

'Tis the Season

BY DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help you, your students, and your students' families review what you know about our Catholic faith. Check your answers against the answer key on page 43.



1 _____ is the first season on the Church calendar.

- a) Lent b) Advent c) Easter
d) Christmas

2 The readings at Mass for the first weeks of Advent focus on Jesus' second coming and the judgment of the world.

True | False

3 Advent lasts _____.

- a) for 40 days b) until the Christmas sales end
c) until the groundhog appears d) four weeks

4 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive _____."

- a) Israel b) Pokémon c) hostages d) prisoners

5 Jesus' cousin's name is _____.

- a) Joseph b) Myron c) John the Baptist
d) George

6 When the Virgin Mary announced that she was pregnant, everyone was happy.

True | False

7 Mary was the mother of _____.

- a) John the Baptist
b) God but not Jesus c) God d) Jesus but not God



8 Mary was a teenager when the angel told her she would be the mother of God's son.

True | False

9 When John baptized people, he was in the _____ river (Matthew 3:6).

- a) Mississippi b) Amazon c) Nile d) Jordan

10 When will the kingdom of God begin?

- a) when Jesus returns b) when Mary conceived Jesus in her womb
c) when people stop sinning
d) the end of the world

11 Christmas celebrates _____.

- a) the beginning of Lent
b) Christ's resurrection c) the birth of Christ
d) the arrival of Santa

12 St. Francis was there when Jesus was born. True | False

13 Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are members of the Holy _____.

- a) Name Society b) Club c) Trinity d) Family

14 The Magi who visited the newborn Jesus were _____ (Matthew 2:1-12).

- a) wise men from the East b) types of bugs
c) young magicians d) from the town of Magiopolis



15 Christmas lights are a symbol of Jesus, who is the "_____ of the world" (John 8:12).

- a) Rudolph's nose b) light c) sun
d) flashlight

16 The word crèche means _____.

- a) "candy canes" in Russian b) "jump like a French ballet dancer"
c) "crush" in French
d) "a representation of the Nativity scene"

17 Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to _____, even though Mary was nine months pregnant.

- a) Jerusalem b) Bethlehem
c) Rome d) Egypt

18 It was snowing when Jesus was born on the first Christmas.

True | False

19 The Feast of the Annunciation celebrates _____.

- a) the angel's announcement to Mary that she would be Jesus' mother
b) the birth of Jesus
c) Jesus' graduation from college
d) when Jesus told Pontius Pilate that he was God

20 Joseph found a fancy hotel for Mary to rest in before she went to the hospital to deliver the baby Jesus.

True | False



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The story of Santa Claus was created only to sell toys. True | False

For more Catholic IQ and to find the answer to the *What's Your Catholic IQ? Bonus Question*, go to Catechist.com.

ANSWERS TO WHAT'S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ? from page 40.

1 b) The Church retells the story of God becoming human to save us each year during Advent. This liturgical season “recounts the events and prophecies leading up to Christ’s birth in Bethlehem but also reminds Catholics to prepare for Christ’s second coming” (CCC, 524).

2 True. Catholics are called to examine their lives, repent, and turn to God, who will judge between the just and the unjust.

3 d) Catholic parishes usually mark the four Sundays of Advent by lighting the four candles of the Advent wreath at Mass.

4 a) Although many Christmas carols are about Christ’s birth, Advent songs like this one speak about preparing and longing for Christ.

5 c) John is the last of the traditional prophets who called for people to repent and turn away from their sins.

6 False. Mary had a hard time explaining to Joseph that she had been visited by an angel of God and was pregnant with God’s son (see Matthew 1:18-25).

7 c) Since Jesus, her human son, was God, Mary was the mother of God. As we say in the Hail Mary: “Holy Mary, mother of God” (see CCC, 495).

8 True. Even though she was very young, Mary totally trusted God and believed the angel’s message.

9 d) John told people to stop sinning and be baptized because he was preparing people for Jesus and the kingdom of heaven (see Matthew 3:1-3).



10 b) Throughout Jesus’ life, his miracles and teachings were signs that the kingdom of God had already started as soon as his birth was announced to Mary (see Mark 1:15).

11 c) On the first Christmas, the shepherds heard the angels sing to celebrate the birth of Jesus: “Glory to God in the highest” (see Luke 2:8-14).

12 False. Francis is credited with being among the first to use a crèche with animals and a baby to remember the Christmas story, but he lived almost 1,200 years after Jesus was born.

13 d) The Holy Family serves as a model for all families because of their love for God and one another despite all the problems they faced.

14 a) These wise men studied the stars for signs from God. The star of Bethlehem led them to the baby Jesus.

15 b) St. John wrote in his Gospel: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it” (John 1:5).

16 d) Beginning in the Middle Ages, Christians began to decorate their homes with crèches as a sign of devotion during the Christmas season.

17 b) Mary and Joseph were forced to return to Joseph’s hometown because of Emperor Caesar Augustus’ census (see Luke 2:1-5).



18 False. Bethlehem is in Israel, which is part of the Middle East where snow is uncommon—except on mountains.

19 a) The Angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary meant that God’s promises would be fulfilled through his Son’s birth in the world. Jesus will save humanity; he will bring all people to God and God to all people (see CCC, 484).

20 False. With all the people traveling because of Caesar’s census, Joseph couldn’t find any place to bring Mary to have the baby. They ended up in a stable, probably a cave with animals, where Christ was born and laid in a manger (see Luke 2:7).



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