



December, 2023

Special Dates:

First Sunday of Advent (December 3)

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8)

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples /

Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12)

Gaudete Sunday (3rd Sun of Advent / Rejoice Sunday) (December 17)

The Nativity of the Lord (December 25)

St. Stephen, The First Martyr (December 26)

St. John, Apostle, Evangelist (December 27)

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (December 28)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (December 31)

Featured Special Season:

When it comes to Advent, those three-plus weeks before Christmas, there are so many feasts, so many activities and so much commercial pressure, the season is in danger of losing any sense at all. Whatever you do with your Advent, let your prayer be an attempt to calm things down, to spend some time actually waiting instead of jumping right into celebrating.

As Christmas draws near, the waiting and expectation intensify. The days from December 17 on have special texts associated with them called the 'O Antiphons.' These are titles for Jesus, and are used in Evening Prayer. Add its Marian component, and Evening Prayer is a great way to celebrate Advent.

****taken from 'Unlocking the Feasts and Seasons of the Liturgical Year' by Glenn Byer**



Food for Thought!

In a way which has its own unique colour and flavour, the celebration of the Sundays and feasts of the Advent-Christmas season centres, as does all Christian liturgy, on the paschal mystery. In the northern hemisphere, preparation for the feast of Christmas takes place in a time of growing darkness. The season of Advent, which means “coming,” announces to a world where darkness overtakes light each day that our personal lives, and even the life of the world as we know it, will come to an end. Wonderously, the comings of Christ transcend space and time and call believers to joyful hope as they anticipate his coming in glory. Conscious that it lives between Christ’s appearance in the flesh and the full flowering of his cosmic presence in the end-time, the church lives and prays in hope, trusting in his promise to “be with you always, even to the end of time” (Matthew 28:20).

As the light of the autumn sun wanes and each day grows shorter, faith rests in the assurance that night will never last forever. Like the lengthening days that will slowly announce spring’s dawning, the light of Christ will finally rise upon the world’s darkness.

The season begins with the awesome consideration of final judgment. It sounds the note of serious anticipation of the Lord who expects believers to have their houses in order, and proclaims the confidence derived from knowing that the judge is a loving Saviour of flesh and blood – “one of us in all things but sin” (Hebrews 4:15).

****taken from ‘Preparing For Liturgy Series: Preparing the Liturgical Year 2:
Lent-Easter and Advent-Christmas’ by Corbin Eddy**