmas movie. **Our list of Christmas favorites** also provides ideas for family conversation to continue the “cozy!”

## REMEMBER THAT CHRISTMAS IS A WHOLE SEASON!

Don't stop now, after four weeks of preparing, the celebrating has just begun!

Celebrate Christmas Catholic-style from December 24th to January 9th. For ideas on how to celebrate, visit [dmdiocese.org/LivingChristmas](http://dmdiocese.org/LivingChristmas)

