

Chapter 14 Christmas

Advent

Christmas

Ordinary Time

Lent

Triduum

Easter

Ordinary Time

Christmas

Next to the yearly celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

(Norms Governing Liturgical Calendars, 32)

Overview

In this chapter the students will learn that the season of Christmas is a time to celebrate the Incarnation.

For Adult Reading and Reflection

You may want to refer to paragraph 461 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Catechist Background

How do you most enjoy being present to your family and friends?

During the Christmas season the Church rejoices in the mystery of the Incarnation, by which the Son of God assumed our human nature. "In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him." (1 John 4:9)

Belief in the Incarnation of the Son of God lies at the heart of our Christian faith. The Church teaches that the Word became flesh in order to reconcile us with God and to make God's love manifest to us. The incarnate Son of God became our model of holiness and gave us a "share in the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

By this singular event, the Son of God "became truly man while remaining truly God. Jesus Christ is true God and true man" (CCC 464). The Son is the Father's greatest gift to us, and the Holy Spirit

Go to www.webelieveweb.com, Catechist/Teacher, *We Believe* Correlations for this chapter's correlation to Six Tasks of Catechesis.

enables us to believe that Emmanuel is God-with-us.

Throughout the Christmas season the Church celebrates a series of feast days, such as the Feast of the Holy Family and the Baptism of the Lord. These liturgical celebrations deepen our appreciation of the mystery of the Incarnation. With Saint Peter Chrysologus, we rejoice that "In choosing to be born for us, God chose to be known by us" (*Sermon, Non-Biblical Readings for the Christmas Season, Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours*).

How will you rejoice in the presence of the Son during the Christmas season?

Lesson Planning Guide

Lesson Steps

Presentation

Materials




1 WE GATHER

<p>page 161 Introduce the Season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the <i>Chapter Story</i>. • Introduce the season of Christmas. • Proclaim the words on the chapter opener. 	
<p>page 162</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the responses to the <i>We Gather</i> questions. 	

2 WE BELIEVE

<p>pages 162–164 <i>The season of Christmas is a time to celebrate the Incarnation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the <i>We Believe</i> text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • butcher paper • colored markers
--	---	--

3 WE RESPOND

<p>page 164</p>	 Compile a database of ways to celebrate feasts of the Christmas season.	
<p>Text page 165 Guide page 165–166 We Respond in Prayer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to Scripture. • Respond in prayer.  Respond in song.	 "Psalm 98: All the Ends of the Earth," Barbara Bridge, #18, Grade 6 CD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bells, maracas, or tambourines (option) • crèche with figures • battery-operated candles
<p>Text page 166 Guide pages 165–166, 166A Project Disciple</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Project Disciple activities. • Complete Reproducible Master 14 activity. See Guide pages 166A and 161C. • Discuss/send home Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 166B. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • copies of Reproducible Master 14, guide page 166A. • copies of Sharing Faith with My Family, guide page 166B.

For additional ideas, activities, and opportunities: Visit Sadlier's

www.WEBELIEVEweb.com