

## ANSWERS to WHAT'S YOUR CATHOLIC IQ? from page 22

1. a) Advent, the season before the Christmas Season, helps us prepare for the birth of Jesus. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.
2. c) Christmas celebrates the mystery of the Incarnation—when God took on human flesh. “The Word became flesh *to be our model of holiness*” and “[T]he Son of God became man so that we might become God” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 459 and 460, emphasis in original).
3. b) Before the Incarnation, God spoke through signs and prophets. In Christ, however, God spoke to us face to face and lived among us.
4. d) The visit by the three kings (the wise men or the magi), traditionally celebrated on January 6, revealed even more deeply that the child born to Mary was the Son of God.
5. d) The Christmas Season lasts until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, when we celebrate Jesus being baptized by his cousin, John, in the Jordan River.
6. c) “[T]he Church confesses that Mary is truly ‘Mother of God’” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 495).
7. c) The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary invite meditation on the birth and early childhood of Jesus. Traditionally, they are prayed on Mondays and Saturdays.
8. c) Biblical scholars contend that the Holy Family probably settled within the Jewish community in Egypt during their years as refugees.
9. a) In terms of their social status, shepherds at that time were similar to the homeless population today.
10. b) European Catholics in the Middle Ages “Christianized” candled wreaths and incorporated them into their Advent preparation for the coming of Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12).
11. b) As Bishop of Rome, the pope is the successor of St. Peter, the Apostle Jesus selected to be the rock upon which the Church would be built (Matthew 16:18).
12. d) Unlike the civil calendar year, the Church begins her liturgical calendar at the beginning of Advent.
13. d) On Christmas Eve in 1223, Francis recreated the birth of Christ in a cave with live animals and people. He hoped to inspire Christians to recognize Christ in their midst.
14. c) Matthew 2:1-2 describes how the magi came to Jerusalem after seeing a star in the east that indicated the birth of a great king.
15. b) Churches decorate for Advent with purple altar cloths, vestments, and candles. On Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, the candle is rose, signifying the joy of Christians awaiting the Messiah.
16. a) The Feast of the Holy Family celebrates Jesus’ family and every family. The Church calls the family a “domestic church,” the first place of prayer, catechesis, and moral teaching. The family is where the gospel is brought to life. The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated between Christmas and New Year’s Day.
17. c) Gold represented Christ’s role as King. Frankincense represented his divine nature, since incense was used to worship God. Myrrh represented his sacrificial death for the sins of humanity, since it is a perfume for embalming the dead.
18. a) This angelic song anchors the *Gloria* we pray every Sunday Mass except during Advent and Lent, the seasons of penance in the Church.
19. b) Gabriel appears in Luke 1 to announce the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Tradition suggests that Gabriel also was the one who spoke to Joseph in his