



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2006

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Philippians 4:4

CELEBRATE

This Sunday, God rejoices and sings because of us. We read in Zephaniah today that God “will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals” (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah’s words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don’t have to worry, for God’s peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds.

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as “my dancing day” and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because “the Lord is near,” as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

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CELEBRA

Este domingo, Dios canta y se regocija por nosotros. Leemos hoy en Sofonías que Dios “se llenará de júbilo por tu causa, como en los días de fiesta” (Sofonías 3:18). Sabemos mucho de cantar en festivales. Ya nuestros oídos resuenan con los cantos y villancicos que anticipan la época navideña.

Pablo nos recuerda la fuente de este doble regocijo: Dios, tu poderoso salvador, está en medio de ti (en palabras de Sofonías). Por ser así, nos dice Pablo, podemos alegrarnos y estar en paz. No tenemos que inquietarnos, porque la paz de Dios custodiará nuestros corazones y pensamientos.

Un villancico antiguo representa la Navidad como “el día de mi baile” y nos urge a tomar parte en el baile. ¿Por qué todo el regocijo? Porque “el Señor está cerca” nos recuerda Pablo (Filipenses 4:5). Entonces apunta a la otra razón para el baile: el amanecer de la promesa de paz, la paz que sobrepasa toda inteligencia, y que ya está al alcance de la mano. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings in the Lord,

“Gaudete Sunday” is a traditional name given to this Third Sunday of Advent. Gaudete is the Latin word for “Rejoice!” The joy comes from the realization that we are approaching the wonderful event of the birth of the messiah. The prophet Zephaniah, confident of the future, calls out, “Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!.... The Lord, your God, is in your midst, / a mighty savior: (Zep13:14,17). Saint Paul continues the joyful note: “Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again: Rejoice!” (Phil 4:4)

In these Advent days our Notre Dame Faith community awaits the coming of the Lord and God’s return to en flesh our lives anew. Let us spend a few minutes in quiet prayer and ask God how we may be called to respond to this week’s scripture in our relationship with God, with family and friends, at work, school, or church, in our Kerrville community?

May God continue to bless you on your Advent journey!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Michael Peinemann



Mass Schedule

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

Monday, December 18

Advent Weekday

Jer 23: 5-8; Mt 1: 18-25

7:00 am In honor of Catherine Herzog
Karen & Clark Klein

Tuesday, December 19

Advent Weekday

Jgs. 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1: 5-25

12:00 pm In Thanksgiving to
Our Virgen de Guadalupe
Anonymous

Wednesday, December 20

Advent Weekday

Is 7: 10-14; Lk 1: 26-38

12:00 pm †Carrolln Marshall & †Eric Anderson
Red & Mark Anderson

Thursday, December 21

Peter Canisius. Priest, doctor—

Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a; Lk 1: 39-45

8:05 am NO MASS
12:00 pm †Rudy Norks
Lois Pritchard

Friday, December 22

Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1: 24-28; lk 1: 46-56

7:00 am †Alleen Williams
Karen Richey

Saturday, December 23

Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent

Mic 5: 1-4a; Heb 10: 5-10; lk 1: 39-45

5:00pm Deceased Members of Keller Family
Pat & Jo Keller

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mic 5: 1-4a; Heb 10: 5-10; lk 1: 39-45

8:00 am †Carmen & †Rogelio Martinez
Martinez Family
10:00 am †Lilia & †Rosendo Pruneda
Tina & Jose Altamerano

***Sunday, December 24

Vigil of Christmas

Is 62: 1-5; ACTS 13: 16-17, 22-25; Mt 1: 1-25 or 18-25

5:00 pm †Maria Z. Torres
Ruth Torres
12:00 am †Ernest Emil Kapavik
7th Grade Class of Notre Dame

Monday, December 18

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament -7:30 am - Church
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena- 5:00 pm- Church
Men's ACTS - 6:00 pm - Kemper Hall Rm 205 & 206
Boys Scouts- 6:30 pm - Gymnasium

