

4. **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

2023

Monday 25th December
The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday 31st December
The Holy Family

2024

Monday 1st January
Mary, Mother of God
(The Octave of Christmas
and New Year's Day)

Sunday 7th January
The Epiphany of the Lord
(The Twelfth day of Christmas?)

Monday 8th January
The Baptism of the Lord
(The new 'end' of the
Christmas Season and the
beginning of 'Ordinary Time')

CYCLE OF PRAYER

*During Advent and Christmastide
we are asked to pray for
the intention of:
Expectant Mothers
especially on 4th Sunday of Advent,
24th December*

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Ordinary Time – Winter

Sunday 14th January
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Friday 2nd February *Candlemas*
**The Presentation of the Lord
in the Temple in Jerusalem**

*(Forty Days after Christmas Day and
the old end of the Christmas Season—
the Christmas Tree and the Crib
will remain in Church until this day.)*

Sunday 11th February
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(last Sunday before Lent
and Our Lady of Lourdes 1858)

CYCLE OF PRAYER

*During Ordinary Time (Winter),
i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray
for these intentions:*

**Peace on Earth;
Openness to THE WORD OF GOD;
CHRISTIAN UNITY;
The Sick and
Those Who Care for Them;
Victims of Trafficking and
Those who Work to Combat it;
The Unemployed.**

Peace Day
Sunday 14th January
[2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time]

Octave (Week) of Prayer for
Christian Unity
18th – 25th January

Sunday of the Word of God
Sunday 21st January
[3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time]

Racial Justice Day Sunday
28th January
[3 Sundays before 1st Sunday of Lent]

Day for Victims of Trafficking
Thursday 8th February
[St Josephine Bakhita]

World Day for the Sick
(**Our Lady of Lourdes**)
Sunday 11th February
Day for the Unemployed
Sunday 11th February
[Sunday before 1st Sunday of Lent]

**ASH WEDNESDAY,
the beginning of Lent is:
Wednesday 14th February**

3.

During this last day of Advent and through-
out of the Season of Christmas, beginning on
the evening of Sunday 24th December,
Christmas Eve, please pick up your Bible at
home **TAKE, READ, REFLECT. & PRAY**
UPON the following passages:

MATTHEW CHAPTERS 1 AND 2,

with:
the ancestry of Jesus
(“Who do you think you are?”),
the Annunciation to Joseph in a dream,
the birth of Jesus and
the visit of the wise men,
the Flight into Egypt
away from the King Herod’s
slaughter of the innocent
and the return to Nazareth. Also,

LUKE CHAPTERS 1 AND 2,

with:
The foretelling of the birth of John the
Baptist and the Birth of Jesus,
THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY, (1)
THE VISITATION (2) of Mary

to her cousin Elizabeth,
with the Song of Mary:
THE MAGNIFICAT,
the birth of John the Baptist,
with the song of Zechariah:

THE BENEDICTUS,
THE BIRTH OF JESUS, (3)

**THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN
THE TEMPLE, (4)**

with the Song of Simeon:
THE NUNC DIMITTIS,
The return to Nazareth,
and twelve years later

**THE FINDING OF THE BOY JESUS IN
THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM (5).**

**AND THEN PRAY AND REFLECT
ON THE HOLY ROSARY OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:
1-5 ABOVE ARE THE JOYFUL
MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY.**

**+ J. M. J. +
Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
Sunday 24th December 2023**

**ADVENT / CHRISTMAS
SUPPLEMENT TO
ST MARY OF THE CRAYS
NEWSLETTER**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES PLEASE:

**HOLY MASSES
23rd, 24th & 25th December:**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Saturday
23rd December
6:30pm**

**Sunday Morning
24th December
8:30am
and
10:30am**

**CHRISTMAS EVE:
Sunday Evening
24th December**

**5:00pm
CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS;**

**11:30pm Christmas Carols
12 Midnight:
CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
IN THE MORNING:
Monday 25th December
8:30am
DAWN MASS
and**

**10:30am
MASS DURING THE DAY**

4 **THE ANGELUS**

V. The Angel of the Lord
declared unto Mary.

**R. And she conceived
of the Holy Spirit.**

HAIL MARY, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
JESUS.

**HOLY MARY, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen**

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**R. Be it done unto me
according to thy word.**

HAIL MARY. . .

(please kneel or bow for the next verse)

V. And **THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH.**

R. AND DWELT AMONG US.

HAIL MARY. . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**R. That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray:

**Pour forth, we beseech Thee,
O Lord, Thy grace into our
hearts, that we to whom
the Incarnation of Christ
Thy Son was made known
by the message of an angel,
may by His Passion and**

(make the Sign of the Cross)

**+ Cross be brought to
the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ
Our Lord. AMEN.**



5.

**The Announcement of the Solemnity of
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

THE TWENTY-FIFTH OF DECEMBER,

- when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in His own likeness;
- when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set His *(rain)* bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace;
- in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees;
- in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;
- around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;
- in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;
- in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;
- in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome;
- in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus the whole world being in peace,

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of THE ETERNAL FATHER,
desiring to consecrate the world by His Most Loving Presence,
was conceived by **THE HOLY SPIRIT**, and when nine months had passed
since His Conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem
(Beit-Le-chem = 'House of Bread') of Judah, and was made man:
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.

(From the Roman Missal, Third Edition, Appendix I)

