

Some Family Ideas for Thanksgiving and Advent

Thanksgiving:

1. Gratitude Jar- from now till end of month (Use Microphone and Parents)
2. Write a Family Prayer for Thanksgiving Dinner/or each prepare something
3. Make Food- Cookies- Deliver to 5-6 Neighbors w/ card from kids about Thanksgiving/God/Gratitude (the one's you don't know too!) (Watch what happens)
 - Use to take about generosity
 - Ask kids- depending on age- they may answer different places (Deeper for older...)
4. Invite Someone who has no one for Thanksgiving- if you host

Advent/Christmas

1. Go to the Christmas Parade with the Parish on Saturday, December 7th!
2. Get Advent Calendar (w/out Santa)- with chocolates
3. Redirect to Jesus- when focus turns to Santa-- ... but who is even more important than Santa...
4. Replace Elf on the Shelf with the Wisemen journeying to the Manger (different places/have fun!)
5. Build a Nativity Together (even take my course/ lol)
 - Incorporate things from your life
 - Symbols from vacation – materials, etc...
 - Things from Life (dog/skateboards/skis/football/etc... their interests too)
 - Encourage kids to be creative
 - If Jesus came today- where would he live....
 - Do it Every year or add- make it special family project (in mind all year)
6. Christmas Straw- Every year from Church to your creche
7. Pray a Day Paper Advent Chain <https://activitiesforkids.com/advent-calendar-paper-chain/>
8. Mary and Joseph Journey to Bethlehem (travel across house...
<http://www.catholicinspired.com/2011/11/advent-count-down-and-art-activity.html>)
9. Turn focus from what they want--- to gratitude for what they have (think about holidays and the difference)
10. Create Advent Scripture a Day Calendar <https://www.1dogwoof.com/scripture-advent-calendar>
11. Create an Advent Wreath- Pray every day at it!!!! (turn off the lights— create moment..>)
12. Create Awesome- Saints of Advent Ornaments!! <https://www.catholicicing.com/advent-saints-craft-printable-ornaments-for-catholic-kids/>

13. Celebrate the Feast Days of Advent--- have your kids come up with ideas on how to celebrate each(and learn about saints...)
 - Great Info <https://epicpew.com/advent-saints-catholic-celebrate/>
 - St. Frances Xavier (December 3rd)
 - St. Nicholas Day (December 6th)- Shoes out- books, candy, gold coins...
 - St. Ambrose (December 7th)
 - Immaculate Conception (December 8th)— Prepare all white meal... emphasis on purity-
Mary's freedom from Original Sin/Holy Day/Say Rosary as Family- Shorten for kids
 - Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12th) (Many food options here and prayers to Our Lady)
 - St. Lucy's Day (December 13th) (her name is a play on light- drive around and look at Christmas lights)
 - St. John of the Cross (December 14th)
14. The Baby Jesus Hunt- Have Creches for each member of the Family
 - Before leaving for Mass- hide all the baby Jesus'
 - Kids have to find one (thus have set for each...)
 - Then when all found- sing away in the manger- as you process to each nativity
 - Bless nativity with family prayer
15. Say the St. Andrew Novena Daily from November 30- Christmas (see handout)
16. Visit the Holy Trinity, St. Martin, and St. Mary's to see their nativities
17. Watch Catholic Christmas Movies as a Family
 - a. Charlie Brown Christmas— watch for Linus' blanket drop in pageant-
 - b. The Nativity Story
 - c. The Fourth Wiseman
 - d. It's a Wonderful Life
 - e. Miracle on 34th Street
 - f. Christmas Carol (Muppets!)
 - g. Miracle of Marcelino
18. Take a Family Pilgrimage (Research what Catholic Church to Go To)
19. Take the Act of Generosity a Day Challenge for Advent- Have fun with it!
20. Consider Coming for Christmas Dinner at the Parish!