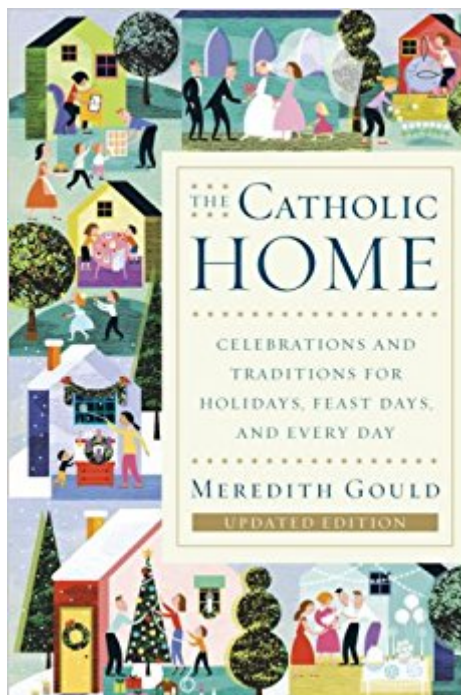


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# The Catholic Home: Celebrations And Traditions For Holidays, Feast Days, And Every Day



## Synopsis

For centuries, the Catholic Church has offered an abundance of splendid traditions that extend religious and spiritual practice into daily life. Now, Meredith Gould reintroduces these customs and rituals to modern Roman Catholics. Using the liturgical calendar, *The Catholic Home* provides familiar and new ways to celebrate each season and its special days. Gould reviews major holy days, select saints' days, familiar prayers, and suggests meaningful ways to prepare as a family for such sacraments as Baptism, Confirmation, First Eucharist, and Matrimony. This book includes a concise history of each ritual and clarifies the meaning behind it by highlighting celebrations of Catholic holidays from different parts of the globe. Your family will learn to make Advent wreaths, Jesse trees, St. Lucy's crowns, King's cakes, All Souls altars, traditional foods, and participate in family devotions. Throughout *The Catholic Home*, Gould's down-to-earth practicality and sense of humor give the activities she describes modern relevance no matter how ancient their origins. Excerpts from the official Catechism of the Catholic Church are included to illuminate Church doctrine on matters of faith and ritual. This indispensable guide will appeal to Catholics young and old and inspire beloved family traditions to be handed down from one generation to the next.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Who better than a nice Jewish girl to tell Catholics how to celebrate their faith at home? Jews have always been known for a sensibly domestic-centered observance of their religion, and Gould, a

Jewish-born convert to Catholicism, speaks from a unique dual perspective. Having lived in a Jewish home, she knows about lighting Sabbath candles, but also remembers when Catholics kept holy water and statues in their houses. In her own home, which she affectionately describes as "the Hermitage" and "Julian of Norwich goes suburban," she has revived traditions that fell by the wayside after changes wrought by Vatican II, and also established a multitude of new ones. Readers seeking to reinforce Catholic identity on the home front will find plenty of ideas, among them a how-to for celebrating Christmas when it actually arrives, instead of weeks before, and making Halloween holy by embracing it as the eve of All Saints Day. Gould's writing is light and airy, even irreverent at times, but her ideas are well-grounded and refreshing. She wisely reinforces her suggestions with excerpts from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and uses the church's sacraments and elaborate calendar of feast days and liturgical seasons as the skeleton of her book, trotting out bits of history and legend for added interest. Gould's engaging enthusiasm will doubtless have readers asking, "Who knew Catholicism could be so much fun?" Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

“The Catholic Home is clear, practical, and inviting; it will make every Catholic's job easier visualizing how to bring the faith home.”  
• Frederica Matthewes-Green, NPR commentator and author of Facing East and At the Corner of East and Now

What a treasure "The Catholic Home" is! I'm a devout Catholic, and my children are 1 and 2. I've always wanted to make sure my children grew up focussed more on Christ than the secular world, and this book is perfect for implementing faith-filled traditions and activities into our life. The only thing I have a hard time wrapping my mind around is not putting up a Christmas tree (or all-out decorating) until Christmas Eve. December is my favorite month, because for me it's filled with joyful anticipation of our Lord's birth, the first snowfall, and happy memories. For me, decorating early in December adds to that anticipation. But I am also looking forward to using some "new" ideas to make our own traditions--the Jesse Tree, for example. There is so much more to this book than Christmas, though....lovely ideas for commemorating holy days, Lent & Easter, and celebrating God's love every day of the year. I can't give enough praise for this wonderful resource--I've recommended it to all of my friends, and I can't wait to start implementing some of these ideas!

This book is wonderful! I refer to it over and over again as we go through liturgical seasons. It would

make a great gift for a new Catholic or a seasoned one! I love that it includes traditions from so many different countries.

I recommend this book for anyone who would like to know more about the liturgical year and how to observe the various times.

I am new to the Catholic faith and wanted to know the holy days and practices. This book has been tremendously helpful! Gould's tone of voice in writing is humorous and direct. I plan to order her other books as well! Wonderful!

This is an excellent reading for anyone looking for ways to incorporate Catholic faith into their home lives.

I thought this book would offer more insight into things that can be done during ordinary time such as feast days, etc and it didn't have much. Also, the author frequently takes a sarcastic tone in her writing which I could have done without

Awesome resource for Catholic families who want to try living out their faith all year.

This book could have been three times as long, and it still wouldn't have been long enough. What we do get is a fantastic journey through the Church calendar with solid, practical ways to bring the liturgical calendar back into the home where it belongs. Say what you will about Vatican II (and everyone does), we can all admit that the home lost a great deal in the dust up over the interpretations of that Council. This book offers practical advice on how to reclaim that lost lore and practice. I was not raised in a devout home, but I hope to forge one with my wife. We do what we can to live a God centered Catholic life- this book helps us bring back that sacramental approach to life that is so crucial for Catholics. Candles, decoration, icons- all of these things matter deeply, and I'm happy to have a guide to help reincorporate them into my faith life.

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