

2023 - 2024

A MULTICULTURAL GUIDE
TO LITURGICAL LIVING

Christmas

The Office of Multicultural Ministries
Catholic Diocese of Arlington

Contents

The Twelve Days of Christmas: A note from the author

What is Christmas?

Christmas Mass Guide Cut Out

Week 1: December 25-30

Reflection 1: "A Different Kind of King"

Week 2: December 31- January 8

Reflection 2: "The Journey"

Merry Christmas in Different Languages

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Recipes

Feast Day Calendar Cut Out

Christmas Calendar Cut Out

The Twelve Days of Christmas

A note from the author

Ah, “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” a holiday folk song where one individual purchases far too many birds for their true love. Depending on who you ask, this resulted in anywhere from 23 to 78 birds (no, really - some people will argue that *every* gift is actually a bird!). Anecdotes and early chain-emails of ancient days (the 1990s) claim the song was designed for persecuted Christians in the early Church or for Catholics during the English Reformation. The theory was that each gift symbolized something faith-related that only another Catholic would know, so the faith could be taught without risk of persecution. As enticing as this theory may be, another theory claims it is most likely French in origin dating back as early as the reign of Charlemagne or his father, Pepin the Short. Any history buff will tell you that Charlemagne didn’t have a problem with Christians (this joke lands better if you know what Charlemagne was all about) so there would have been no need to sing a ditty drenched in Christian secrecy.

What we know *for sure* is that someone apparently had a generous bird budget, and that it describes the length of time between the birth of Jesus and His baptism on January 6th. That said, Pope Paul VI changed the Feast of the Baptism to the first Sunday *after* the 6th, meaning the baptism could be celebrated as late as January 13th! So, the Christmas season *can* go longer than 12 days. For some reason, no one attempted to add verses to the song following this change, so I assume the bird money ran out.

How does this relate to liturgical living? Well, even if the origins are murky and maybe if the birds *really are just birds* with no hidden meaning, Catholic tradition is rich in symbolism - including animals and numbers! So, each day of Christmas, take it as an opportunity to reflect on the number, or the bird (or ladies dancing or lords-a-leaping...), and apply a deeper meaning to it. For example, the common belief is that the partridge in the pear tree is Christ. A partridge, it is believed, will sacrifice herself to save her offspring, as Christ sacrificed himself for us. Maybe you can read scriptures that corresponds with these ideas. Allow yourself, and your household, to discuss the symbolism and meditate on scripture. Continue this each day, reflecting on the gifts our True Love, Jesus Christ, has given us.

This guidebook will offer some suggestions in the “Twelve Days of Christmas” section for what the gifts *could* symbolize and some suggested scripture verses to get you started- but feel free to come up with your own! I hope that this lighthearted carol can inspire some interesting conversations. For those not interested in discussing birds for 12 days, worry not: there are many other fun ideas packed into this guidebook.

May you have a blessed Christmas season and very happy New Year!

By Bridget Wilson, Director of Multicultural Ministries

What is Christmas?

Christmas/Christmastime celebrates God becoming Man, the birth of Jesus Christ, hope for salvation, born to the Virgin Mary over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

The liturgical season of Christmastime begins with vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this time, we celebrate the birth of Christ with Masses, prayers, hymns, feasting, gift-giving, and joyful traditions from all around the world. This guidebook will provide you with many opportunities to celebrate this sacred season. It is designed to be used Christmas Day December 25, 2023 through the Baptism of the Lord on January 8, 2024.



Christmas Mass Guide

In 2023, Christmas Day falls on a Monday, with the final Sunday of the Advent Season falling on Christmas Eve. As Catholics, we are obligated to attend Mass for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas. So, what does that look like when Sunday and Christmas Day are back-to-back? Using the checklist below, determine which options work best for you/your household:

MASS TIMES

Saturday Evening, December 23

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday Morning, December 24

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday Evening, December 24

Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

Monday, December 25

Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

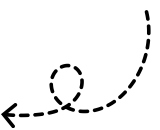
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



CHRISTMAS



Select one green check
and one red check



*Attending this Mass does not fulfill the Sunday and
Christmas Obligation simultaneously! Pick two Masses!!*





