



## Celebrating Christmas

### Engage: Page 87

- ▶ Display a Nativity scene or a picture of one and discuss it. **Ask:** *What is this? When do we display Nativity scenes? (during the Christmas season) What do you see in the Nativity scene?* **Say:** *We use Nativity scenes to remind us of Jesus' birth.*
- ▶ Read aloud the session title and text. **Say:** *The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates the family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus; and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrates Jesus' baptism. In this session we will learn more about the Christmas season.*
- ▶ Ask your child to prepare for Christmas by marking the important feast days of the season on your family calendar. Pray aloud the prayer together.

### Explore: Page 88

- ▶ Light a candle. **Ask:** *What do candles or flames symbolize? (warmth, heat, Christ's light, the Holy Spirit) When do we see candles in Church? (at Baptisms, at the altar during Mass, during Advent)*
- ▶ Read aloud We Share Christ's Light During Christmas. **Say:** *We call Jesus the Light of the World because he has shown us how to live.* **Ask:** *How can we share Christ's light with others? (follow Jesus' new commandment, practice the Beatitudes)*
- ▶ Have your child read aloud The Bread of Life. **Ask:** *What do we agree to do when we welcome the Bread of Life into our lives? (share with others everything Jesus has shared with us)*
- ▶ Read aloud Share with Others and have your child complete the activity. Invite him or her to share the response with you.
- ▶ Read aloud the Reading God's Word feature. **Say:** *When we place our trust and faith in Jesus, he gives us everything we need.*

### Reflect: Page 89

- ▶ Together sing or read aloud the lyrics to your favorite Christmas carols. Discuss how you both feel when you hear these songs.
- ▶ Read aloud Mass During Christmas. **Ask:** *Why is white an appropriate color for the Christmas season? (During the Christmas season, we celebrate the purity and joy of Jesus' birth.)*
- ▶ Read aloud the section What We Experience. **Ask:** *What do the carols and hymns inspire us to do? (what is right and to feel Jesus' love for us)*
- ▶ Read aloud the section Peace in Hymns and Carols. Give your child time to complete the activity. Suggest that your child come up with a melody for his or her verse.
- ▶ Read aloud the Did You Know? feature. **Say:** *Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This is another connection to bread as a symbol for Jesus.*



### Art Exploration: Page 243

- ▶ Find in a magazine, in a book, or online a picture that shows the Magi honoring the baby Jesus.
- ▶ **Ask:** *What do you see in this picture?* Encourage your child to describe the picture in detail, including what the Magi are doing.
- ▶ **Say:** *The Magi showed their praise by giving Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We can show our praise by offering Jesus our gift of love.*
- ▶ Have your child turn to page 243. Read aloud the introduction and discuss the question.
- ▶ Read aloud God Among Us. **Ask:** *What do we celebrate on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord?* (that God chose Jesus to teach us about his kingdom) *What do we remember on the Feast of the Epiphany?* (the Magi's visit to Bethlehem where Jesus was revealed to the world as God's Son, who was sent to show us how to live) *What gifts did the Magi offer?* (gold, frankincense, and myrrh) *What gift can we offer?* (our love)
- ▶ Have your child read aloud A Gift for Jesus. Give him or her time to complete the activity.
- ▶ Together make Christmas ornaments for parishioners who are homebound or who live in health-care facilities. Have your child write a note to accompany each decoration. Arrange with the church office to have the decorations delivered to parishioners.

### Respond: Page 90

- ▶ Ask your child to read aloud the Faith Summary. Read aloud Ways of Being Like Jesus. Ask your child to suggest specific ways he or she can share God's love with others by sharing a sign of peace with a family member.
- ▶ Read aloud the prayer as your child follows along. Pray the Sign of the Cross together.
- ▶ Read aloud the With My Family suggestions. Invite your child to choose one or more to complete today.