Tuesday, December 19

Bible Study- 10:30 am- Family Life Center
Lector Practice - 6:00 pm - Church
RCIA - 6:30 pm-Fireplace Room
RCIA (Children)-6:30 pm-Kemper Hall Rms 204,205,206
Christmas Choir Practice-7:00 pm- Church
Spanish Choir Practice - 7:15 pm-Kemper Hall-Rm 209

Wednesday, December 20

Thursday, December 21

Apologetics-7:00 pm -Family Life Center

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

Benediction - 11:30 am - Church
Reconciliation - 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm
Child Care - 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm - Nursery - Kemper Hall

Sunday, December 24

Child Care - 7:45 am - Nursery - Kemper Hall



**The Sanctuary Lamp will
burn this week in
honor of
Inez Kruty
by
Del Rendon**



Please pray for those who have died,
and have gone to their eternal rest
with the Lord, especially *Tommy
Gonzalez & Mercedes Rodriguez.*
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon
them. May she rest in peace.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOURTH DEGREE

The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree will receive
communion at the **9:30 am Mass on
Sunday, December 31st.** Members please join us!!

IMPRESSIONABLE

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which
every passerby leaves a mark. —Ancient Chinese proverb



Altar Servers



Lectors



Extraordinary Mins.




Greeters



Bread Bakers

Saturday, Dec 23	MC-Shelby Mossman	J.D. Domingue	B	D	Karyl Jureczki
5:00 pm.	C-John Dean Domingue CB-Schylar Vece CB-Jordan Kleypas	Dean Domingue			
Sunday, Dec 24	MC-Hanna Schwarz	Dan Abell	C	D	Consuela Dominguez
8:00 a.m.	C-Christopher Schwarz CB-Candice Bayliss CB-Ian Bayliss	Jacqui Magenheimer			
Sunday, Dec 24	MC-Harrison Holley	Estella Trevino	C	A	Irma Aguirre
10:00 a.m.	C-Elise Rodriguez TBA TBA	Susie Dietzel			
Sunday, Dec 24	MC-Andrea Wahrmund	TBA	TBA	A	Mary Hauser
5:00 pm	C-Christopher Wahrmund CB-Diana Wahrmund CB-Jordan Kleypas	TBA			Dowell Mudry
Sunday, Dec 24	TBA	TBA	TBA	C	Peter Casey
12:00 am	TBA TBA TBA	TBA			Dave Petmecky

 Pray for ...

Mary Jane Viebag, Harry Winslow, Jim Wren, Grace Kieberger, Benita Garcia, Frances Vlasek, Irene Peters, Desmond Jones, Gregoria Jureczki, Sharon Schieffen, Maria Murphy, Maria Nowak, MaryAnne Collins, Lupe Gonzales, San Juanita San Miguel, Michelle Mann, Mary Tinch, Irene Trevino, Erasto Ayala, John Aleman, Donnie Couch, Jeanette Bell, Jean Michel Duval, Henrietta and James Bennet, Dorothy Fitzsimmons, Veronica Jansen, Irwin Schilhab, Guadalupe Pena, Lillian Dworaczyk, Robert L. Brantley, Susie Fenner, Joanne Park, Catalina Piedra, Lilia Castillo, Mary Ann Vlasek, Richard Flores, Dr. Edward Prejean Isabel Lopez, Rita Currier, Faye Gibson, Alonzo Wahrmund, Patricia Keller, Elvira Sanchez, Beatrice Robles, Bonnie Ochs, Charles Dugosh, Edward Ayala, Jim Green, Delfina Sarabia, John Miedema, Lena Treiber, Raetta Doppler, Julia Peralta, Elisa Mince, Mary Ellsbury, Catherine Essig, Gisela Chambers, John Sullivan, Marie Hobson, Ed Horat, Camille Eastham and all the sick of our parish family and friends.

Weekly Collections

December 9 & 10, 2006

Envelopes/Loose Checks	\$17,550.00
Loose Cash	<u>2,205.09</u>
Total	\$19,755.09
Average this month	\$21,418.54
Avg. Needed Each Week	\$18,400.00
School	\$267.00
Imm. Con/Solemnity	\$47.00
Christmas	\$145.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	\$2,128.32
Note Balance as of November 30, 2006	\$398,608.27



In addition to the regularly scheduled times, the sacrament of reconciliation will be available on **Monday, December 18, 2006** at **10:30 am –Noon and 4:30 pm– 6:00pm.**

Christmas Tree Blessing

Holy Lord, we come with Joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light. May this tree remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Weekend Masses for the 4th Week of Advent.

