

# NEW CONNECTIONS

JEGEN CENTER FOR CATECHETICAL MEDIA AND RESEARCH ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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## A Note from the Editor:

Once more the days are shorter than the nights. The leaves are turning color and falling from the trees. There is a telltale chill in the air and we rejoice when the thermometer climbs above 65! Our minds begin to turn to the end of the year holiday season. We begin to remember the time of Waiting of Advent and the arrival of Our Savior at Christmas. How can we prepare ourselves, our families, and our classes for this special season? The Jegen Center has many videos to help all ages in preparation for the coming of the Lord. This issue of the newsletter will present some of the titles that are available for Advent and Christmas preparation. Get your reservations in early! They can be quite popular!

May your Advent and Christmas be filled with the hope and joy that came simply and peacefully on that first Christmas night.

## Videos for Advent and Christmas:

### For the Family

VC232071 70 min Family  
**A Christmas Carol.** Note: This is the classic tale of Scrooge.

VC210094 25 min Family  
**A Good and Perfect Gift.** Note: A touching Christmas story of the power of prayer and how it can lead us to appreciate the gifts of those who enter our lives.

VC043232 22 min Family  
**The First Christmas.** Note: Narrated by Christopher Plummer, tells the traditional story of the birth of Jesus. Includes the journey to Bethlehem, encounter with the innkeeper, the angel's announcement to the shepherds and journey of the Magi. Background is familiar Christmas music.

VC 163155 30 min Family  
**Jacob's Gift.** Note: Jacob learns an important lesson about giving when he must choose between building the best woodworking project and helping a family with a newborn baby.

VC071617 28 min Family  
**The Journey.** Note: Paralleling the plight of Mary's and Joseph's seeking a place for Jesus to be born, a homeless couple struggles to find food and shelter for their child.

VC041312 23 min Family

### **Nestor, The Long-Eared Christmas Donkey.**

Note: A long time ago a delightful little donkey named Nestor lived in a stable near Bethlehem with his mother. Mocked by everyone for his long ears, he and his mom are thrown out of the stable. During cold, snowy night, Nestor is protected by his mother who dies during the storm. In the spring, a cherub arrives to help guide Nestor on a path so he can save someone as his mother saved him. Mary and Joseph choose Nestor to take them to Bethlehem.

VC080091 60 min Family

**Preparing for Christmas.** Note: Offers suggestions for experiencing the peace, love, and beauty of Christmas through preparation.



VC080092 56 min Family

**Preparing for Christmas II.** Note: A sequel to *Preparing for Christmas*, Fr. Tony shows how to experience the peace, love, and beauty of Christmas by preparing for it in a contemporary fashion.

VC041338 27 min Family

**The Selfish Giant.** Note: Oscar Wilde's timeless tale of the selfish giant can unlock the meaning of Christmas, but it is also a story of sacrifice, joy, and God's unselfish love. The giant's garden is so beautiful he forbids anyone to enter it. Without children's laughter, the garden turns to ice and the North Wind's snow stays all year round.

### In this issue:

- Editor's Note page 1
- Videos for Advent and Christmas pages 1-4
- En Español página 4

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Visit our website at [www.jegen.org](http://www.jegen.org).

VC040872 30 min Family  
**Veggie Tales; The Toy that Saved Christmas.**  
 Mr. Nebby K. Nezzar has convinced all of Dinkletown that "Christmas is when you get stuff." Much whining and begging for more toys seem to point to a terrible Christmas for the town. One Buzz-Saw Louie doll, with the help of Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber, embarks on a hazardous journey to find the true meaning of Christmas. Viewers of all ages learn that Christmas is not about "getting" but about "giving," and mostly about the greatest gift of all, Baby Jesus.

For Children

VC082156 12 min Prim-Intermed  
**Advent with Saint Nicholas; Customs from Around the World.** Note: Ten-year old Holly arrives home from her religious education class eager to enter a contest about the meaning of Advent. St. Nicholas appears and helps her learn more about the meaning and background of customs families practice during Advent, such as Advent calendars and wreaths, Christmas trees, Las Posadas, etc. St. Nicholas then offers ideas about practicing these customs in a way that celebrates the Advent spirit of expectation and mystery.



