###### Prepare by participating in church activities

* Make Advent a time of reconciliation.
* Go to Mass

###### Prepare by doing things with your family

* Make a religious ornament for your family Christmas tree.
* Decorate the Christmas tree.
* Create Christmas gifts of your own creating
* Give the gift of time by participating in service to others;
* Read a book about Christmas traditions around the world.
* Read stories of Christmas.
* Watch Christmas movies with your family (e.g., *A Christmas Carol, It’s a Wonderful Life)*.
* Play a game with your family instead of watching television tonight.
* Write a note to another family member telling them what you appreciate about them.
* Send a Christmas card to someone.

Prepare by praying for people.

* Pray for someone in the newspaper who is in need.
* Write a list of three people you want to pray for. Keep the list with you and pray for each person daily.
* Find a special quiet place and pray for those in need in your family, your neighborhood, and our world.
* Lead the meal prayer tonight—share something you are thankful for and ask others to do the same.
* Take ten minutes in a quiet place or on a walk and talk to God about something that is bothering you. Ask God for help.
* Write a list of things you are thankful for. Spend time saying “Thank You” to God in prayer.
* Give the gift of prayer. Write a special prayer for particular people or develop a prayer list of people you will pray for each day.
* Locate Israel and Bethlehem on a globe or world map. Pray for peace in the land and continent of Jesus’ birth.
* Take time today to sit and pray. Think about what you are thankful for and what your hopes are for the coming year.

###### Prepare by serving and caring for others.

* Shovel someone’s walk or rake up leaves in someone’s yard.
* Donate a gift to someone in need.
* Visit a friend or relative in a nursing home.
* Collect and drop off non-perishable food items at a local food pantry.
* Create a card for a child in the hospital or someone in your parish who is homebound, lonely, or sick.
* Ask a parent or older sibling how you can be of help to them today.
* Clean a part of the house without being asked or paid, just to surprise your parent.