(These do not fulfill our Obligation for Christmas)
Masses are at 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 23 and 8:00am and 10:00 am (Bilingual) on Sunday, December 24th!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule

Masses on Sunday, **December 24th** are at **5:00 pm with children.**

We will celebrate **Midnight Mass**, preceded by Christmas Caroling at 11:30 pm.

On Monday, **Christmas Day**, Mass will be at 10:00 am. (Bilingual)

Super Stars of the Christian Tradition Retreat

January 5 - 7, 2006 - Omega Retreat Center, Boerne, Texas - Presented by Fr. Carl Arico. Registration begins at 5:00pm on Friday. The program begins at 6:30 pm with a light supper and concludes with Mass on Sunday. The retreat cost is \$110. To register, or for more information, call Omega Retreat Center at 830.816.8470.



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Acompáñenos a perenigrar durante la nueve noches de POSADAS a las 7:00 pm



Las posadas empiezan el día:

16 de diciembre	Sra. Norma Sánchez	1408 Park Street	792-5234
17 de diciembre	Sra. Marisol Castillo	2105 Singing Wind #801	895-8573
18 de diciembre	Sra. Alma Elizarraras	2924 Nichols Street	896-8167
19 de diciembre	Sra. Eva Venegas	413 Gilmer Street	896-2049
20 de diciembre	Sra. Cecilia Clements	121 Loop 13	792-5448
21 de diciembre	Sra. Amparo Ramirez	433 Lytle Street	377-8347
22 de diciembre	Sra. Maria Dorado	Westwood Ranch off Wilson Rd	995-4033
23 de diciembre	Sr. y Sra. Longino Gonzales	414 Herron Crossing	238-3187
24 de diciembre	Iglesia de Notre Dame	Water Street, Kerrville	

The Sacrament of Baptism & your Child



The following is a list of Baptismal Preparation sessions for the first half of 2007: Parents and Godparents are asked to attend two of the sessions provided in one month. Registrations start at 6:00 pm followed by class 6:15 pm to 8:00 pm.

1. **Thursdays, January 11 & 18, 2007**
2. **Thursdays, February 8 & 15, 2007**
3. **Thursdays, March 1 & 8, 2007**
4. **Thursdays, April 12 & 19, 2007**
5. **Thursdays, May 10 & 17, 2007**
6. **Thursdays, June 14 & 21, 2007**

For more information call Rosie Garcia at 830-896-4233 or Ileana Schneegans at the Pastoral Center, 830-257-5961 ext. 225!

El Sacramento de Bautismo para sus niños!!



Lo siguiente es una lista de sesiones para la preparación del Bautismo, para la primera parte del año 2007. Los padres y padrinos deben de asistir a dos sesiones en un mes. Las registraciones empezaran a las 6:00 pm siguiendo con la clase a las 6:15 pm

1. **Jueves, 11 & 18 de Enero del año 2007**
2. **Jueves, 8 & 15 de Febrero del año 2007**
3. **Jueves, 1 & 8 de Marzo del año 2007**
4. **Jueves, 12 & 19 de Abril del año 2007**
5. **Jueves, 10 & 17 de Mayo del año 2007**
6. **Jueves, 14 & 21 de Junio del año 2007**

Para mas información por favor llame a Rosie Garcia al numero 896-4233 o a Ileana Schneegans al numero 830-257-5961.



ANNOUNCES A NEW SERIES
FOR 2007

Catholic Adult Faith Enrichment (CAFÉ) begins a new series that focuses on basic Catholic teachings and how they relate to adult faith. Adult faith is grounded in absolute truth while living with the challenges, doubts and questions of everyday life. We will use Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church as our guide.

Topics for 2007 include: Faith, Jesus the Christ, the Trinity, the Creed, Church history, the Sacraments, Morality, Catholic interpretation of Scripture, Overview of the Bible, Spirituality and Prayer, Catholic Social teaching and Ecumenism.

