

Advent- Put Straw in the Manger

The spirit of giving and caring in families is captured well by the advent custom of putting straw in the manger.

Have family members place a piece of straw in the manger every time they perform a good deed or act of mercy. Jesus told St Faustina, "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first - by deed, the second - by word, the third - by prayer" (Diary of Saint Maria Faustina, 742).

This tradition gives family members a chance to share the joy of the season with each other and with those in need. There are plenty of opportunities to perform works of mercy not only at home, in your neighborhood, school, work, parish, community. It might be volunteering at a soup kitchen, shoveling snow for an elderly neighbor, or visiting the spiritually poor and lonely in assisted and nursing homes.



Whatever your work of mercy is, we know the straw symbolizing our charity will provide a warm manger for Baby Jesus on Christmas morning. Then, we will have continued Christ's loving action for those in need - sharing the warmth of the manger with others.

May you all have a blessed Christmas!

Living the Spirit of Advent, Marian Press

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