VC044356 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**Alabaster's Song.** Note: This video tells the story of Alabaster, the little angel on top of the Christmas tree, who was sent from heaven and sang a remarkable song. The tender music of the heart unites a boy, his father, and a glorious long ago night in Bethlehem.

VC081751 11 min Prim-Intermed  
**The Angel's Advent Lesson.** Note: Danny is happily making out his Christmas list--adding more and more things--when his Guardian Angel appears and realizes that Danny has forgotten the real meaning of Christmas. Together they review practices like the Advent wreath, reciting daily prayers at home, and doing daily acts of kindness.

VC083154 11 min Prim-Intermed  
**The Angel's Church Year Lesson.** Note: Angels Vita, Caritas, and Benedicta take students on a journey throughout the church year to convince them that Jesus is always with them. They learn what happened to Jesus in each church season and on special feasts, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.

VC151710 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**Animated Stories from New Testament; The King Is Born.** Note: A video classic of the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of Jesus.

VC040104 60 min Prim-Intermed

**The Bear Who Slept Through Christmas.** Note: Bears usually sleep through Christmas except for Ted E. Bear who finds out from Santa that Christmas means loving, sharing and joy.

VC041349 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**A Christmas for Little Children, Sing-Along Celebration.** Note: Music, stories of Mary, Francis of Assisi, and Nicholas, animation and puppets.

VC040102 8 min Prim-Intermed  
**A Christmas Gift.** Note: Claymation characters find the real meaning of Christmas in this adaptation of a song by Peter, Paul and Mary.

VC042108 9 min Prim-Intermed  
**A Christmas Wish.** Note: The story stresses the importance of Advent as a season of anticipation and preparation. Justine discovers that the time of preparation increases the joy of Christmas.

VC150048 25 min each Prim-Intermed  
**The City That Forgot About Christmas; I will take you to the Christ Child.** Note: In the *City that Forgot about Christmas* 2 boys learn about a city that forgot the meaning of Christmas. *I Will Take You to the Christ Child*, features a marionette troop's retelling of the Christmas story.

VC083723 10 min Prim-Intermed  
**Following Jesus through the Church Year: Advent Roads.** Note: Detective Krispin travels through the four weeks of Advent, guided by the lit Advent Wreath, and by the people and events he encounters.

VC083724 10 min Prim-Intermed  
**Following Jesus through the Church Year: Christmas Crossroads.** Note: Detective Krispin is lost in the crowded streets of Bethlehem. Aaron, a shepherd, brings him to the stable where Jesus was born, but Jesus is no longer there.

VC040843 30 min Primary  
**Gerbert: The Gift of Giving.** Note: Gerbert finds in this Christmas tale the joy of choosing to give over the hunger to get.

VC150984 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**In the Beginning; The Birth of Jesus.** Note: The ancient prophecies of the Old Testament are fulfilled through the birth of the Messiah in a stable in Bethlehem. Animated.

VC153810 5 seg. of 10 min Primary  
**Jesus for Kids: Animated Bible Stories for Kids Ages 4-6.** Note: Designed as an introduction of the life of Jesus for young children, the first 10 minute segment is on The First Christmas.

VC151383 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**Jesus, A Kingdom Without Frontiers: The King is Born.** Note: The ancient prophecies are fulfilled with the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem. Study Guide. Animated.

VC151393 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**Jesus, A Kingdom Without Frontiers: King Herod and the Wise Men.** Note: A spiteful King Herod calls for the murder of the innocent children of Bethlehem as the Holy Family escapes into Egypt under God's watchful eye. Study Guide. Animated.

VC151198 c.30 min Primary  
**A Little Stable in Bethlehem.** Note: A re-enactment of the Christmas Story from perspective of the animals in the stable. 6 traditional carols sung by life-size puppet characters. Study Guide.