Sunday Jan. 4

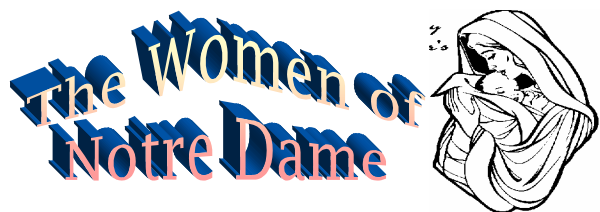
9:30 - 10:45 am

School Library Kemper Hall

Jan 4: Faith, the ultimate invitation. Someone once said that faith is an inside job. From deep within our being come the truth of God's existence and the invitation from God to life and love. All we need to do is RSVP.

The outline for the discussion on Faith is available in the Narthex.

For more information call Carol Aceti at 257-1432



The Women of Notre Dame are accepting Christmas Memorials. Masses will be for your intentions. Envelopes are available in the Narthex. What a great way this is to remember someone during the Christmas season.

THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to the Church Office, Youth and Family Ministries, Parish Community and our many Volunteers for your support, prayers and blessings bestowed upon us during this first half of our school year. We hope that you and your families have a wonderful year full of much happiness and many blessings.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From the Notre Dame Catholic School Children, Faculty and Staff.

Youth 
what's new.....

XLT: Teens are invited to Praise and Worship God by singing contemporary Christian music. There will also be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

**January 11th, 2007 at
6:00 pm-7:15 p.m. in the church.**

Cursillo Retreats!

The Cursillos of Christianity of the Archdiocese of San Antonio have been scheduled:

Ladies Retreat from January 11 thru 14, 2007
Men's Retreat from April 19 thru 22, 2007.

Come and join us for a spiritual renewal!!
These retreats will be in an English speaking environment. For an application please stop by the Pastoral Center or visit our website at ndparishkerrville.org

Welcome...

You enter this church not as a stranger but as a guest of God. As a baptized person, you enter it as a son or daughter of the Father in Christ. This House of God is therefore your family home.

Come in then with humility of mind, joy of heart, and thanks on your lips. Acknowledge the Lord's presence in the tabernacle and adore him. Come in and pause in prayer in the midst of your busy life and its many worries. Be grateful to those who, for the glory of God and in honor of Notre Dame, built this place of worship with faith and sacrifice and sanctified it with their songs and prayers.

Anyone who wishes to practice the Catholic faith by attending this church may consider Notre Dame as his/her own parish, no matter where one lives.

You simply need to register. Please indicate whether you are a new parishioner or have moved and are providing a new address. You may drop this slip in the collection basket during Mass.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home) _____

Email _____



Christmas Holidays!!

The Pastoral Center
will be **closed** on

Friday, December 22, 2006
and

Monday, December 25, 2006!

Bulletin Deadline

Items to be posted in next week's Bulletin need to be received in the Pastoral Center by Monday at 5:00 pm. All items received after 5:00 pm deadline will run the following week. You may email the item to ndparish@kvc.com.
THANK YOU!!!!!!

Notre Dame School Cash Cards

We have less than two weeks until Christmas. Remember to stock up on the perfect gift. Cash Cards are something for everyone. We have Cash Cards for Toys, Cosmetics, Sporting Goods, Plants, Clothing, Furniture, Books, CD's...Give a wonderful gift & accomplish your civic duty all at once!

Thank You for Your faithful Support!

The Cash Cards are available at:

School Office - Monday thru Friday 7:30 am -3:30 pm

(During School Year)

After each Mass on the weekends!

Cash Corner

Total Sales Last Week \$7,397.00

Total profit for the Week \$461.25

School year profit to date *\$8,304.18

Total cost to those who purchased cards \$0.00

School Year is 07/01/06 through 06/30/07



December 2006

"People helping People"

Vol. 12, issue 1

As Christ's coming draws nearer, the light intensifies, reminding us that Christ is the Light of the World and that we are called to share His Light with those around us.

St. Vincent de Paul

1145 Broadway Kerrville, Texas

Come by and visit the SVDP operation at 1145 Broadway. Take a tour and see a growing, living ministry.

