



Advent and Christmas Notable Days Solemnities, Feasts & Memorials 2023

December 3 - 1st Sunday of Advent



Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.”

(Mk 13:33)

December 6 – Memorial of Saint Nicholas, Bishop



For information about Saint Nicholas, click [here!](#)

December 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Today is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States of America.

“Mary, a virgin not only undefiled but a virgin whom grace has made inviolate, free of every stain of sin.” – St. Ambrose (388)

Text: CCC # 491 “Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, “full of grace” through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.”



December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent



John the Baptist proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. (Mk 1:7b)



December 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

“Hear me and understand well, my little son, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.” Words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego.

December 13 – Memorial of Saint Lucy

St. Lucy was a third century Christian martyr. Born of nobility, Lucy consecrated herself to the Lord at a very young age. Her mother, however, upon the death of her husband arranged for a marriage for Lucy. Lucy implored the intercession of St. Agatha, another consecrated Virgin, who was tortured and killed at the hands of her suitor. Lucy, too, suffered torture at the hand of her suitor, after she refused him marriage. Her eyes were put out and she was finally killed by being stabbed in the neck. Upon her burial, her eyes were miraculously restored to her body. St. Lucy, patron saint of the eyes and eye ailments, pray for us!

December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday



Happy Gaudete Sunday! “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near!”

December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent



"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David, his father, and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end . . . Mary said 'Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' " (Lk.1:31-33;38)

December 24 – Christmas Eve



“And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests’” (Luke 2:13-14).



December 25 – Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Day)

“I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord!”

(Luke 2:10-11)

December 26 – Feast of Saint Stephen, the First Martyr



“But he [Stephen], filled with the Holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, ‘Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’ ...They threw him out of the city and began to stone him...As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’” (From today’s Gospel; Acts 7)

December 27 – Feast of Saint John the Evangelist, Apostle



St. John the Evangelist, one of the 12 apostles, and one of the 4 Gospel writers, writer of three New Testament letters, and the author of the Book of Revelation. was the only Apostle not to be martyred. His Gospel, more than an account of the events in the life of Christ, was written with the inclusion of Divinely inspired theological reflection, afforded by the time he spent on earth in the presence of the Blessed Mother whom Christ entrusted to him from the Cross. His feast, celebrated during the Christmas octave, directs our eyes from the cradle of the Word made Flesh to the altar of the Wedding Feast of the Lamb and the glory opened for us by the nation of Christ.

December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents

“The innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they follow the Lamb and sing forever: Glory to you, O Lord! “

Prayer: May God, through the intercession of the Holy Innocents, help us to put an end to the evil of abortion, and may He protect all human life from conception until natural death. Amen.

December 31 – Feast of the Holy Family



“And [Jesus] went down with [Mary and Joseph] and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.” Luke 2: 51-52

“A man and a woman united in marriage, together with their children, form a family. This institution is prior to any recognition by public authority, which has an obligation to recognize it. It should be considered the normal reference point by which the different forms of family relationship are to be evaluated. “(CCC, #2202)

January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (End of Christmas Octave)



“Mary is truly ‘Mother of God’ since she is the mother of the eternal Son of God made man, who is God himself.” (CCC #509) Mary’s divine maternity is a truth that has always been held in the Church and which was dogmatically defined in 431 at the Council of Ephesus. Nestorius, Archbishop of Constantinople was spreading the heresy that Jesus was not one Divine Person with 2 natures, human and divine, but rather 2 persons, human and divine, and that Mary only bore the “human” Jesus. The Council of Ephesus declared this heresy, and decreed that Mary is indeed Theotokos, or “God-bearer,” and that she bore one divine person, Jesus Christ with 2 natures, human and divine.

January 4 – Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1871) is the first American born saint. She was canonized in 1975 by Pope Paul VI. After being married to William Seton for about 10 years and bearing 5 children, he contracted tuberculosis. The family traveled to Italy to facilitate his recovery, but William succumbed to the disease and died shortly thereafter. While in Italy, Elizabeth, an Episcopalian, became intrigued by the Catholic Faith, especially with the Eucharist. And after bringing her family back to America, she was received into the Catholic Church. She whole-heartedly embraced the will of God no matter where it led her, and she was particularly devoted to the Blessed Mother, having lost her mother as young child. In Emmittsburg, Maryland, she founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph’s; she began the first free Catholic school; and she established the first American Catholic Orphanage. She was particularly devoted to abandonment to the will of God and possessed a great love for the Blessed Sacrament. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us!

January 5 – Memorial of Saint John Neumann

Feast Day of St. John Neumann, Bishop (1811-1860)

St. John Neumann, CSsR, was a Catholic priest from Bohemia who immigrated to the United States. In 1836 in New York, he was ordained, joined the Redemptorist order, and became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. In Philadelphia, Neumann founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States. He was canonized in 1977, and as a US citizen, is the first American male saint.

“Everyone who breathes, high and low, educated, and ignorant, young and old, man and woman, has a mission, has a work. We are not sent into this world for nothing; we are not born at random; we are not here, that we may go to bed at night, and get up in the morning, toil for our bread, eat and drink, laugh and joke, sin when we have a mind, and reform when we are tired of sinning, rear a family and die. God sees every one of us; He creates every soul, . . . for a purpose. He needs, He deigns to need, every one of us. He has an end for each of us; we are all equal in His sight, and we are placed in our different ranks and stations, not to get what we can out of them for ourselves, but to labor in them for Him. As Christ has His work, we too have ours; as He rejoiced to do His work, we must rejoice in ours also.” - St. John Neumann

January 7 – The Epiphany of the Lord



“They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” Mt. 2 :10-11

January 8 – The Baptism of the Lord (Final Day of the Christmas season)



“And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him; and behold a voice from Heaven saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” Mt. 3 :16-17