



REAL CHRISTMAS

**SERVES:
FAMILIES**

**TIME:
NOV / DEC**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- How many kids do you know who only look forward to Christmas for the presents that they will receive?
- Do they really understand the true meaning of Christmas and the reason for the season?
- How many parents simply dread the holidays, when Christmas should be a wonderful Holy time of hope and joy in their lives?
- Did you know that the word “holidays” really comes from “Holy Days”?
- Did you know that “Christmas” really means “Christ’s Mass”?
- Why do kids wait in line to see Santa Clause, when they should be coming to see Christ?
- Does our parish have a Santa Clause visit day but not a Christmas pageant for kids?
- What can we do to help both kids and their parents experience what Christmas is really all about?



CHRIST IS THE REAL REASON FOR THE SEASON!

OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's organize a Real Christmas pageant for kids! We can help young children experience the true story of Christ's birth, along with other fun activities. By teaching the kids, we can also help the parents to better see the true meaning of Christmas.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
1	<p>Decide: There are many ways to do a Christmas Pageant for kids, both simple and an extremely complex production. First decide if you are going to act out the nativity, simply read the story, or show video (animated or real).</p> <p>Plan: Once you decide what type of method you will convey the story of the nativity to the kids and parents, then plan the activities. Keep in mind, that kids like to participate in things rather than sit and listen. You could plan game stations with prizes, stations to decorate Christmas ornaments with paint pens or stickers, make Christmas cards, sing Christmas carols, make posters with the nativity scene for their homes, etc.</p>	
2	<p>Script: Plan the script for the nativity story. If you are going to act, many scripts and songs are available on the internet, simply do a search for Christmas Pageant ideas.</p> <p>Finalize: Finish up the planning, so you know exactly what you are going to offer.</p>	
3	<p>Flyer: Design a flyer this week for promotion. Print copies for distribution.</p>	
4	<p>Assign: Assign responsibilities to each team member. Each person should be responsible for planning one aspect of the Christmas Pageant.</p>	

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
5	<p>Promote: Begin promotion this week. Put up flyers in the parish, school and advertise in the parish bulletin,</p> <p>Plan: Continue to plan and develop the nativity story and other activities.</p>	
6	<p>Provisions: Make a complete list of all provisions needed, from large items to the smallest such as markers for making Christmas cards, etc.</p> <p>Plan: Continue to plan and develop the nativity story and other activities.</p>	
7	<p>Rehearsal: Run through the entire pageant of activities to practice and work out the kinks. Tell all members to arrive the following week 1 hour early to setup.</p>	
8	<p>Real Christmas: Make sure to invite the parish priest, and ask him to start with a prayer and to end with a prayer. Spread the story of Christ's birth with joy, and have a blast of fun with all of the kids – give them an experience they will always remember (and want to do again next year!)</p>	

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TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

- Parish: If you are going to act out the nativity or even tell the story, starting in the Church is a great way to begin – especially since you can have the kids and parents sing the songs along with you.
- Parish Hall: The activities should be planned in a parish hall or gym. Things need to be setup early and in advance. Make sure to schedule use with the parish office well in advance.
- Times: A Saturday morning or afternoon will work best, although it can be done anytime during Advent on any evening.

PROVISIONS

Depending on what type of Real Christmas Pageant you decide to do, the provisions will vary.

- Sound system: If you expect a large crowd, make sure everyone will be able to hear.
- Video Equipment: If showing a nativity video, make sure to have a large screen TV or projector.
- Props/Costumes: If acting out the nativity story – you will also need a female to play Mary, and a baby doll that she can hold to be the baby Jesus.
- Game stations: supplies will be needed for each station.
- Prizes: Small trinket type prizes should be purchased well in advance for prizes for the game stations.
- Arts/Crafts: supplies for arts/crafts tables will need to be purchased well in advance.



TACTICS BY AREAS

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Team Members – Should each have their own responsibility assigned to them, that they are fully responsible for. For example, assign two members to each game station. Make them fully responsible for the idea, game and all supplies needed.
- Nativity Story – a few members should be in charge of the nativity story.
- Provisions: Each member should be assigned a number of provisions that they are responsible to get.

CONTACTS

- Parish Pastor: You will need to first ask his permission. Invite him to start the Real Christmas pageant with a prayer.
- Parents: You will need to promote well in order to attract parents. The flyers should be targeted for them, not so much the kids.
- Young Children: Make sure to decide on an age range, like 1-10 years old. The target should be young children who need to see that Christ is Christmas, and not so much Santa Clause.
- Adult Volunteers: You can get some parents of team members or other adults to help with the Christmas Pageant planning, organizing and execution.
- Female actor: If you are acting out the nativity, you will need someone to play Mary.

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DEBRIEFING

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SPECIAL OPS

- You could charge a small admission fee to help cover the costs of the activities supplies and prizes.
- Make sure to put in the flyer and promotions that parents must accompany their kids during the entire pageant. (it should not be a drop off free babysitting service activity)
- Start small, and plan bigger and better the following year. Try to establish a permanent Real Christmas pageant in the parish each year.
- Be careful about using candy as prizes. Some mothers are over cautious about giving their kids candy, but you could plan Christmas cupcakes or other treats.

CONTINGENCY PLAN



- Try to at least do something, even if very small. You could just invite members families and friends to keep it on a smaller scale.
- If your parish has a Santa Clause visit day, you could try to do the pageant at the same time, so kids can experience the nativity story as well.
- You could make a nativity story booklet for parents to read to their kids and hand them out after weekend Masses. It can be simple, on plain paper with an explanation about how Christmas is about Christ, the reason for the season.

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PROJECT NOTES:

