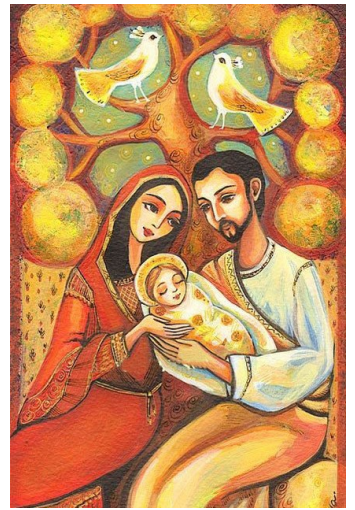


The Season of Christmas

In the midst of the many shadows of darkness that crowd our lives and our world, the Church joyfully proclaims with faith and confidence that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light which no darkness can extinguish or overcome.

The great mystery of the *Incarnation* can hardly be celebrated in one day. In many areas of our society, December 26 marks the end of the Christmas celebration; however, for those who wait for the return of the Messiah at the end of time, Christmas has only just begun! Savoring and lingering in the mystery of the Lord's coming among us is only important if we grasp its implications in our daily lives.



Liturgies and Events during Christmas

Christmas: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

6:00 p.m. — Christmas Eve Mass
(music by the Children's Choir)

9:20 p.m. — Music Selections
(Festival Choir and instruments)

10:00 p.m. — Christmas Night Mass
(music by Festival Choir and instruments)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:00 a.m. — Christmas Day Mass

Feast of the Holy Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29: 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

This feast celebrates the centrality of family and gives us Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as models of unity and love.



Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

(holy day of obligation)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31: 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1: 10:00 a.m.

As we mark a new calendar year, we dedicate it to Mary as "*Theotokos*", the "God-bearer". In 1968, Pope Paul VI also designated this as a day of prayer for world peace.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5: 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Today we mark the climax of the Christmas season. *Epiphany* means "manifestation,"

referring to the appearance of Jesus.

This day recognizes Jesus' rule over the entire world and his revelation to all nations as the Son of God.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12: 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

As we conclude the Christmas season, the Baptism of the Lord is another revelation (or epiphany) of Christ's identity as God's beloved Son.

Like the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River is an experience of God's action and presence through Christ.