***A Minute with Jesus
December 15th through January 5***

Dec 15

**Jesus came into the world to be our model of holiness.**

Jesus, Who is God of the Universe, the Eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, humbled Himself and took on human flesh, being born as a tiny infant in Bethlehem. The New Testament highlights the fact that Jesus’ entire earthly life was dedicated to loving and serving each person He met. Today, Jesus is our model of unconditional love in giving Himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. Through receiving Him in Holy Communion, we are strengthened to follow Jesus’ example of giving ourselves in love and service to others.

Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, help us to read the Bible so that we can learn to follow Your example of self-giving love in all circumstances.
This week, read how Mary responded to the “hint” from the Angel Gabriel to go and serve Elizabeth, who was with child in her old age through a miracle of God in Luke 1:36-56.

Dec 22
**Jesus came into the world to save us.**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, which means “house of bread.” Because there was no room in the inn (motel) Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger, which is significant because it is a feeding trough for animals. This was all part of God’s plan for His birth on earth, to point to the fact that Jesus came to save us. This is really the whole meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give us Himself as food – He literally is the Bread of Life – supernatural bread (this is Jesus Himself) that saves us, that spiritually nourishes and strengthens us with His grace.

Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as our Savior.
This week, read how the birth of Jesus took place in Luke 2: 1-7

Dec. 29

**Jesus came into the world as part of a Family**The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph allows us to see the Holy Family of Nazareth as the “true model of life” (cf. Opening Prayer) from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort. The kindness, respect, obedience, unity, charity, and every other Christian virtue that they lived must become the model for Christian living and for family life. The power of God’s grace needed for family life comes to us through receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist every Sunday. Let us be faithful during this beautiful season of Christmas, and beyond, in attending Sunday Mass together as a family.

Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, thank You for coming into the world as part of a family, providing a model for families to navigate a culture that rejects God.
This week, read about the difficulty that the Holy Family experienced when they were separated from Jesus for three days in Luke 2:41-52.

January 5
**Wise men came to worship Jesus**Wise men from far away saw an incredibly bright star moving across the sky. They followed the star to see where it would take them. It led them to the Infant Jesus. The Magi gave precious gifts to adore the Christ Child, which reveal this holy Child’s identity; God becoming man: gold for Christ’s kingship, frankincense for His divinity and myrrh for His anointing after His sacrifice on the Cross. Jesus gives *us* the greatest Gift – the Gift of Himself in the Eucharist again and again in a life-giving encounter.

Let’s pray this right now and every day this week: Jesus, the wise man brought You precious gifts. Thank You for giving us **the most precious Gift** of Yourself in the Eucharist.
This week, read how the wise men came to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts in Matthew 2:1-12