

DECEMBER

calendar

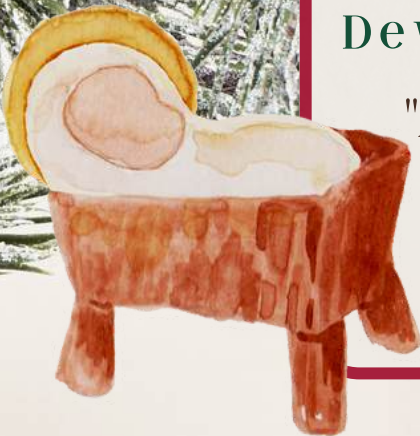
*Liturgical
Living*

December

Devotion-The Immaculate Conception

"And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you'"

Luke 1:28



Daily

Morning Prayer

Gracious God, Thank you for the gift of today. Refresh me. Invite me to discover your presence in each person that I meet and every event that I encounter.

Say Grace before meals

Bedtime Prayer

(Examen - - reflect on the day, the highs & lows,)

✝ Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

*optional daily devotions:

- Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm
- Rosary

Weekly

Weekend Mass Obligation
Family Rosary

Monthly

Confession:

Wed. 5-5:45pm

Sat. 8:40-10am*

*ending at 9:30am Dec 7th

First Friday

Dec 6th

Feast of St. Nicholas

First Saturday

Dec 7th

Mass @ 8:00am

Advent Catechesis & Benediction

Wed Dec 4th, 11th & 18th

6-6:30pm

Celebrate a Feast Day

(*see next page)

Novena of the Month

Christmas Novena

Dec 16th - Dec 24th



December Challenges:

- Read the Daily Readings at USCCB, on Hallow, or Amen App.
- Say the Prayer ✝ in the daily column 15 times daily as part of the **St. Andrew Novena** (starting Nov 30th-Dec 24th), or once daily as a daily devotional and reminder.
- Set out a family Advent wreath and gather each day to light the candle and say a prayer
- Take time to create a manger for Baby Jesus. Take time with this and let this be a time of preparation, consider the straw in the manger activity or the blessing of the manger listed below.
- Fill a bag of food and goods for the families in need.
 - December Items; Peanut butter, jelly, crackers, fun-size candy & dish soap.
 - January Items: see bulletin

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FORMED

HAVE QUESTIONS?
julie.g@cathedraljc.org

For Daily Readings and more:

www.usccb.com

@CATHEDRALOFSTJOSEPH

@JCCATHEDRAL

Catholic Apps:



Hallow



Laudate



FORMED

LIKE/FOLLOW ON:



<https://watch.formed.org/catholic-all-year-with-kendra-tierney>

DECEMBER

calendar
Liturgical Living

Ideas for Celebrating Feasts/Memorials in December:

3rd St. Francis Xavier – patron of missionaries. Nearly 40% of the world remains un-evangelized, so the need for courageous missionaries remains as prominent today as it did in St. Francis Xavier's time of the 1500's.

6th St. Nicholas – The real St. Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra, known for distributing his families wealth to the poor. To celebrate today, leave chocolate gold coins in your children's shoe.

7th St. Ambrose – Legend has it that when Ambrose was a baby, a swarm of bees settled on his face leaving behind honey when they flew away, he is the patron of beekeepers, bees and candle makers. Try making your own candles to celebrate his feast. Use beeswax sheet kits to make your own advent wreath candles. Or melt partially burnt candles in a pot and make a new candle in an old jar.

9th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* – While the USCCB has deferred this solemnity to the Sunday prior, the Cathedral will have an All School 8am Mass. This day is a reminder that from the moment of her existence she was kept pure from sin. Wear white today as a symbol of purity, or prepare a meal of white foods, chicken alfredo, cauliflower, with a dessert of cream cheese mints (think the inside of York peppermint patties).

9th St. Juan Diego/12th Our Lady of Guadalupe – Juan Diego gathered roses in the middle of winter at the Archbishops request and when he opened his tilma to show the roses to the Archbishop, the famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared printed there. Visit our mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Cathedral, bonus if you bring her roses, have a dinner of Mexican fare to celebrate her origins.

13th St. Lucy – known as the patron of the blind, as her name Lucy means "light", you could consider lighting your Christmas lights this date in honor of her feast day, or take a drive to look at the lights while listening to Advent songs (some try to save the Christmas songs til Christmas season is officially upon us, but songs of preparation are definitely on theme.)

22nd Gaudete Sunday – wear Pink, (along with the priests – one of two days in the year their vestments are pink), this week we also light the pink candle in our Advent wreath.

24th Christmas Eve – also the Feast of Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve were our first parents and the cause of Original Sin. It is fitting, therefore, that on the eve of the Incarnation, when the New Adam is born of the New Eve, we remember where this salvation story all began.

25th Christmas Day* – Happy Birthday to Jesus, and remember today is only the first day of Christmas. Plan ways to keep Christmas alive through the Baptism of Our Lord on January 10th!

26th St. Stephen – as this is our pastor's namesake, say an extra prayer for Fr. Stephen Jones today

28th The Holy Innocents – Enraged by the Wise Men's detour to return home rather than share where Jesus was born, Herod retaliated by ordering all the male children two and under in Jerusalem to be slain. It's hard not to see the parallels to abortion in this feast day. Today, pray for all those affected by or considering abortion: the men, women, and children. Pray for those who work in the pro-life movement

29th The Holy Family of JMJ- the Domestic Church is where we get our first exposure to theology, so it is incredibly important that we strive our best each day, with God's grace, to follow the Holy Family's footsteps.

31st Vigil for the Solemnity of Mary - Holy Mother of God/New Year's Day* – Make sure you get to Mass!

***Holy Day of Obligation**

BLESSING *the* *Christmas Manger*

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Luke 2:1 (lines 1-8) or Isaiah 7:10 (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives he brings joy and peace,
justice, mercy, and love.

Lord,

bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

