

Christmas Activity

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During Adoration, we prayed the following prayer: "O Jesus, little child, come into my heart on Christmas morn to wash away my sins and to remain there eternally. O Mary, Mother of my Savior, prepare for Jesus a cradle in my heart."¹

Discuss with the children what "prepare for Jesus a cradle in my heart" means and how they can work with Mary on preparing their cradle for Jesus.

To "prepare for Jesus a cradle in my heart" means making our hearts more loving and caring and to spend more time with Jesus so we can appreciate and be amazed with the awesomeness of God becoming man as a little baby.

The children can prepare Jesus' cradle by: (a few examples)

1. Good Deeds

- Help pick out a gift for a child who won't get one Christmas morning
- Notice nice things about family members and friends and compliment them
- Do an extra chore without being asked

2. Prayers

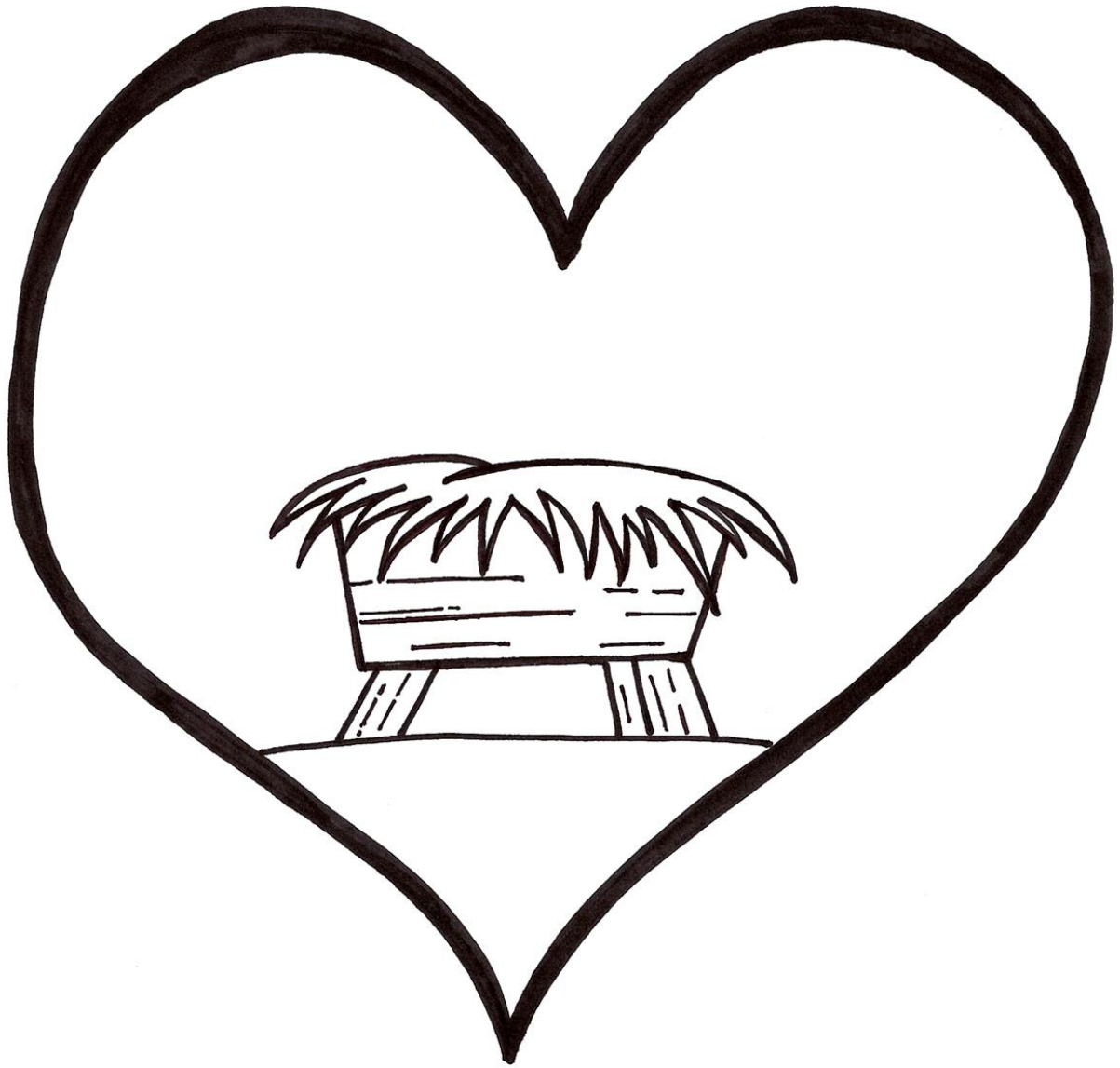
- Ask their Mom and Dad to help them say the above prayer each night.
- Hail Mary and Our Father
- Prayers for children who are hungry

When Jesus was born, His cradle was lined with hay which helped make it soft. Each good deed or prayer that the children say during the Advent season is like a piece of hay which helps soften Jesus' bed and makes Him happier.

¹ *Stories of the Eucharist* by Linda & Mary Beth 1999, Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament. PO Box 1701, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 www.ACFP2000.com. Used with permission.

On the activity sheet, have the children draw the infant Jesus in the cradle in their heart. The sheet has the Advent prayer on it for nightly prayers at home.

Draw Baby Jesus in the Cradle of Your Heart.



O Jesus, little child, come into my heart on
Christmas morn to wash away my sins
and to remain there eternally.

O Mary, Mother of my Savior,
prepare for Jesus a cradle in my heart. ²

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