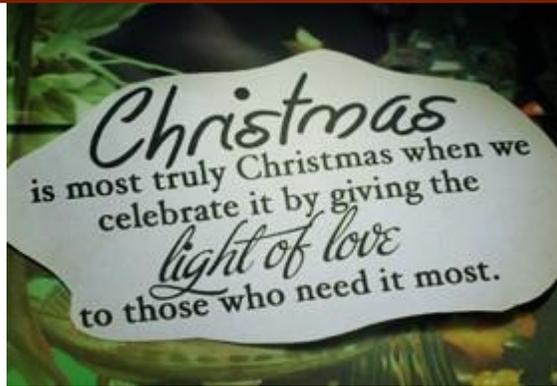


# FAMILIES ON FIRE



## REFLECTION: DECEMBER-GIVING

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“For it is in giving that we receive”, how many times have we heard this popular prayer by St. Francis of Assisi? What does this truly mean for us Catholics? We are reminded of the significance of giving throughout the Bible and Church writings. Many people automatically connect the word giving to money. This is easy to do since we are called to prayerfully tithe to our Church. Though in actuality, to give means to present something voluntarily and without expecting anything in return. This month has a good mixture of giving and receiving. As a family, set some time together and make a list of ways to give. Either to one another and/or to those in need within our community. Here are some suggestions to help celebrate this month at home!

1. Story Time: The Feast of Saint Nicholas is on December 6<sup>th</sup>. This man knew how to give! Together read the true story of Santa Claus and learn about his generosity which led to gift giving. Then carry on the old tradition of having the kiddos place their shoes by the door before bed to find them filled with treats by the morning!
2. Prayer Time: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on December 8<sup>th</sup> and is a Holy Day in the Church. This means we are urged to attend Mass. We are remembering God’s gift to us, the Virgin Mary and her being immaculately conceived. Holy Apostles will be celebrating Mass, attend as a family. Then say a Hail Mary for the beautiful gift of families.
3. Simple Reminders: The season of Advent also falls during this month. The four weeks leading up to Christmas are set a part to prepare us for the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent wreaths are a great visual for the whole family. As a family, place a purchased or homemade Advent wreath in a visible spot in your home. Everyday come together around it and reflect on Jesus and His mission. Think about the greatest gift we received on His Nativity! The gift of Himself and Eternal Salvation!
4. Friends in High Places: The Feast of the Holy Family is on December 31<sup>st</sup> this year. This day is dedicated to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their life together on earth can be a helpful example for our own Catholic family. The Church presents their model of family life to us. We can also discuss the many ways they followed God, no matter what. We can also have them join our daily prayer life by simply adding, “Holy Family, pray for us” to our grace before meals.

**“It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving”**

**Mother Theresa**