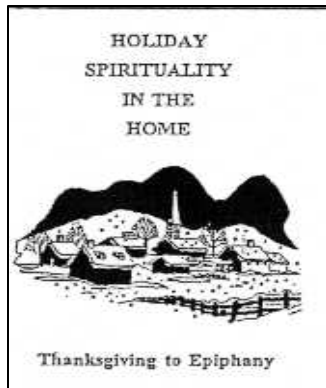


THANKSGIVING, ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS BOOK



This 53 page booklet includes over 70 home rituals, traditions, family activities, and popular holiday legends from Thanksgiving to Epiphany. An ideal guide for families in search of spiritual and festive home practices.

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Sample page from the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas book

DECEMBER 8 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Many families prepare a Mary Candle on this day. They take an ordinary candle and with beads or crayons, form the letter "M". Just below it they trace the chi-rho to symbolize Christ's coming through Mary. The candle can be decorated with pine cones and greens at the base, or any other way you wish.



Because this feast occurs in Advent, so close to Christmas, many often mistakenly think it refers to the conception of Jesus. It is really Mary's own feast commemorating her own conception in the womb of her mother. But, the feast reminds us of the importance of her role in our salvation.

This is a good feast to plan a special family night prayer. Perhaps lighting a candle in the darkness will impress upon each member, the role of Christ as light of the world - and Mary as the Christ-bearer.