



# PREP PARENT NEWS

December 2021

## The Messages We Send About Christmas

(adapted from sundayschoolzone.com)

The Holidays. We love them, but sometimes we dread them, too. Our society has placed such an emphasis on “stuff,” that most of us find ourselves, soon after Thanksgiving, stressing over money and tight schedules, and how will we ever get all the gifts and make it to all the events this season?

The saddest part about this whole thing is that our kids pay very close attention to holidays. They pay attention and soak in anything they see their parents take seriously. So, what are you really teaching your kids about Christmas? Is it possible that we’re communicating the following **WRONG** messages?

When your children see you making an effort to give material gifts to people you never interact with, never check on, and never connect with, then you are sending the message that “stuff” can replace connection. Gifts are a lovely gesture, but how many people on your Christmas list this year really need connection? Elderly relatives who have lost a spouse this year, new parents struggling to adjust, friends dealing with sickness or loss, single parents, the list could go on. Take a second look at your Christmas list, not just to buy a gift and check off a name, but really look at it. Who are these people? What have they gone

through this year? What do they really need? Let your children see you connecting as well as giving.

This year, reevaluate the messages you are sending about Christmas. Refocus on people, not stuff. Give attention to memories, not competition. The birth of Jesus was about salvation, sacrifice, and true generosity. Have an authentic Christ-centered Christmas this year - It’s way less stressful!

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### AN ADVENT PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, Please forgive my grumpiness as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this holiday season. My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family gatherings—and I’m running short of time! Restore the joy of Christmas in my heart and help me to relax each day and make time for YOU—my one true Source of Joy.” Amen

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2022!



**Announcements:** Let’s congratulate Isaiah Knight for perfect attendance during the month of November. Special shout out to Donovan and Dylan Washington for perfect attendance for the past two months.

Until further notice religious education classes will be held in the church basement following Mass!