SO... POSSIBLE COMBINATIONS ARE

Saturday Evening, December 23

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

-AND-

Sunday Evening, December 24

Mass for the Nativity of the Lord



*Double Vigil!
Perfect for slow
mornings.*

Saturday Evening, December 23

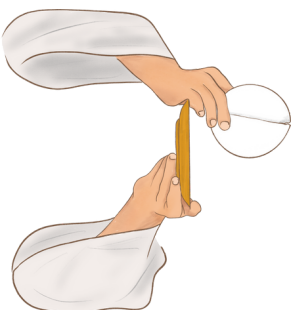
Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

-AND-

Monday, December 25

Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

*Yes, you can go twice
on the same day!*



*Great for those
traveling on
Christmas Eve!*



Sunday Morning, December 24

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent

-AND-

Sunday Evening, December 24

Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

Midnight or Angel's

Mass... Shepherd's

Mass... King's Mass...

all different!



Sunday Evening, December 24

Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

-AND-

Monday, December 25

Mass for the Nativity of the Lord

Week 1

A Different Kind of King

When thinking about Christmas, my heart grows restless remembering all the end-of-the-year events, last minute shopping sprees, and the holiday hustle and bustle. Now that all four Advent candles have been blown out and the catchy Mariah Carey song that lived rent-free in my brain has slowly faded away, doesn't it feel like something is missing? I can't help but notice my ache for something greater, for deeper meaning, for a true renewal.

"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn"

Lk 2:7

What an unexpected entrance! The God of the Universe was born in a humble manger because there was no room for Him elsewhere. Doesn't this sound familiar? How often have I cluttered my heart with perfectionism, busyness, pride and ended up closing the door to my Lord as He patiently knocked? Our Jesus' birth points to who God truly is. If God revealed Himself in His glory and grandeur, we may very well have run away in terror. Our Savior's birth reveals God's humility and His decision to veil Himself out of love, simply to draw close to man.

The nativity of our Lord reminds us that our Jesus was a different kind of King. Jesus did not come to rule from a distant, high throne; He came to be the King of our hearts. We tend to constantly question our worth and ask ourselves, was my Advent good enough? Were my presents good enough? Were my efforts good enough? Am I good enough? Perhaps we can contemplate how a small town of

Bethlehem was enough for Him. He even deemed a humble stable and a little manger to be good enough for Him. Could it be possible that our Jesus chose to leave Heaven just to get the chance to be born anew into our hearts? Could even my wounded, anxious heart be enough for Him? Christ was born in the midst of chaos; He does not fear imperfection but still makes all things new. Oh how beautifully do these breathtaking lyrics capture this love story: "Till He appeared and the soul felt it's worth!" - *O Holy Night*

"Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart"
Lk 2:19.

In an effort to imitate Our Lady, my husband and I have started a tradition of having silent prayer time in our living room with all the lights turned off except for our Christmas tree lights. I have really enjoyed inviting our Lord to be born anew in the manger of my heart in this quiet, hidden, simple way, similar to His arrival into this world. We invite you all to practice the presence of God with us by simply entering into the quiet of our hearts and meditating on His blessed birth. May the Lord reign on the throne of our hearts now and forever!

By Valeria DeCelle, Campus Minister
George Mason University Catholic Campus Ministry

Tuesday December 26

Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr. One of the first martyrs, St. Stephen was stoned to death. According to the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen was a deacon in the early Church. He is a patron to many, especially to deacons, as well as altar servers and even horses (one legend of St. Stephen's life tells of how Jesus cured the disciple's own horse).

His feast day, also called "St. Stephen's Day," is celebrated in many countries:

- In Ireland, it is a public holiday, and older generations celebrated by going door to door dressed in old clothes and straw hats.
- In England, it's known as "Boxing Day" because churches would put out boxes to collect donations in honor of St. Stephen.
- In certain parts of Spain, the tradition is to eat "canelons," a tube-shaped pasta.
- In parts of Germany and Austria, the day includes ceremonial horseback riding and blessing of horses! Old traditions in Finland also include horses, with traditional horse-drawn sleigh rides through the villages.

