

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).