

Parents and children gather at the appointed time. The Father, as head of the family, will light the Christmas tree and the candles at the Crib. Then thy all sing the following two verses of the hymn "Silent Night." All stand.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon Virgin undefiled

In whose arms the Holy Child

"Slumbers in heavenly peace,

Slumbers in heavenly peace.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Shepherds first see the sight,

Hear the plans and valleys right

With the song that angels sing:

"Jesus the Savior is born!

Jesus the Savior is born!"

All sit while the Mother or one of the children reads the following.

From the Roman Martyrology

In the forty-second year of the Empire of Octavius Augustus, whilst all the earth was at peace; in the Sixth Age of the world.

Jesus Christ

Eterna God, and Son of the Eternal Father, willing to consecrate the world by his Gracious Advent, being conceived by the Holy Ghost, and the nine months of his conception being now accomplished, in Bethlehem of Juda, is born of the Virgin Mary, made man. THE BIRTHDAY, ACCORDING TO THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

Now sing the third verse of "Silent Night"

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Son of God, Light of Light

Streams of gladness flood the earth

From they candle at They birth

"Jesus, thou Light of the world!

Jesus, Though Light of the world!"

The Father reads the beautiful portion from the Holy Gospel, All rise.

From the Gospel of St. Luke

And it came to pass, when the angels had departed from them into heaven, that the shepherds were saying to one another. "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that hs come to pass which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste, and they found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard marveled at the things told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept in mind these words pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they have heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them.

After the Gospel all recite slowly and with reverence the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Amen.

Prayer from the Missal

O God, who dost gladden us with the yearly expectation of our redemption, grant that we, who now joyfully receive Thine only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may also, without fear, behold Him coming as our judge, our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who liveth and reigneth forever and ever. Amen

In conclusion the family sings

Adeste Fideles

O Come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
To Jesus to Jesus in Bethlehem:
Come and behold him,
Born, the King of Angels,
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him,
Christ our Lord.

At the end of this hymn let the children wish their parents a Blessed Christmas with the assurance that, in the triple Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, they will thank God for all the gifts and love which they received from their parents. Then let all spend some time together in the simplicity and joy of their hearts.