896-6898 MWF 10 am to 4 pm

- November Activity
- * Provided 4219 meals
 - * Provided \$10,436 in Financial Assistance
 - * Over 1849 volunteer hours

At this time of the year, we of Saint Vincent de Paul, along with all of our volunteers, want to **thank the Notre Dame community** for all of their financial and other support during the past year. Your generous contributions, both in the form of second collections and/or food to our food pantry have helped us maintain our continuous efforts to the needy of our area. As a part of our Notre Dame community, we wish to **thank the school students** for their Thanksgiving Food Drive. The administration, faculty, and students were totally involved in this food drive.

We also have the following to thank for their support during the past year: **Albertson's, Clark Family Bakery, HEB, Super S Foods, Wal-Mart, Schreiner University SEDEXHO Food Group, Bernhard Meest Processing, and Woodbury Wild Game Processing.**

A special thanks to **Protrac Industries** for re-stripping our parking lot.

"HELP US HELP OTHERS"

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
ESPECIALLY ON
MONDAY AND FRIDAY !!!
NO EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!**

Quinceañera Celebrations

Requisitos para celebrar una Quinceañera en la Iglesia de Notre Dame:

1. Llame al Centro Pastoral 12 a 18 meses antes de la celebración para tener una entrevista y para poner la fecha de la Quinceañera. Esta fecha será tentativa, dependiendo de que cumpla los siguientes requisitos:
2. Estar inscrita y asistir regularmente a las clases de Educación Religiosa o asistir a una escuela Católica por un tiempo mínimo de dos (2) años consecutivos antes de la celebración de Quinceañera.
3. Debe haber recibido los Sacramentos del Bautismo, Reconciliación y Eucaristía.
4. La familia debe estar registrada y ser miembros activos de una Parroquia Católica.
5. Debe asistir a dos (2) sesiones de preparación antes de la celebración de Quinceañera. Por favor llamen la semana antes de las sesiones que van a asistir para estar preparados debidamente.

Además, los padres de la Quinceañera deben tomar parte activa de esta preparación.

La siguiente es una lista de sesiones de Preparación para la Quinceañera para el 2007:

Lunes, 5 de Febrero & Lunes, 12 de Febrero 07 (Equipo I)
Lunes, 7 de Mayo & Lunes, 14 de Mayo 07 (Equipo II)
Lunes, 6 de Agosto & Lunes, 13 de Agosto 07 (Equipo III)
Lunes, 5 de Noviembre & Lunes, 12 de Noviembre 07 (Equipo IV)

Las sesiones de preparación para la Quinceañera serán de 6:30 to 8:30 PM en el Centro Familiar/ Ministerio de Niños. Para más información, llame a Ileana en el Centro Pastoral (830) 257-6961 ext. 225, o a Rosie, (830) 896-4233.

Policy for Celebrating a Quinceañera at Notre Dame Catholic Church:

1. Call the Pastoral Center 12 to 18 months in advance to set an interview and date for the Quinceañera; this date is tentative upon meeting the following requirement.
2. Be enrolled and regularly attending Religious Education classes or attend Catholic School for two (2) consecutive years prior to the Quinceañera.
3. Have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Eucharist.
4. Family be registered and be active members of a Catholic Parish.
5. Attend two (2) preparation sessions prior to the Quinceañera. Please call us the week before the sessions you plan to attend so we can prepare appropriately.
6. In addition, parents of the Quinceañera must be actively involved in the preparation sessions with their daughter.

The following is a list of sessions for 2007:

Monday, 5 February & Monday, 12 February 07 (Team I)
Monday 7 May & Monday, 14 May 07 (Team II)
Monday, 6 August & Monday, 13 August 07 (Team III)
Monday, 5 November & Monday, 12 November 07 (Team IV)

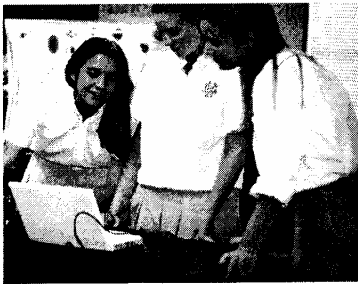
Sessions for the Quinceañera will be held at the Family Life/Youth Formation Center from 6:30 to 8:30 PM each time. For more information call Ileana at the Pastoral Center (830) 257-6961 ext. 225, or Rosie at (830) 896-4233.



