

December 2011

Praying together at home:

During December we are celebrating the season of Advent, a time of joyful preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Each time you pray together take the time to think about one of these questions.

- What gift am I hoping to receive this Christmas?
- What was my favorite Christmas present?
- Who gave that favorite gift to me?
- What was the best gift that I have ever given someone?
- How do I feel when I get a gift?
- How do I feel when I give a gift?
- What gift do I want to give to God this Christmas?

Now take time to pray together an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father, and to pray for other things that our family needs to pray for.

Looking ahead to the weekend: Pray over these questions.

December 3rd and 4th: What are some of the signs that we see that Christmas is coming? What is different in our home that tells us that Christmas is near? What do we need to do to prepare for Christmas as a family?

December 10th and 11th: How are we peacemakers? How do we bring peace to our families? Who is helpful to us in bringing peace when there is a fight? How are we setting things right in preparation for Christmas? Do I know how to say I am sorry?

December 17th and 18th: This week we listen to the story of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel asks the Virgin Mary to do something that God is asking her to do—be the mother of Jesus. How do we trust God the way that Mary did? How do we say yes to whatever God is asking of us? What is God asking us to do now?

December 24th and 25th: What gifts in our lives has God given us? What do we need to thank God for? What gift are we giving to God this Christmas?