

HELP YOUR PARISH

share the perfect gift

THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



THE CULTURE OF CHRISTMAS

Traditions are the symbols, stories and memories that provide personal and communal identity. They may inform our present values, beliefs and behaviors with the wisdom of our ancestors and our past.

Traditions enrich the Church, and represent its universality. Traditions can help us understand our identity, traditions rooted in prayer and faith reveal our common identity as children of God.

The common elements of tradition help us all evangelize. The central elements of prayer, food and celebration, expressed in music and story-telling, give our traditions rich color and life. The specific food we eat, the music we play, and the stories we share and tell will vary from family to family and from culture to culture, but each culture expresses the joy of being a part of the Christian community and the hope of the great feast we look forward to in heaven.

Give families the tools to build their own traditions. Parents are the primary educators of their children. Traditions are a wonderful way for parents to pass a living faith to their children and keep it burning in their own hearts. Think of a specific food that you had as a child that engenders thoughts of the Advent and Christmas season. Have the opportunity for the family to create a celebration around the preparation and sharing of the meal, incorporate songs of the seasons to enrich the experience. Share the stories of your own childhood experiences and have your family create memory.



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Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach

Go to findthepperfectgift.org to see how people across the archdiocese are celebrating Advent and Christmas and to find tools to for families to create and share their own traditions.