VC150047 10 min Primary  
**Mary's Story; Clem the Clumsy Camel.** Note: *Mary's Story* shows pictures of the baby Jesus. *Clem the Clumsy Camel* carries one of the Wise Men.

VC040828 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**McGee and Me! 'Twas the Fight Before Christmas.** Note: Loving people who are hard to love is the lesson for 11 year old Nicolas and his animated friend McGee. Study Guide.

VC041270 c.15 min Prim-Intermed  
**The Mouse in the Manger.** Note: Oscar, the mouse, leaves home because he is angry with his father. In his adventure he learns a lot about himself as he talks to various animals who are in the manger of Bethlehem at Jesus' birth.

VC151312 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**The Nativity.** Note: Travel with three adventuresome children to the time of Jesus' birth. Relive with them the excitement of Bethlehem's welcome to the new king.

VC041348 30 min Primary  
**Nicholas, the Boy Who Became Santa.** Note: Animated story of the traditional figure, Nicholas, the man we call Santa Claus.

VC041448 30 min Primary  
**Quigley's Village: A Christmas Story; The Joy of Giving.** Note: Everyone learns that Christmas is more than getting presents when unexpected things happen in preparing the Christmas pageant. Mr. Quigley loses Danny's present. Spike and Bubba play Mary and Joseph in the pageant and do their best to make Baby Jesus more comfortable than the Bible story describes.


VC222109 14 min Prim-Intermed  
**Saints for Kids; Vol. 2; Nicholas, Stephen, Anne and Joachim.** Note: This video has three stories, highlighting the stories of Nicholas, Stephen, and Anne

and Joachim. Nicholas is the popular patron of children whose kindhearted goodness reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas. Stephen was the first saint to give his life for Jesus. The Anne and Joachim segment tells the legendary story of the parents of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Each story lasts approximately four minutes. Closed Captioned.

VC040877 30 min Intermediate  
**Secret Adventures: I'm Dreaming of a Right Christmas.** Note: The story of Andrea Thomas and her friends as they come to an adventuresome understanding of what Christmas is really about, loving someone and living it out. Study Guide.

VC040105 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**The Secret of the Second Basement.** Note: At Christmastime a loving family of street people teaches that nothing-- no "things"-- bring greater joy than Jesus, God's gift to the world. Featuring the Peppercorn Puppets.

VC040103 22 min Prim-Intermed  
**A Star for Jeremy.** Note: A night before Christmas dream of a young boy and a special star that awaits the birth of Jesus.

VC150852 30 min Primary  
**The Story of the Nativity/Beginner's Bible.** Note: The story of the birth of Jesus as told by animated characters as part of "The Beginner's Bible Series." Animated.

VC190176 23 min Prim-Intermed  
**There's No Such Thing as a Chanukah Bush.** Note: Robin, a young Jewish girl, longs for a Christmas tree, or Chanukah Bush. Parents and grandfather show her ways to help Christian friends celebrate while remaining proud of her own faith. Study Guide.

VC153421 30 min Prim-Adol  
**Visual Bible for Kids: The Birth of Jesus.** Note: A cozy fire, cookies and cocoa, a family, and a visit from a favorite uncle create the environment to read the Christmas Story.

VC150049 16 min Prim-Intermed  
**Welcome the Stranger.** Note: Two children, strangers themselves in a strange land, witness the birth of the baby Jesus.

### For Youth and Adults

VC160077 30 min Adol-Adult  
**Advent: The Journey Toward Christ; Program 1; Awakening.** Note: A look at the everyday awakening that surrounds us and how we experience God in that world.