Some ways to celebrate this feast day:

- If you happen to own a horse, have it blessed! No horse? Make sugar cookies in the form of horseshoes!
- Eat canelons or other tube-shaped pasta you can find, filling them with leftover meat and veggies from Christmas dinner.
- Pray for deacons, especially those in the Diocese of Arlington.

Meet some Diocese of Arlington Deacons and pray for them by name today:

Deacon Albert A. Anderson, Jr.

- St. Joseph, Alexandria
- Ordained January 15, 2011
- Favorite Saint: St. Augustine
- Favorite Bible Verse: "...They shall

beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." Is 2:4



- Advice for those discerning the diaconate: *"For anyone considering the diaconate, the mere fact that you are even considering it means that God may be calling you to this vocation; He may have placed it on your heart. The next step is to pray, very earnestly and very humbly, for God's guidance as you enter a period of personal discernment. Then listen to family and friends, loved ones closest to you. Quite often, they will see God's calling in you before you see it in yourself. After your initial period of discernment, if you decide to apply and get accepted into the diaconal formation program: pray, pray, and pray some more! Pray for wisdom. Pray for perseverance. Pray for trust in God's plan for your life. Happy discernment and may God's will be done!"*

- A book every person should read in their life: *"I know this may sound a bit cliché, but I believe every person should read the Holy Bible. It is the only book from which God speaks directly to us, through His prophets and through His only begotten Son. In the sacred scriptures, God speaks about our history; our current life; and our future life. Our pastor at St. Joseph, Fr. Donald Fest, S.S.J., often refers to the BIBLE as an acronym meaning Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth."*



Deacon Mark Voorheis

St. John the Apostle, Leesburg

- Ordained January 28, 2023
- Favorite Saint: St. Philip Neri
- Favorite Bible Verse: "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he

opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32

- Advice for those discerning the diaconate: *"A big part of my discernment, and a question that was asked by the vocations office, was what did I think that I could do as a Deacon that I couldn't already do serving in my parish as a layperson? The answer for me was that I saw places that our priests couldn't reach due to the constraints of time and numbers. Being involved with our youth group, I saw ways that as a Deacon I could bring more to that ministry if I was ordained. Celebrating Eucharistic Adoration, or just being somebody who could talk about discerning a vocation while working with our youth group week in and week out has been a big part of bringing Christ (literally and figuratively) to this area."*

- A fun fact about you: *"We have a tradition every Christmas Eve – we go out for Chinese food for dinner, then we get milkshakes and drive around looking at Christmas lights, then we watch A Christmas Story, and end the night with Midnight Mass."*

Deacon Ping Averia

St. Leo the Great, Fairfax

- Ordained January 12, 2019
- Favorite Saint: St. Augustine
- Favorite Saint Quote: "Late have I loved you, Beauty so Ancient and so New, late have I loved you!"

- St Augustine

I love this quote because it proves that God calls us all, and even if we hear Him late, God always allows us to choose Him freely.

• Your Vocation Discernment Story: *I always wanted to be priest. When I altar served from elementary to high school, I always paid close attention to the things that a priest does – and the priesthood was my number one choice when asked what I wanted to be. Today, I'm happily married, and have long ago decided that my household and I will serve the Lord in every way we can. The idea of becoming a deacon is something, I believe, that has been slowly developing within me through the years after we moved to the US.*

I thought my desire of becoming clergy was done after high school, because growing up in the Philippines, there were no deacons. Through the years, I have learned a lot more to trust in the Lord's care in everything. Obedience is key. I trust Him enough that if I just obey, I do not need to know why. God will take me there, and He will be with me every step of the way. I know in my heart that He has called me to the diaconate, and I obey!

• A fun fact about you: *Christmas Day in my parish in the Philippines. The Baby Jesus comes to visit each home around the parish. An altar boy rings the tiny bell when approaching a home, and the Lead Acolyte, cradling the image of the baby Jesus in his arms, greets the household in Latin "Dominus Vobiscum" and everyone responds "et cum spiritu tuo." Then everybody in the house, one by one, gets to adore and kiss Baby Jesus. Some years I was the "bell ringer" and when I was old enough, I got to cradle the Baby Jesus myself!*





Deacon Malcolm D'Souza

Holy Spirit, Annandale

- Ordained January 12, 2019
- Favorite Saint: Pope St. Paul II and Mother Teresa of Calcutta
- Favorite Saint Quote: Pope St. John Paul II: "I plead with you – Never, ever

give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."

