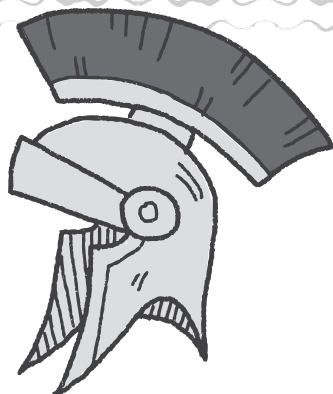
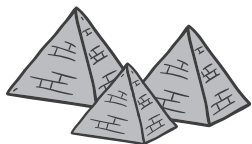


KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is The Festival of the Holy Innocents?

The Festival of the Holy Innocents is the day that we remember the children that were murdered at Bethlehem. These children are considered by some to be the first Christian martyrs. The word martyr (pronounced MAR-ter) comes from a Greek word which means "witness."



What is the whole story of the Holy Innocents?

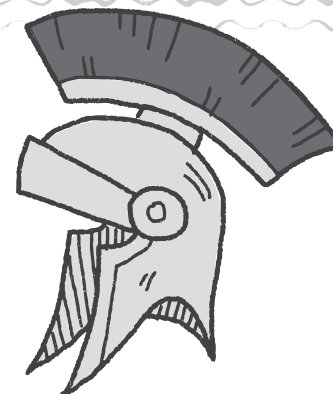
We learn in Matt. 2:1–18 that King Herod didn't like the idea that a new King was born. He thought that if he killed baby Jesus, his worries would be gone. So he gave orders to have all of the boys in Bethlehem two years and under killed. Herod's soldiers marched into Bethlehem and did just that! But Herod and his soldiers didn't know that an angel had told Joseph in a dream to take Jesus and Mary and escape. When the soldiers stormed Bethlehem, baby Jesus was safe and sound on his way to Egypt. If you think about it, Jesus was saved from death as a baby so that He could die for us a man. What a great and glorious God we have! He keeps His promises!



Parents: Before or after the Divine Service, discuss the meaning of the word martyr. At home, read the story of the Holy Innocents. Be sure to give them examples of other martyrs by reading their stories in Scripture. For example, read the story of Stephen in Acts 6 and 7.

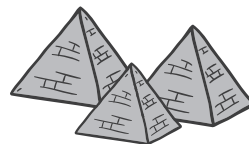


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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord

Tonight we begin the season of Christmas. On this night, Christians all over the world are lighting candles, singing hymns and joining together to worship the one true God who made this night so special.

What makes this night different from all other nights?

Tonight is the big night! All through the season of Advent, the Church has been preparing for the birth of Jesus. Tonight we celebrate and remember His arrival! This is the night that our God became a man, born of the Virgin Mary, to save all people from their sins. What a blessed and wonderful night!



Parents: Before or after the service, allow your children to explore the decorations of the church. Instruct them to be reverent in God's holy places. Direct their attention to all of the lights and candles that fill the sanctuary. Remind them that Jesus is the Light of the World. He overcame the darkness of sin and saves all those who believe.

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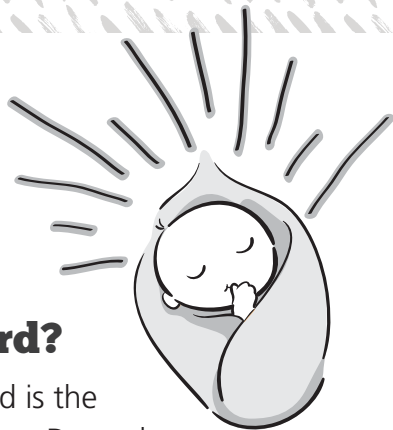
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KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord?

The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord is the traditional way of saying Christmas Day. December 25 is one of the most important festival days in the Church Year. This is the day that we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus!

Why do we do the things we do at Christmas?

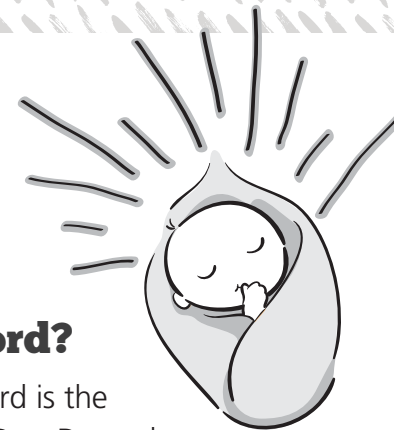


Many of the things that we do at Christmas have their beginnings with the Romans. Early Christians soon saw some of these things as outward reminders of Christmas and began to use them in their own celebrations. For example, when we give and receive presents, we can remember the greatest gift that has ever been given, our Lord Jesus! After all, today we celebrate Jesus' birthday, and He is the real reason for the season!



Parents: What a great way to spend Christmas! Thanks be to God that you have brought your children to hear the wonderful Good News of Jesus today! When you go home, be sure to remind your children that Jesus is the best present we could ever have. He gave up His life so that we might have eternal life. What a great message to share!

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