



Family Devotionals & Sacrament Schedule

Eucharistic Adoration

St. Anne's Chapel at
St. Louis Bertrand, Foreston
Monday from 8:00 a.m. until
Saturday at 7:00 a.m.

St. Mary's, Milaca following
Daily Mass each Thursday until
5:00 p.m. Except for the
Thursday before First Friday,
then Adoration closes after
Reconciliation at 5:45 p.m.

St. Kathryn's, Ogilvie one hour
following the Tuesday 7:00 a.m.
Daily Mass.

St. Mary's, Mora each Friday
from 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays

Confession at 3:00 p.m. in
Foreston and after 6:00 p.m.
Mass in Ogilvie.

Sundays

Confession upon request before
Mass in Milaca and after Mass
in Mora.

Second Friday of Each Month

Confession at St. Mary's, Mora
from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Thursday before First Friday

Confession at St. Mary's, Milaca
from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Family Rosary

Sundays at St. Mary's, Milaca
at 6:00 p.m.

First Friday

Mass at St. Mary's, Mora each
First Friday at 7:00 a.m.

First Saturday

Rosary at 9:00 a.m. followed by
prayers and devotions on the
first Saturday of each month at
St. Mary's, Milaca.

*O Come Let Us
Adore Him,
Our Eucharistic Savior!*



December: A Time of Preparation & Celebration

The season of Advent stands at the very beginning of the liturgical year. It is about four weeks long and its purpose is to prepare the Church for the Lord's Second Coming. Advent is a time of genuine conversion and reform of life. The purple vestments worn by the priest during Advent recall the importance of penance and change of heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season.

Preparation is the key word for the first 24 days of December. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas — shopping and decorating, baking and cleaning. Too often, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the real reason for our activity.

Christmas is a Christian feast — and we must reclaim it as such! In the same way that a family eagerly prepares for a baby, so in Advent should we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. We should keep Advent as a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and of hope and keep our thoughts on the incredible love and humility of our God in taking on the flesh of the Virgin Mary. Let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein our Savior may come to dwell. (catholicculture)

December 6: St. Nicholas

The patron saint of children. Saint Nicholas, a bishop who lived during the third century, is the original "Santa Claus." This feast day is also a good opportunity to tell kids the true story of "Santa Claus." The St. Nicholas Center is a virtual site with great free resources to learn about St. Nicholas. <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/>

December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States

The term "Immaculate Conception" is often misunderstood. It does not refer to the conception of Jesus in Mary's womb, but rather to the conception of Mary in her mother's womb. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception means that at

This Issue

- Family Devotionals & Sacrament Schedule - P.1
- December: A Time of Preparation & Celebration - P.1
- St. Nicholas - P.1
- Feast of the Immaculate Conception - P.1
- Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - P.1
- December 14 Class and Social - P.1
- Excerpts from "Christmas and the Eucharist" - P.2
- Catholic Traditions for Advent and Christmas - P.2
- Feast of The Holy Family - P.2
- This Month's Q&A - P.2
- Saint Feast Days in December - P.2
- The Nativity of the Lord - P.2

the moment of her own conception in her mother's womb, God intervened and preserved Mary from original sin.

In His plan for the salvation of humanity, God desired the cooperation of a creature. From all eternity, He had chosen Mary of Nazareth to be the mother of His Son. In order to be a pure and unstained vessel, from the first moment of her conception, Mary was preserved from all sin. This is known as the Immaculate Conception. Immaculate simply means without sin.

Mary's preservation from sin was necessary because, as the Mother of God, she would give Jesus, the Son of God, a human nature identical to her own. Jesus could not be united to a fallen nature. He gave her an immaculate human nature, which she would give to the eternal Son when He became incarnate.

Mary's Immaculate Conception did not mean that she had no need of redemption. On the contrary, she could be preserved from sin from the first moment of her conception only by the redemption of Christ on the cross. God applied the graces won by Christ to redeem Mary at the moment of her conception. Chronologically, Mary's conception happened before salvation had come into the world. But God could redeem Mary in this way because He is outside of time. Mary was created and redeemed in the same moment. (The Association for Catechumenal Ministry)

December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert in December 1531, and miraculously imprinted her image on his cloak which is enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. She is the patroness of the Americas, unborn children, and the New Evangelization.

December 14 - 6:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. Class at St. Mary's for all Students, Parents & Parishioners

Guest Speaker, Father Doug Liebsch, presents, "The Necessity of Faith from the Source and for the Summit! A Reflection on the Holy Eucharist." Everyone is invited to attend a social following Father Doug's presentation.

Excerpts from “Christmas and the Eucharist” by Servant of God Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

“Christmas is a fact of history. In a point of time and at a definable place, the God of Heaven and earth was born of a woman, and came to live among us as man. It is a fact that the infinite God became, unexplainably, a finite creature. It is a fact to which historians attest but which we know is no mere statistic of history; it is, rather, a fact planned by God from all eternity. This is the fact of Christmas: the Word actually became flesh.

