

What Your Child Is Learning This Week



December 13th, 2009

Welcoming Baby Jesus

Today we read and acted out the Christmas story again.

Please review the Nativity story with your children. The Nativity story is such a precious one and children like to hear it again and again.

Who told Mary she was going to have a baby? (Angel Gabriel)

Where was Jesus born? (In a manger in the city of Bethlehem)

What is the name of Jesus' mom? (Mary)

What is the name of Jesus' dad?(Joseph)

What did the shepherds see in the sky. (a bright star)

Who told the shepherds about baby Jesus? (angels)

Why did Jesus come to earth (to save us.)

Giving your child a small safe nativity set to play with is a great way for them to practice the Christmas Story.

In this secular world with its sadness and greed, we still have hope and life. Encourage your children to be kind and demonstrate to them how to help others who are less fortunate.

After all, Christ came to earth as a baby to be a sacrifice for us.



Let your Child be Santa Claus

During the weeks before Christmas, our children are anxiously awaiting Santa and the gifts he brings. They are being showered with presents from relatives and friends. Why not allow your child an opportunity to **GIVE** and not just receive? Help your child bring food to a food pantry. Or have her choose a name from a giving tree at church or the mall. Have him donate a toy to a toy drive. Before long, your child may have that beautiful feeling that comes with helping others...and learn the *true* meaning of the season.



1st classes after the Holidays:

January 10th

January 17th



We here in the Religious Education office wish you and your families a blessed Christmas together.



Questions or concerns?

**Please call the Religious Ed office.
Our door is always open to help you in any way we can**

<http://stmariagoretti.org/SMG/>

**Religious Ed Office
Misty Brumm 271-8081
Shari Kuemmel 271-3732**



How Does Santa Make It All Around the World in One Night?

Answer: He Doesn't!

In the two weeks before Dec. 6th, St. Nicholas is very, very busy in Europe! He comes to Europe early to start giving children presents to celebrate Jesus' birthday. He arrives in the Netherlands by steamboat from Spain two weeks before Dec. 6th. In Holland, Sinter Klaas comes to visit children on his birthday, Dec. 6th dressed in his bishop's clothes (above). He also visits Turkey, Belgium and Luxemburg that day. He's already been to Germany, Russia and part of France by then—he visited those children the night before, but he wore his red suit trimmed with fur. (That's probably so he could keep his bishop's clothes clean for the next day.) St. Nick's next stop is Italy and Sicily, where he goes on Dec. 13th. His helper in Italy is St. Lucia. He goes to the rest of France on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th. Children call him Pere Noel (Father Christmas) there. He goes on to England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Then, of course, he comes to visit children here! Santa finally finishes up his present giving on Jan. 6th in the rest of Italy where LaBefana helps him, and the remaining countries, where the Three Wise Men help him. We always wonder how St.

Nick can visit all of the children in the whole world in one night, but as you can see, he takes all of December and part of January to visit children. In each country he visits, he gives "birthday" presents to children for Jesus's birthday!



Parents, do you keep Christmas customs unique to your nationality? Make time to explain them to your children. If you don't keep any national traditions now, it's never too late to start. Kids love traditions! Ask your grandma or grandpa for suggestions, or do a little online research. Here are some suggestions:

- *Set a place at the table for the Christ Child*
- *Hide the pickle ornament to see who opens the first present*
- *Put a little straw under a lace tablecloth on Christmas Eve to remind the family of the stable*
- *Next year, put shoes out for St. Nicholas*
- *Put stockings out for LaBefana*
- *Bake traditional cookies or cakes of your nationality. Let your kids help with decorating or adding raisins to the Panetone*
- *Don't put Baby Jesus in the stable until Dec. 25th or the Wise Men until Jan 6th*



"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in
God my Savior...for the Mighty One has done
great things for me -- holy is his name."

Luke 1:46, 49 (NIV) Picture from [Calvary Chapel](http://CalvaryChapel.com)

Sermons4Kids.com