

ADVENT MANGER SACRIFICE ACTIVITY



The goal of this activity is to turn little sacrifices you make each day during Advent into a soft bed of love for the Baby Jesus.

You Will Need

- › Half-egg crate (enough for six eggs)
- › Brown craft paint, paint brushes
- › Small slips of paper or pieces of straw
- › Small baby Jesus figure (store-bought or homemade)

What to Do

Help your children paint your egg crate brown like a wooden manger. On the first Sunday of Advent explain to your family that you will be spending time during the next four weeks preparing a soft and special bed for baby Jesus at Christmas. The bedding that will be used will be made of each family member's special prayers and sacrifices.

For example, every time you do any of the following, write it down on a slip of paper or take a piece of straw and place it in the manger.

- › Say a special prayer
- › Go to an extra holy Mass
- › Make a sacrifice for a loved one, a friend, or a stranger.

On Christmas Eve, have a time of prayer, a birthday party for Jesus, or a simple procession to the nativity set in your home, if you have one. If you do not have a nativity set you can make a small clay baby Jesus, or buy a plastic one, and place the figure in your Advent manger.

You can close by saying something like, "Happy Birthday Jesus! We have given You the best gift that we could: we have loved one another and made our hearts ready for Your coming into our world and our lives."

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Tips

- › Keep your manger wherever the family gathers together most frequently.
- › Talk frequently about sacrifices, especially with young children.
- › Encourage them to see opportunities during their day that would make good “gifts” for baby Jesus’ bed.
- › Speak about what the children did during their day with the rest of the family at your evening meal or at family prayer time.
- › Older children may prefer their sacrifices to be done and recorded in secret.