• Your Vocation Discernment Story: Deacon Malcolm has graciously offered us a link to a video where he shares his story into the Diaconate via Catholic News Service



Double-click on the video to watch.

Or, type in www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5AZvQCjCv4

• A fun fact about you: *"I have 6 names: Malcolm Louis Manuel Francis Christopher D'Souza. All 4 of my middle names have some familial connection as I adopted the associated saints: Louis – my grandfather from my dad's side (St. Louis de Montfort), Manuel – my uncle who passed away almost a year before I was born (St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia – Bishop of the Abandoned Tabernacle), Francis – my Godfather (Both St. Francis Xavier... whose body is in my ancestral home of Goa, India, and St. Francis of Assisi... a deacon), and Christopher – my Confirmation saint. While my first name, Malcolm, is not a saint name, my grandmother always told me, "Do not say that it is not a saint name, we say instead Malcolm isn't a saint... yet!" That I was supposed to work hard at being the first St. Malcolm.... The name Malcolm is a Scottish name that means the "servant of St. Columba" ... Since "deacon" also means servant, I knew that God truly called me to serve Our Church and my parish, as I am "the servant of the Holy Spirit."*

Wednesday December 27

Feast of St. John the Apostle. John and his brother St. James were among the first disciples of Jesus, called the “Sons of Thunder” by Jesus for their fiery zeal. St John wrote the Gospel of John and is often represented in images with an eagle.

Ways to celebrate St. John’s feast day include:

- Reading the opening of the Gospel of John (John 1:1-18).
- Drink blessed wine and toast to “The love of St. John”... but those underage may toast using juice.
- A patron saint of booksellers, publishers, scribes, and editors, visit a local bookstore.
- Visit St. John the Apostle Catholic Church in Leesburg, pictured below, and learn about its history by scanning the QR code.



Thursday December 28

December 28th is the “Feast of the Holy Innocents”, recognizing the innocent children that were executed by King Herod in his effort to find find the Christ Child. On this day, remember these young children and ask for their intercession, praying especially for children, both born and unborn, in unsafe conditions. Parents may take the opportunity to bless their own children, or receive a “blessing of children” from your parish priest.

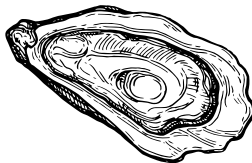
Friday December 29

Feast of St. Thomas à Becket. St. Thomas served as Lord Chancellor and later as Archbishop of Canterbury under King Henry II of England. Though formerly friends, St. Thomas and the king became rivals, disagreeing on Church affairs. He was ultimately put to death by the king, killed by his swordsman, in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. He is considered a martyr, his death a direct result of defending the Church. He is one of the patron saints of priests.

Ways to celebrate St. Thomas à Becket's feast day:

- Visit St. Thomas à Becket Catholic Church in Reston, VA, and while you are there offer up prayers for priests in the Diocese of Arlington.
- Watch the 1964 film "Becket". Please keep in mind this is a dramatic re-telling of the life of a saint, and some parts may be fictionalized. Certain elements in the movie may not be suitable for younger children, and parent discretion is advised.

Many may be unaware that Catholics are asked to abstain from meat *every* Friday of the year (or perform another act of penance), so consider trying out this unique and meat-free dish, "Oyster Pie" submitted by Missy Jaffe, parishioner of St. Katherine Drexel Mission in Haymarket, VA. According to Missy, this is popular among the Pennsylvania Dutch and is a special treat to serve at Christmas. You can access the recipe in the "Recipe" section of the guidebook.



Week 2

The Journey

As a young child in Puerto Rico, I remember being fascinated with the Three Wise Men, “Los Tres Reyes Magos”. Maybe it was because I was intrigued by the camels, which of course don't exist in Puerto Rico! On January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, it is a tradition in Puerto Rico to leave a shoebox full of grass under the Christmas tree for the hungry camels, and the Three Wise Men will leave gifts for us children.