OUR LADY OF THE HILLS REGIONAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

575 Peterson Farm Road
Kerrville, Texas 78028
830-895-0501
olh@ktc.com
www.ourladyofthehills.org

Placement Test for 2007 – 08 Academic Year Scheduled for January 6, 2007



OLH students represent many Christian denominations, many ethnicities, and many socio-economic levels.

What they have in common is a desire to learn and mature in a caring, disciplined, and stimulating college-preparatory environment.

Placement Test
January 6, 2007
8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
575 Peterson Farm Road
Kerrville ,TX



- *OLH is a co-educational, 9-12 Catholic high school.*
 - *Need-based financial aid is available.*
- *A placement test is a requirement for admission.*
- *Seating is limited and reservations are required.*
 - *Testing fee is \$15.*
 - *Call 830-895-0501 to pre-register.*



Midnight Mass

Paul Turner

Christmas is the only day on our church calendar that calls for Midnight Mass. Easter has its Vigil. But the pivotal celebration at Christmas is the Mass at Midnight.

Actually, we have four Masses for Christmas, each with its own prayers and Scriptures: the Vigil Mass on the evening of December 24, Mass at Midnight and Mass at Dawn for those times of day, and Mass during the Day for December 25. We may mix and match the Scriptures if we wish. There's no fixed time when these Masses must be celebrated not even the one at midnight. The titles are a simple convenience to identify the four. A parish might celebrate "Midnight Mass" at ten in the morning or eight at night. Parish staffs laugh at callers who ask, "What time is Midnight Mass?" But the question isn't as stupid as it sounds. If we attend any Mass Christmas Day, it's possible we'll hear the Scriptures of Midnight Mass.

That's a plus, because the Gospel of Midnight Mass alone relates Luke's immortal story of the birth of Jesus. It's the good news people want to hear when they come to Mass on Christmas.

The Midnight Mass tradition reaches far back in our history. It originated probably in Rome before the Middle Ages.

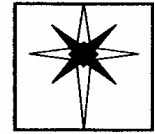
One reason for Mass at midnight is that we used to fast all day before communion, and since Christmas was such a grand day, we wanted to cut to the celebration as soon as possible.

Another reason is the tradition that Jesus was born at midnight. This comes from an interpretation of a passage from Wisdom 18:14-15. The author says that during Israel's Passover, God's word leaped from heaven when the night was half gone. So in the new covenant, it was assumed God's Word leaped from heaven at midnight. The mystique of Midnight Mass draws some who come to church only rarely. The shepherds, the magi, the angels, the animals the mystery of Christmas beckons us all.

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Christmas on Monday

Paul Turner



When Christmas falls on a Monday, it causes temptation. In the Catholic Church we begin celebrating Sundays and holy days on the previous evening. This practice stems from a custom that reckoned the start of the day at sunset. Saturday night mass provides a convenience for individuals and families making alternative plans for Sunday morning, but it more deeply alerts us to the holiness of the most important day of the week.

May families find Christmas Eve Masses an ideal way to begin observing this holy day as they gather for the Eucharist at church and then perhaps go home for a meal and exchange gifts. The next morning, their Christmas becomes a day of rest.

But when Christmas falls on a Monday, things get confusing. Two eves and two days intersect. Your parish will probably offer Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Saturday evening, December 23, and Sunday morning, December 24. Then on Sunday evening, December 24, it will begin celebrating Christmas. That's a lot of church in 48 hours.

You may be tempted to skip a mass either for the Fourth Sunday of Advent or for Christmas. You may be tempted to go to Mass on Dec. 24. and count it for both events. But it won't count! Advent is very short this year, barely longer than three weeks, and it deserves our full attention. Christmas, of course, is one of the primary celebrations of the church year. These two distinctive liturgies draw us into the mystery of the Word-made-flesh.

Yes, it is extra effort to go to church twice during this busy time, but there is no better way to prepare for and celebrate the reason for the season—the birth of Jesus Christ!

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