VC084315 20 min Adult  
**Advent: A Time to Hope.** Note: Kathy Chesto ties everyday events to Advent and teaches viewers what it means to hope. Family life can provide signs and symbols of hope as one waits for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

VC140032 25 min Adol-Adult  
**The Birth of Jesus; A Scriptural pilgrimage to the Holy Land locales of the hope and promise of Jesus' coming.** Note: Scripture scholar Father Stephen Doyle guides the viewer through the ancient land of prophecies, including the ruins of the city of David; Qumran, site of the Jewish sect who lived in intense expectation of the Messiah's coming Nazareth with the wonder of Mary's "yes"; the site of Mary and Elizabeth's warm visit; the Basilica of the Annunciation; Shepherds' Fields, where the viewer will be touched by the glory and humility of the Christmas story; and the Basilica of the Nativity, the place of Jesus' birth.

VC140061 c.45 min Adol-Adult  
**The Genesis Project. The Gospel of Luke: Christmas / The Bible on Video.** Note: The story of the birth of Jesus according to Luke visually set against the holy land and told through word for word from the King James Version of the Bible.

VC141417 116 min Adol-Adult  
**Jesus of Nazareth; Part 1 of 3.** Note: This film portrays the epic majesty of the life of Jesus as told by the Apostles. This first part begins before the Nativity and extending through the early years of the life of Jesus as told in the Gospels. Includes a very thorough Study Guide.

VC162416 22 min Adol-Adult  
**Keeper of the Peace; A Christmas Story.** Note: This video tells the story of Christ's birth in a fresh, life-changing way. The familiar story is taken a step further as the drama unfolds in another stable in Bethlehem on that holy night. Marcus is a young Roman soldier and Ruth is an old Jewish woman who stumble upon each other, unaware that this chance encounter will change both their lives. Through forgiveness and reconciliation, they find the true keeper of the peace in the gift of Christ's birth. Includes discussion guide.



VC162144 50 min Adult  
**Norman Rockwell Christmas.** Note: Take a nostalgic, heart-warming look at the world of Norman Rockwell. The 170 voice Pacific Chorale helps the Christmas scenes spring to life with all the magic and wonder Rockwell originally envisioned.

## En Español

VC210585 25 min Familia  
**Un Regalo Bueno y Perfecto.** Nota: Nos cuenta de la navidad inolvidable de una niña que vive en un pueblo pequeño de Nuevo Mexico. Ella la pide a Dios un papa para navidad mientras en el pueblo llega un hombre huyendo a la policia. SG.

VC041348 30 min Primaria  
**Nicolas, Y Los Tres Sacos de Oro.** Nota: La fascinante historia del niño cuya generosidad y amor lo convirtió en una de las figuras más queridas de todos los tiempos y que hoy llamamos Santa Claus.

VC151123 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**En el Principio: El Nacimiento de Jesús.** Nota: Las ancestrales profecias del Antiguo Testamento se cumplen cuando en un establo de Belén, nace el Mesias: Jesús de Nazaret. Caricaturas.

VC151670 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**Un Reino Sin Fronteras: Ha Nacido El Rey.** Nota: En *Ha Nacido el Rey* se cumple la antigua profesia de que el Rey de los judios habia de nacer en un establo en Belén.

VC151672 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**Un Reino Sin Fronteras: Herodes y los Reyes de Oriente.** Nota: La soberbia del rey Herodes le hace ordenar la muerte de los niños inocentes de Belén, mientras que la Sagrada Familia escapa a Egipto, bajo la protección de Dios Padre.



VC151699 30 min Prim-Intermed  
**Relatos Animados del Nuevo Testamento: El Rey Nació.** Nota: *El Rey Nació* es un video que contiene la historia clasica del nacimiento de Jesús según la Biblia. Las personas de todas las edades disfrutan inmensamente de este relato genuino de la Sagradas Escrituras.

VC040640 30 min Primario  
**Santa Claus, la Verdadera Historia.** Nota: Caricaturas. La fascinante historia del niño cuya generosidad y amor lo convirtió en una de las figuras más queridas de todos los tiempos y que hoy llamamos Santa Claus.

***Watch for upcoming events on the websites:***  
**[www.catechesis-chicago.org](http://www.catechesis-chicago.org) and**  
**[www.jegen.org](http://www.jegen.org)**

