

The Ascension Weekly

December 24, 2017

On this feast of Christ's birth...

For this special issue of the Ascension Weekly, we asked parishioners to share some of their special or unique Christmas traditions. Many thanks to all who participated!

After Christmas Mass and during the Christmas season we always have traditional Caribbean black cake, which is infused with lots of rum, wine and fruits. And we drink homemade sorrel (a drink from hibiscus plant) and ginger beer.

-Alexis Christian & Family

Our home was especially blessed eighteen years ago on Christmas day. We welcomed into the world our second son, William Matthew Smith. "Matthew" LOVES sharing a birthday with our Lord. He says he is the luckiest of our children because our whole family gathers together on his birthday a.k.a. Christmas. No matter which relative's home we are celebrating Christmas, the standing order is that one of the rooms in the house is decorated for Matthew's birthday party - he has a separate set of birthday gifts, birthday cake and special meal where he decides the menu. As parents, each Christmas, we are reminded not only of the wonderment of Christmas but what it must have been like for Mary and Joseph to experience the sheer joy of birning your own child into the world.

-Asuntha Chiang-Smith & Family

Caroline and Shelby Ryan's Uncle Dennis, Aunt Laura, and cousins Madie and Emma come over for Christmas Eve Mass then we have a Christmas Eve dinner of pizza.

-Michael Ryan & Family

When my kids were young we would spend at least one evening (sometimes more) driving around admiring the local Christmas light shows. As my girls grew and left the homestead, the tradition died out. This year we rekindled our old custom and saw the lights together at Watkins Park. Saw them again with old and new family members, with new eyes, in all their twinkling glory and wonder.

-Donna Dietrich

Within the Advent/Christmas season, our family has a special St. Nicholas feast day celebration on December 6th. On that day, St. Nicholas brings each child three gifts for their boots: a gold gift (something big), a myrrh gift (something to put on your body like jammies or clothes, etc.) and frankincense gift (something religious). We started this tradition because we used to fly cross country for Christmas and didn't want to pack gifts, and we kept the tradition because it helps us keep the focus of Christmas on Christ's birth. It's like our own secret Christmas!

-Lina Martin & Family

Every Christmas morning I make from scratch a traditional Christmas bread called a Stollen that our whole family enjoys before Christmas dinner. It is a sweet bread that contains candied fruits and nuts, folded into a braid-shaped loaf, and topped with a colorful glazed icing. I remember my beloved grandmother making this bread in her kitchen when I was a boy, and it is one of the few memories I have of her. I discovered the recipe for it years ago online, and I make it to honor her memory.

-Pete Rozanski

...A Blessed Christmas to All!