What is the fact of the Eucharist? It is that the same Jesus, Who was born on earth, not only became man but remains man. He not only came into the world, He is in the world. In a word, He came to stay. The Eucharist is Christmas prolonged, because faith tells us that once God became man, He decided to remain man. From all the reaches of past eternity, God had only been God. But having once taken on human flesh, into now the future reaches of eternity, God will always remain man. And this God-Man is here; Bethlehem is wherever there is a Catholic Church or chapel in which Christ is present. These are the two facts that we commemorate on Christmas Day.

But Christmas and the Eucharist are not only facts, they are also mysteries. *The mystery of Christmas* is the humanly incredible reality of why God became man. Once man had sinned, He would redeem man. In a word, the mystery of Christmas is the mystery of God’s love that chose to take on our human form in order to show His love for us by suffering. *What is the mystery of the Eucharist?* It is the same. The mystery of God’s love is that He invented a way of showing His love for us not only by being with us and near us, but God even invented a way of being inside of us. All of this tells us a lot about what love means. There are lessons that God wants us to learn from Christmas as a historical event and from Christmas as a perennial reality because, as you see, the Eucharist is Christmas. Believing in Christ’s Real Presence, we have a grave responsibility of invoking, in faith, this Jesus, begging Him, pleading with Him that He might grant those graces that the sinful world He came to redeem so desperately needs.”

Catholic Traditions for Advent and Christmas

<https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/catholic-traditions-for-advent-and-christmas.html>

Advent traditions are a great way to prepare and to help your family receive much grace and blessing.

1. Sacrifices for the Baby Jesus

During Advent we spiritually prepare for the coming of Christ. Each time that we deny ourselves, or do something kind for another person, it has the effect of allowing Christ to shine through us. For children, this is visually represented by the activity of making small sacrifices for the Baby Jesus. The idea behind this Advent activity is that for each kindness done by a child, a small piece of straw is placed in Baby Jesus’ manger. Day by day, these pieces of straw accumulate. Then, on Christmas Eve, the Baby Jesus is placed in the manger now filled with straw which offers Him a comfortable place to lay His head. This is a tangible symbol of how we make room for Christ in our souls by our

daily sacrifices, and children learn the spirit of sacrifice as a preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

2. Advent Calendar - The Advent calendar counts down the 24 days of December ending on Christmas Eve. Advent calendars are a great way to engage children in the entire Christmas season.

3. Advent Wreath - Advent wreaths usually consist of four candles, three violet and one rose, set in a circular wreath (usually made of evergreen branches). One candle is lit for each Sunday of Advent, with the rose candle being lit on the third Sunday (Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word for “rejoice”). The violet (or purple) candles represent the penance and sacrifice we undertake to help us prepare for the Lord’s coming at Christmas; the rose candle represents the rejoicing of the faithful at the mid-point of Advent.

Saint Feast Days in December

6	St. Nicholas
8	Immaculate Conception, Holy Day
9	St. Juan Diego
10	Our Lady of Loreto
12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
14	St. John of the Cross
25	Nativity of the Lord, Holy Day
28	The Holy Innocents
29	St. Thomas Becket
30	The Holy Family



The Nativity of the Lord

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth: we have beheld His glory, as of the only Son from the Father.”

John 1:14

On this feast, we celebrate the Incarnation of Our Lord-God choosing to become one of us. Christmas is celebrated as an octave, an eight-day observance that begins on the Nativity, December 25, and continues through January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

The Father, in keeping with His promise to send a redeemer for all humankind, acted beyond all expectation. He sent His own divine and beloved Son. This coming to earth of the very Son of God, through the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the incarnation (that is the “enfleshment”): the coming together of God and humanity in the person of Jesus.

The Son of God truly became man – a historical person born of the Virgin of Nazareth in the little town of Bethlehem during the reign of King Herod while Caesar Augustus ruled all of the Roman world. He lived in Nazareth and learned to be a carpenter like His earthly father, Joseph. He is fully human in all things, except sin.

The heart of the Catholic Faith is not an idea but a Person, who is true God and true Man: Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary.

“Thanks be unto God for His indescribable gift!”
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

December 30, 2022: Feast of The Holy Family

As a way to assist in countering the breakdown of the family unit, popes have promoted the Feast of the Holy Family which is usually celebrated on the Sunday between Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (New Year’s Day). If both Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God fall on a Sunday, as it does this year, the Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on December 30. The significance of this feast is it reveals God’s love for family life. The Holy Family’s holiness shows us that every family is invited to share in God’s Divine life and to live ordinary daily life with virtue and grace. Because of the breakdown of families during the end of the past century and the beginning of our own, the popes have promoted the observance of this feast in hopes it will instill faithful love and devoted attachment to the family of Nazareth.

This Month’s Q&A

Q. Who are the Holy Innocents honored with a Feast Day on December 28?

A: The day honors those that are considered to be martyrs because they not only died for Christ but instead of Christ. King Herod murdered all the male children who were approximately two years old in hopes of killing the Christ child. In this feast, the Church also honors all who die in a state of innocence and consoles parents of their deceased children with the conviction that these also will share the glory of the infant companions of Jesus.

