



## Christmas Calendar 2020-2021

**Friday, December 25, 2020**

**Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

*Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)*

The custom of displaying a Blessing of a Christmas Manger or Nativity Scene originated with St. Francis of Assisi in the early 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Consider adding [this blessing](#) as part of your family's Christmas tradition.

**Saturday, December 26, 2020**

**Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr**

*Come, let us worship the newborn Christ who has given the glorious crown to Saint Stephen.*

*(Antiphon from the Liturgy of the Hours)*

The day after we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, the Church gives us the Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr. [Read about St. Stephen's life](#), particularly how he fits into the Christmas Season, and pray that you may be a true disciple of the Lord.

**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*

*(Luke 2:40)*

The purpose of today's feast is to present and celebrate the Holy Family as the model for all Christians families. *May the Holy Family be a model for your family.* [Consider ways to build a domestic church in your home.](#)

**Monday, December 28, 2020**

**Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

*Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you. (Matt 2:13)*

This feast day remembers King Herod's massacre of the young children in Bethlehem in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus (Matthew 2:13-18). Use today to reflect on what is painful for you this Christmas season. Whatever that may be, unite your pain with the sorrow of the families who lost these little ones, and let Christ's Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection transform your pain into a crown of martyrdom.

**Tuesday, December 29, 2020**

**Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas**

*Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel... (Luke 2:34)*

Today is the Optional Memorial of St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr. Thomas desired that liberty and peace prevail in the Church. Let us strive today to bring peace and reconciliation to those with whom we are separated.

**Wednesday, December 30, 2020**

**Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas**

*When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne. (Entrance Antiphon for Mass)*  
In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, set aside time today for silent reflection on mystery of the Incarnation.

**Thursday, December 31, 2020**

**Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas**

*Continue, therefore, to live in Christ Jesus the Lord, in the spirit in which you received him. Be rooted in him and built up in him, growing ever stronger in faith, as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude. (from the Office for Readings, Col. 2:6-7)*

Use this scripture passage for prayer as you consider the past year and set resolutions for 2021.

**Friday, January 1, 2021**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

*The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. (Luke 2:16)*

On this holy feast day, take a moment to start your new year to honor the Blessed Mother, who in her “yes” to God brought the Savior into the world to redeem us. By attending Mass on this holy day of obligation, the Church celebrates Mary’s faith and trust in God alone – and it’s this faith and trust in God that brings peace. On this day, we also celebrate World Day of Peace. Add a Hail Mary to your mealtime prayer or family evening prayer, and consider ways you are being called to deepen your faith and trust in God, while building up peace in your homes and communities.

**Saturday, January 2, 2021**

**Memorial of Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

*O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by the example and teaching of the Bishops Saints Basil and Gregory, grant, we pray, that in humility we may learn your truth and practice it faithfully in charity. (from the Collect for Mass)*

Take some time today to read about [St. Basil the Great](#). Also, it’s not too late to think about a faith-based resolution for the new year.

**Sunday, January 3, 2021**

**Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**

*“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” (Matthew 2:2)*

Though traditionally celebrated on January 6, in the United States, the Epiphany is celebrated on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. On this day, use [this blessing](#) for your household.

**Monday, January 4, 2021**

**Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**

*As we partake of the sacrament of our salvation, while recalling the memory of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, we humbly ask you, O Lord, that we may be inflamed with a burning desire for the heavenly table, and by its power consecrate our life faithfully to you. (from the Prayer after Communion at Mass)*

Take a moment to read about [St. Elizabeth Ann Seton](#), the foundress of the US Sisters of Charity, whose Catholic schools were among the first in the United States. Having just celebrated Christmas and the New Year, how are you being called to consecrate your life to God this year?

**Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

**Memorial of St. John Neumann, Bishop**

*O God, who called the Bishop Saint John Neumann, renowned for his charity and pastoral service, to shepherd your people in America, grant by his intercession that, as we foster the Christian education of youth and are strengthened by the witness of brotherly love, we may constantly increase the family of your Church.*

St. John Neumann was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. During his episcopate, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system in this country. Reflect on and give thanks for all the teachers and catechists who have nourished your faith throughout your life.

**Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

**Christmas Weekday**

*God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. (1 John 4:16)*

One of the great traditions of Christmas is the giving of gifts, a tradition deeply rooted in love. It is the Christ Child who presents us with the abundance of grace and peace, and it is His love that urges us to find means to share that love with one another in visible and tangible ways. What is one way you can give the gift of abundant love and peace to another person today?

**Thursday, January 7, 2021**

**Christmas Weekday**

*Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Psalm 72:11)*

Just as the magi welcomed the sight of the star with great joy, the season of Christmas invited us to joyfully welcome the Christ Child as our Lord, our Savior and our King. Contemplate these words from today's psalm and consider how you might proclaim God's glory in your daily life.

**Friday, January 8, 2021**

**Christmas Weekday**

*A light has risen in the darkness for the upright of heart; the Lord is generous, merciful and just. (Ps. 112:4, used as the Entrance Antiphon for Mass)*

An easy way to share your faith with someone is to wish them a Merry Christmas today. When they ask about it, explain that the Christmas season extends through the Baptism of the Lord, which is this coming Sunday.

**Saturday, January 9, 2021**

**Christmas Weekday**

*Say to daughter Zion, your savior comes! Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. They shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord. (reading from Morning Prayer, Isaiah 62:11-12,)*

During the month of January the United States Bishops recognize Poverty Awareness Month. [Learn how disease, war, and climate](#), among other factors, impact global poverty. How are you, as a holy people, being called to help those who are poor and most vulnerable around the world?

**Sunday, January 10, 2021**

**Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

*"For in the waters of the Jordan you revealed with signs and wonders a new Baptism, so that, through the voice that came down from heaven, we might come to believe in your Word dwelling among us..." (from the Preface for Mass)*

Before we return to Ordinary Time tomorrow, read the story of Jesus' Baptism in the Jordan (Matthew 3:13-17 or Mark 1:9-11).