

NazKidzNewz

Manhattan Church of the Nazarene

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*We will present our
Christmas Program on
December 13 at 10:40 a.m.*

*Everyone has a part
everyone's part is important!*

Invite your family and friends to come and see you in this special Christmas Program. Each of you will receive invitations to hand out to your teacher, friends, family, and neighbors.

Hey Kidz: Sometimes we get so busy at Christmas time that we only focus on the packages and gifts we are going to receive. This program will help us get our focus back on the real reason for Christmas. I'm excited about this program and I'm so glad we get to share the Message of Jesus with those we invite. Pastor Linda

*"Don't Settle for
The Wrapping"*

A Family Christmas Program

Practice Schedule!!

- *Shepherd's Party/Practice Dec 5 at 11 a.m.*
- *Angels Party/Practice Dec 5 at 3 p.m.*
- *Skit (Family & Packages) Monday Nov. 30 & Monday Dec. 7, both at 6 p.m.*

There will be a full practice for EVERYONE on December 12 from 2 - 4. Everyone (except the infants and 2's & 3's) needs to be at this practice. This will be the only full dress rehearsal so it is vital that everyone is at this important practice.



Keep Christ in Christmas By Starting Some New Traditions

Traditions are important for families because they provide opportunities to keep your unique legacy going. From the simple to the silly to the sentimental, traditions can create meaningful memories. Perhaps you buy a new ornament for each of your children every year. This Christmas, don't hesitate to try out some new traditions. See what does and doesn't work for your family. You just may create a new tradition that'll keep going for generations!

Make Affirmation Ornaments—Have each family member cut out a large ornament shape from construction paper and write his or her name on the front. On the back, have other family members write (or draw) something special about the person whose name is on the front. Then decorate the ornaments, attach yarn hangers, and put them on your Christmas tree.

Get Crafty—Have a family craft night so family members can make simple homemade gifts for one another. These can include coupon books for help with chores or for special outings.



Share the News—As a family, dress up and put on a Christmas play for neighborhood children. Serve juice and homemade cookies.

Adopt a Child in Need—Anonymously assist a young person in your community through small gifts, money, and encouraging cards. If possible, do these acts of service all year long.

"I Believe..."

According to a recent Associated Press poll, 86% of people believed in Santa as children. More than 60% of parents with young children said Santa is an important part of their Christmas celebrations.

Other findings:

- 47% of people said Santa detracts from the holiday's religious importance, while 36% said Santa enhances the religious nature of Christmas.
- 81% of people said they believe in angels, including more than half of people who say they aren't religious.



Ask God:

1. To help your family keep your Christmas celebrations focused on Jesus.
2. To give your family members positive attitudes about trying new traditions.
3. To help you create strong bonds and lasting memories.

Parenting Insights

The editors of *Parents' Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children* (Focus on the Family) share these tips for incorporating new traditions.

1. **Make them fun!** When your celebrations are filled with laughter, the real message behind them will be reinforced more positively in your family.
2. **Use Christmas symbols.** Many symbols have Christian origins. For example, St. Nicholas was a shy, generous man who secretly did good deeds for the poor. Decorating with festive Christmas lights also has Christian roots.
3. **Don't ban all secular traditions.** Take a balanced approach to your Christmas celebrations, for your children's sake. Then they'll be more open to receive the true reason for the season.

OpenTheBook

**"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."
Luke 2:14**

On the first Christmas, the angels announced Jesus' birth. As we celebrate Christmas, our worship and traditions also focus on our newborn Savior, the King of Kings.

Teachable Moments

1. **Make waiting fun.** Patience is a difficult life skill to learn, especially during December. Harness children's wonder and anticipation by letting them explore their creativity. Keep red- and green-colored paper, as well as other craft supplies, readily available. Have kids make gift tags, wreaths, cards, and more.
2. **Deck the (stable) halls.** Instead of a gingerbread house, decorate a gingerbread stable with assorted candies. Prop animal crackers inside graham-cracker walls, and use toasted coconut as hay.
3. **Read all about it.** Many families read aloud the Christmas story before opening gifts. Go beyond Jesus' birth to Luke 2:25-38, where Jesus is presented in the temple. Talk about faithful Simeon and Anna, whose prayers were answered. Then discuss ways you've seen God in action during the past week.



"So commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these words of mine. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are ON THE ROAD, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up." Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NLT

What do traditions—and Christmas—mean to your children? Discover their opinions and insights by asking these questions:

1. What are your favorite things to do around Christmastime, and why? Which do you plan to continue with your own children?
2. How do our traditions help make Christmas more special? How might some traditions interfere with our celebrations?
3. What traditions would you like our family to start or stop, and why? What traditions can kids in our family be in charge of?
4. How would you explain "Christmas" to someone who was unfamiliar with it?

Family Experience: Star-Studded Fun

Brighten up the dark winter nights by trying these joy-filled, Christ-based experiences with your family and friends:

- **Follow the Star**—Hang a trail of stars throughout your house, and at each star, place a nativity-scene figure. Hang the last, largest star over a cake with three candles, and place baby Jesus by it. Then follow the stars. Stop at each one and talk about the role of that person (or animal). At the final star, light the three candles. Say, "These candles represent the star of Bethlehem that shone brightly over baby Jesus; Jesus, the light of the world, who was born into a dark night; and how God wants us to be a light for others and point them to Jesus. Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and share the cake.
- **Star Square**—This game, which is ideal for play with extended families, is a reminder of the wise men who followed the Christmas star to find Jesus. With masking tape, divide an 8x8-foot space into four squares. Tape a construction-paper star in one quadrant. Put one person in each square, and have everyone else stand in a circle around the quadrants. The "star" square starts play by tapping the ball into another square. Players tap the ball into another square whenever it enters theirs. Play continues until someone misses, and then that person steps out and a new player rotates in from the circle. Players rotate clockwise toward the star. Whenever a player steps into the star, he or she should share one thing about Jesus or Christmas.





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Check it out!!!
www.manhattannaz.org

Christmas Caroling

Tell your parents to come with you on Dec. 20 at 4:30 for Christmas Caroling followed by a soup supper. We will have so much fun.

Bring your parents and come join the fun!

Great Job Decorating
for the Thanksgiving Dinner

Change of Schedule

Sunday December 27 we will have one combined family Worship Service at 10:40 a.m. (No children's church at 9:30)

