The First Manger scene was made in Italy by St. Francis of Assisi so that others might worship the infant Jesus. The Italian manger scene is called presepio. The presepio remains empty until Christmas eve. On Christmas eve the family gathers and places the Christ child in the manger. They sing songs and have prayers. Italians begin the holiday season on the first Sunday of Advent. Novena is the period of nine days before Christmas.

Buon Natale

(Merry Christmas in Italian)