



Building Faith@HOME

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Special Edition

Day 1 December 25 - Christmas Day

Merry Christmas! Thank you Jesus for coming to us as a little child and living among us to show us God's love.

As a family, write a "Christmas card" to Jesus. Thank him for coming to live among us as our Savior. Have all sign the card and place it near the creche.

Day 2 December 26 - St. Stephen's Day.

He was the first Christian martyr. St. Stephen was one of the first 'social workers' in the Church, and it was his task to organize meals to feed the poor. Britain celebrates this day as "Boxing Day"

As a family, create a box to fill in gratitude of Christmas blessings. Add gifts of clothing or toys, etc and give to a family in need.

Day 3 December 27 - St. John the Apostle

On the third day is the feast of St. John, the Apostle, "whom Jesus loved." St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. He is often depicted in art as the author of the Gospel with an eagle, symbolizing "the height he rose to in his gospel."

As a family Don't forget to say "I love you!" to each other.

Day 4 December 28 - The Feast of the Holy Innocents

Also known as the Feast of the Holy Innocents (and referred to as Childermas) refers to King Herod's order found in Matthew's account of the king's reaction to the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. (MT 2:16)

Pray for children around the world.

Day 5 - December 29 - Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

This feast day honors Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and St. Joseph as the holiest of families, and therefore a model for all Christian families. They were holy because they placed God at the center of their family life, they loved and sacrificed for one another, and they radiated that love to others in the redemptive mission of the Word Incarnate.

Thank your parish priest and pray for him.

Day 6 - December 30

In the carol of the *12 days of Christmas*, "on the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me, six geese a laying ." The number six is meant to represent the six days of Creation.

As a family, create a mural depicting the 6 days of Creation. Discuss how to be better stewards of God's Creation.

Day 7 - December 31

In the carol of the *12 days of Christmas*, "On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me, seven swans a-swimming. The seven swans are meant to remind us of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit . The gifts are: courage, wisdom, knowledge, understanding, reverence, awe & wonder, counsel.

As a family, identify these gifts in each other.

Day 8 - January 1- Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

This is also the "World Day of Peace".

Say decade of the rosary with a focus on world peace and makes sure you wear blue in remembrance of Mary.

Day 9 - January 2- St. Basil the Great

One of St. Basil's famous quotes is, "A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."
— St. Basil

Each member of the family should do a good deed for another member of the family.

Day 10 - January 3 - Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus (Optional Memorial Day)

The Church reveals to us the wonders of the Incarnate Word by singing the glories of His name. The name of Jesus means Savior; it had been shown in a dream to Joseph together with its meaning and to Our Lady at the annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel.

Have the family members tell the stories of their names. Who are you named after? What does your name mean? Is it a saint's name if yes who and discover their life story.

Day 11 - January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "Saint." She is the patron saint of Catholic schools.

As a family, commemorate and celebrate those family members who taught you through word and witness about the Catholic faith.

Day 12 - January 5 - Epiphany of the Lord

The Church will celebrate on the Sunday liturgy of the Epiphany of the Lord on January 5th. On the Epiphany, the Magi recognizing Jesus as king, prophet and priest. According to legend, the three magi were Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar

Blessing your home : 20 + C + M + B + 25

For more information about this ritual visit, [Busted Halo](#). Bless your door this Epiphany



The Twelve Days of Christmas

Use this matching activity to learn more about this song and our faith! Match the numerical days to the symbols. On the blank lines, write the corresponding number. For the answers, listen to the song! To learn more, follow the “Dynamic Catholic” webpage!



bit.ly/Twelve-Days-Song



bit.ly/Dynamic-Catholic-12Days

My true love...

On the First Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me a...

On the Second Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 2...

On the Third Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 3...

On the Fourth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 4....

On the Fifth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 5....

On the Sixth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 6....

On the Seventh Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 7....

On the Eighth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 8....

On the Ninth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 9....

On the Tenth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 10....

On the Eleventh Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 11....

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas,
My true love gave to me 12....

- geese a-laying symbolize the ___ days of creation, emphasizing God's power as the creator of the world.
- French hens signify the ___ theological virtues: faith, hope, and love (or charity).
- turtle doves represent the Old and New Testament, which are deeply connected and meaningful.
- pipers piping represent the ___ faithful disciples of Jesus: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Simon, and Jude.
- golden rings represent the first ___ books of the Old Testament, also known as the Pentateuch or the Torah. These books include: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
- ladies dancing represents the ___ fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- A partridge is a bird that is known to sacrifice its life for its babies. This bird represents Jesus, who is willing to give his life for us. The pear tree symbolizes the Cross.
- God, who loves us so much, he gave his only Son.
- calling birds symbolize the ___ Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which spread the good news of Jesus' life and teachings.
- maids a-milking symbolizes the ___ Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: (See Matthew 5:3-10)
- swans a-swimming represent the ___ gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.
- lords a-leaping signifies the ___ Commandments
- drummers drumming represent the ___ points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity.