

## **Catholic Christmas List- Religious Alternatives**

Bibles of any sort. The two Catholic Bibles are the New American (which is used in the Mass) and the New Jerusalem- which is known to be more scholarly, more footnotes and comments.

New Revised Standard Bible- Catholic Edition, is the closest to the actual Hebrew and Greek originals.

Good News Bible may be good for teens or children, because the English is so simple. Hundreds of children's books, monthly magazines, etc.

Catholic Encyclopedia, Catechism, CD. etc.

Bible for Women and Bible for Men- they have footnotes that make the Bible more interesting and informative.

A concordance or Bible dictionary, a religious book of any sort.

Audio Bible - for those who want to listen to the exact words of the bible.

Movies- 10 Commandments, Lillies of the Field, Life of Jesus- many different ones, Bernadette of Lourdes, Gospel of John, the Passion.

Music- hundreds of different styles and songs- Gregorian Chant or Beethoven, etc Charismatic music, Biblical songs like the St Louis Jesuits. etc.

A creche, religious tree skirt, religious stockings etc. Bring Jesus more into the holiday.

For young children have a birthday cake for Jesus and sing Happy Birthday.

Religious symbols on cookies, or cakes

Give to a Charity- People to People (every penny goes to the poor of Haiti), Marist Brothers (goes to the Mexican missions run by Brother Bob a St Louis native), Heifer Foundation. Buy a tree in Israel. If you can afford it go to Israel, Medjagorje, Fatima etc. Donate to any charity or organization which touches the heart of the intended recipient (Zoo, Gardens, etc) in the name of relatives or friends.

Give a cross for the home, a picture, a statue (saint's name of children or grandchildren) a medal and chain, a bracelet, a key chain etc.)

Use the internet to find out about the saint or person you share a name with- give a little booklet teaching what you learn.

Write a poem or story telling some good quality of your child or friend. Print it and give it to them.

Have Masses said for your family. Enroll them in a Shrine you have visited or like. Be creative- think of what the person likes and see if you can provide something of religious significance for them- chocolate in the shape of the Holy Family, Mary, angels, etc.

Stationary with an angel, harp, musical note etc on it-

A retreat or a vacation where they will see nature, art or music etc.

An offer to baby sit so your relatives can get a day off or week etc.

A family picture.

Give to soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait in the name of some one.

Ask your pastor how to get a papal blessing for a family.

Give tickets to a concert, registration for a conference, e.g. Marian Conference second week of Jan at the Adam Mark, etc.

Be creative- my sons like U2 a band, so I am getting them books on the spirituality of the band, t shirts, clothes made by the poor- Plowshares, on Delmar has many religious articles from around the world.

Go to a nursing home with cookies or to sing or visit.

Ask a loving priest to visit the sick or lonely. Take them communion. etc. Give a priest or sister a check - the order your children went to school with, Jesuits, RSCJ's etc.

Have Memorial Masses for the death or birthday of a loved one. Get the family together to **celebrate** their lives.

Buy religious products- fruit cake made by nuns or priests, jellies, candy, bread etc.

Buy sugar free or free trade coffee, tea, etc so that all the money goes to the poor farmer.

Start a new tradition for your family or resurrect an old tradition.

Buy a vestment or chalice or something for your parish or a place you feel close to.

Help Fr Gettinger with his food and gifts next week , or Peter and Paul or the inner city or mission parishes.

Make a photo album or collage to celebrate your family's life or vacation etc. Share with your siblings, children etc.

Treat your family to a restaurant, a visit to their schools etc where happy memories were shared. Get a teacher, etc to write a letter detailing your child's gifts or achievements.

Buy a gift for a dog or cat of your children etc.- a St Christopher's medal for a tag.