

High School**December 17, 2017**

Joy to the World?

Remember the good old days, when you drove to the mall to shop for Christmas gifts? Sure, you had to fight crowds, but you could actually say “Merry Christmas!” to other shoppers.

Back before online shopping took over the holiday scene, you compared prices by asking salespeople to help you find the best deal—not by asking Google to bargain-hunt for you.

You touched the sweaters and the socks yourself—instead of reading reviews about their texture.

Not anymore, though. In recent years, Amazon, Etsy, and other online shops have redefined holiday shopping. More and more shoppers are turning to iPads and apps to finish their Christmas lists.

Some people claim that clicking on your smart phone has zapped the joy out of holiday shopping.

Discussion Questions

- Online or waiting in line? Do you prefer the impersonal (but efficient!) experience of online shopping? Or would you rather head to the brick-and-mortar stores? Defend your preference.
- What would you say to someone who claims that Advent joy comes from shopping (online or otherwise)?
- Today, we light the Joy candle on the Advent wreath. Talk about this candle. Why did Christ’s birth bring joy to the world?
- Do you know anyone who doesn’t see Advent as a joy-filled time of the year? What are some reasons the holidays are hard for people? What good news can you share with those who are grieving?