

FAITH IN 5

Christmas: Week 1

Ages 3-8

- 1. Merry Christmas! Do you know what the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord is?**
It is a very special feast that starts on Christmas and lasts for eight days! Every day is a huge celebration! Have you ever heard the song "The 12 Days of Christmas?" Though our 12 days of Christmas take us to the feast of the Epiphany, the Church's real celebration is during the 8 days of Christmas! **Why does the Church celebrate for eight days?** By celebrating for eight days instead of just one, it allows us to really focus on the birth of Christ and how important it is! **Are there any other solemnities that are celebrated for eight days?** Yes, Easter!
- 2. When we read John 1:1-18, what do we learn?** We learn about the greatness of God! There is nothing without God and all light and goodness comes from God! We hear about the messenger, John the Baptist, who came to share with the world about the light that was soon to come! **Who is that light?** The Light of the World is Jesus! The light is symbolic of the struggle between good and evil, and Jesus himself is the true light that drives away death, deception, and evil. **Who is the Word the Gospel story speaks of?** The Word is also Jesus! The Word became flesh and became man! God is His father and this passage signifies the Godliness of Jesus. This is the incarnation. The incarnation means that Christ is fully divine and equal to the Father, came from heaven to earth and entered this world as a man. Jesus comes to reveal God's love to us.
- 3. Do you know what feast we celebrate on December 30th?** We celebrate the feast of the Holy Family! **Who is the Holy Family?** Jesus, The Blessed Mother Mary, and St. Joseph (Jesus's step-father.) **Why do we remember the Holy Family?** On this day, we remember and focus on the fact that the Holy family were real people. They lived normal lives like you and me- they lived in a city, worked, and worshiped God together. We look to them as the perfect model for Christian families! By Jesus being born to a woman and growing up in a family, we know that God loves families and thinks they are extremely important! The Catechism says "The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. (CCC 2207) The family can help us become holy! **How can we celebrate this feast?** You can spend the day with

your family by doing something fun together! You can also go to mass or pray a rosary together! If you have a picture or statue of the Holy Family in your home, you could say a special prayer together as a family in front of it!

- 4. Who was Saint Stephen?** Saint Stephen was the very first Christian Martyr. We learn about St. Stephen in the Acts of the Apostles- he was a deacon in the early Church and it was written that he was a "man filled with Faith in the Holy Spirit." He was a very persuasive speaker and he helped bring a lot of people to Christ. Because Stephen was such a strong speaker, he was noticed, and the government seized him and killed him for being a Christian. Just like Jesus, he died with courage and in complete trust and love for our Lord. St. Stephen is an incredible model of faith, as well as devotion and zeal for spreading God's message! Saint Stephen is the Patron Saint of Deacons. **When is St. Stephen's Feast Day?** It is December 26th, the day after Christmas. *St. Stephen, pray for us!*
- 5. The Church: What is the Confessional?** The Confessional is a small room that is used for Confession! There is a booth inside the room where Christians have the opportunity to say confession behind a screen so that it is kept anonymous. Many churches also offer confession face-to-face where you can sit in front of the priest without a screen. **When will you make your first reconciliation?**

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