

## Christmas Family Activities

**Christmas is an entire season, spanning from Christmas Day (December 25) until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is always the Sunday after the Feast of Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>). This year, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord lands on January 13, 2019.**

Remember, Advent precedes Christmas; it is not an extension of the Christmas season.

Leave your Christmas decorations up for the entire season of Christmas. Whatever other Christmas traditions your family keeps, keep them going through the Baptism of the Lord.

Family traditions connect us to the ones we love in a special way during this time of year. Here are some Christmas suggestions:

1. Put up Christmas decorations slowly during Advent or toward the end of Advent.
2. Have a tradition with a nativity scene. For instance, do not put Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve and do not have the three kings arrive until the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6<sup>th</sup>).
3. Read your children stories about selfless giving.
4. Shop as a family for children in need.
5. Give a gift of time (put down electronics, work, etc, enjoy your family).
6. Sing Christmas carols.
7. Eat dinner as a family. Talk about the kind things everyone did that day.
8. Bake a birthday cake for Jesus. Every Christmas Eve, we make a cake to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and we enjoy it after our Christmas dinner.
9. Secret Santa with the family.
10. Read the bible story of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day.

- 11.** Go to daily Mass throughout Christmas season.
- 12.** Keep the tree up until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 13, 2019). That is the end of the Christmas season.
- 13.** Practice kindness. Create a kindness challenge each day for each other.
- 14.** Open one small present each day for 12 days.
- 15.** Make your own traditions: bake cookies together, cut down a Christmas tree, drive around looking at lights, read books together, sing carols together, be creative and find new things for your family.