

Nelson, Gertrud Mueller. *To Dance with God (Family Ritual and Community Celebration)*

Ms. Mueller shows the modern reader the importance of ritual for connecting us to the meaning and flow of life. She explores the elements common to all celebrations and then examines the elements that are relevant to specific ones, including Advent which begins the Church year. It is a time of waiting. Nature seems asleep. The season is dark. What is to come is hidden from our sight. In the lengthy chapter on Advent, she suggests many ways to enrich the period of waiting, from creating a pyramid of light from apples and chopsticks, to restoring Santa Claus to his original role as a sainted father figure (St. Nicholas). She even includes a recipe for the traditional Nicholas cookies. The chapter which follows provides many ways to celebrate the Christmas season from Christmas Eve to the Feast of the Epiphany. (Call No. 263.9-NEL)