



## Advent and Christmas Notable Days Solemnities, Feasts & Memorials 2024

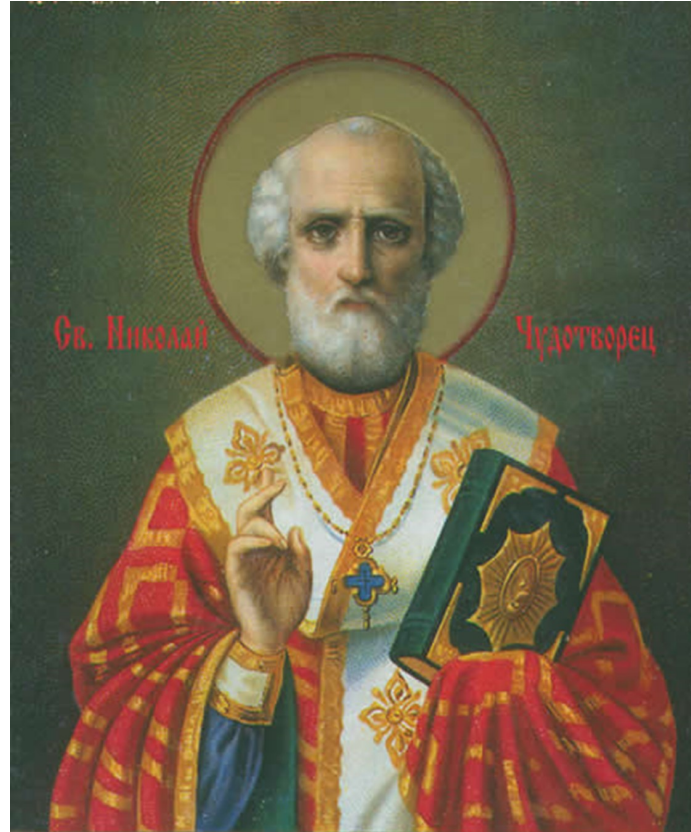
December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent



“Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.”

(Psalm 25:4-5)

December 6 – Memorial of Saint Nicholas, Bishop



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

## December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent



“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

(Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:6 )

## December 9 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Observed)

### Holy Day of Obligation

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 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 15 – 3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday



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

(Phil 4:4-5)

December 22 – 4th Sunday of Advent



“Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.”

(Isaiah 7:14)

## 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, Apostle & Evangelist



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 Incarnation 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 29 – 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

### Holy Day of Obligation



“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 Emmitsburg, 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 – 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 12 – 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