

CREATING TRADITIONS

EPIPHANY (1/6/2016)

A Holy day of obligation. The visit by the Three Kings; Christ's baptism by John the Baptist and the miracle at Cana.

Incense is traditionally used for consecration. If you haven't done this yet, burn frankincense and myrrh, two of the precious gifts the Magi presented to baby Jesus.

SHOULD CATHOLICS CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING? (11/26/2015)

YES!!! WHY?

1. The Protestants were not the only ones leaving England. The English Catholics who arrived at Clement's Island on March 25, 1634, founded Maryland. When they landed, Father Andrew White, S.J., celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving. It is likely they had some kind of feast after this Eucharistic celebration.
2. "Eucharist" comes from the Greek word meaning "to give thanks." At every Mass we remember that on the night Jesus was betrayed, he took bread and gave God thanks and praise.

SO CELEBRATE YOUR BLESSINGS!!! GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR FAITH, FAMILY AND COUNTRY!!!

CELEBRATING YOUR VALUES ON HALLOWEEN (10/13/2015)

Kids love holidays. Many parents do too. They remind us that there's more to life than work and obligations, that life should be cherished and enjoyed. As Catholics we believe God is present in all things and in all times. That means that every day on the calendar presents another opportunity to encounter and celebrate the presence of God. Halloween is rich in history and meaning, much of it religious, making it a great opportunity to combine fun and learning about values for our children.

Ways to Celebrate:

1. Your children can research their favorite saint or the saint they are names for.
2. Tell your children that Halloween can be a festive day to kick off the celebration of All Saints Day. Ask the Saints to pray for us on our journey.
3. At breakfast, recite a short litany of family members who have died and whom you remember in your prayers.

4. Have fun! Make a special meal for dinner (Example: put out bowls of lives, cucumbers, raisins, cheese sticks and cold cuts – they can make scary faces or funny faces and then eat their creations).

THE POWER OF FAMILY RITUALS (9/28/15)

Rituals are powerful. Daily rituals and family traditions serve to show us and our children who we are and what matters to us.

* Birthdays and Baptismal Days: Birthday celebrations are great ways to emphasize that your children are unique and loved. Recognizing your children's baptismal day is a great way to celebrate their relationship with God. A simple way is to light a candle and explain to your child why you gave him/her their name and spend a moment talking about the goodness you see in that child.

CREATING TRADITIONS (9/21/15)

The value of tradition: When observing your family's traditions and rituals throughout the year please consider look at two things:

1. Does this custom bring me and my family into a deeper, more personal relationship with God?
2. Does this observance reflect, strengthen and sustain my Christian values and beliefs?