

Home Assignment

December 2018-All Levels

“The Birth of Jesus”

If your child was absent for our December LIFT experience, we offer you these discussion questions to share with your child. Have fun!

Liturgical Calendar Connection

Questions to consider: What time of year is it in the church? How do you know? What color is everywhere in church right now? What season is coming next? What color is associated with it?

(We are in the liturgical season of Advent. The colors for this season are dark blue or purple and pink. The Christmas season is coming next and the liturgical color is white not red and green.)

Catholic Terms Around Christmas

Annunciation



The **Annunciation** is when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive and give birth to the Son of God and call him Jesus

Immaculate Conception



The **Immaculate Conception** is the teaching of the Catholic Church that Mary was born without sin. This makes sense because she is the Mother of God.

Incarnation



The **Incarnation** comes from the root word “carne” which means meat. The Incarnation literally means the enfleshment of God. The Incarnation is Jesus taking on flesh and becoming man to live as one of us.

Do the Sign of the Cross

Read the Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

The Birth of Jesus Christ

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Discussion questions:

- What is your family doing right now to get ready for Christmas? What are some special traditions that you and your family observe every year?
- When you think of Jesus' birth, what comes to mind? What stories do you think of?
- Why is Jesus born in a stable? Where does Mary place him after she dresses him in baby clothes?
- What is the only thing that is supposed to go into a food trough?
- When Jesus grows up, he does give us something that we call food. What does he give us?
- What can we do together to spread the Good News that Jesus is born to us?
- What are the areas of the darkness in our world today that needs the light of Jesus, the light of truth and justice?
- In what concrete ways can we help brighten the darkness by bringing this light?