In the biblical passage about the Wise Men (Matthew Chapter 2: 1-2):

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”

...it strikes me as peculiar to think of a star as rising, since we often use the phrase "falling stars." This amazing and rare celestial phenomenon led the wise men on a journey of hope. As we celebrate the joy of Christmas during this Diocesan Jubilee, we are filled with awe and wonder with the Day Star, the Son of God.

Like the Wise Men and their camels, we encounter the King of the Jews, the Messiah. We come to offer to Him gifts not of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but instead our faith, our life journey, and ourselves.

*By Fr. Ramon Baez, Pastor, Holy Family Catholic Church,
Woodbridge VA*

Sunday December 31

Feast of the Holy Family. This feast day is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas day. The origins of celebrating this feast day began in Canada in the 19th century! Since its establishment, the feast day aims to portray the Holy Family - Mary, St. Joseph, and Jesus - as the “true model of life.”

On this day, you can celebrate multiple ways:

- Attend Sunday Mass, and during time for prayer, ask for your home to be a place of the Lord’s peace and love and that each family member may help lead each other to Jesus.
- Meditate on the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt, and offer additional prayers for families who are refugees, and who are separated from each other.
- Have a special family meal with all members (or as many as possible!) present. If you are not in the habit already, bless the meal together before eating.
- Help with odd jobs around the house, recognizing everyone can pitch in towards a tidy, comfortable household.
- Pray for those who are engaged and newlyweds, who are starting new families of their own.
- Bring a meal to a family with a new baby, or who may have recently lost a loved one.
- Parents may bless their children.
- As a family, pray a rosary together, possibly the Joyful Mysteries.
- Offer a prayer for those who struggle with infertility, that their prayers may be aligned with the Holy Family.



Monday January 1

Happy New Years! On this day, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Usually, this day is a holy day of obligation, *however*, the obligation to attend Mass this year is abrogated, in accord with the complementary norm to canon 1246 §2 (because the feast is on a Monday!). Of course, it is a wonderful practice to attend Mass on this glorious feast day, and many parishes will be celebrating it and offering special Mass times. Check



your local parish for more information! Or, perhaps considering visiting one of the Marian parishes in our Diocese in honor of Our Lady.

Click the QR code below to access the Arlington Diocese's "A Jubilee Journey with Mary":



Other ways you can celebrate:

- Pray the Rosary.
- Wear Marian colors like blue, white, pink, or prints of stars, roses, or lilies.
- Decorate your house with flowers, and/or bring flowers to a statue of Mary.
- Pray the Litany of Loreto.

Monday January 1

In addition to honoring Our Lady on New Years Day, today is also the feast of St. Zygmunt Gorazdowski of Ukraine. Ordained a priest in 1871, St. Zygmunt lived a life of charity and service, in spite of poor health. In 1884 he founded the “Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph” who would continue his charitable works. Those who knew him called him the “Father of the poor and priest of the homeless.” In honor of this great saint, let us strive to grow in charity and in a special way, keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers.

Thursday January 4

Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first canonized saint from the United States of America. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was a convert to the Catholic faith, becoming a religious sister. You can learn more about this incredible saint by visiting SetonShrine.org, and consider scheduling a trip to visit the shrine! Need something more local? The Diocese of Arlington’s St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Lake Ridge is just the answer.

Scan the QR Code below to learn more about the parish!



Sunday January 7 - Epiphany of the Lord

Feast of the Epiphany is traditionally celebrated on January 6th, but in the United States, it is moved to the closest Sunday to the 6th! So, in 2024 the feast day is celebrated on Sunday, January 7th. On this day, the Three Wise Men, (also called the Three Kings or Magi), named Balthasar, Melchior, and Caspar, arrived to see the baby Jesus. They followed a star, finding the baby and giving Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. On their journey, they met with King Herod, who requested they tell him where the child is so he may pay Him homage. However, King Herod had dark intentions, and the kings, warned not to return to him in a dream, took an alternate route back home after visiting the Christ Child.

In Mexico (and other Spanish-speaking countries), Epiphany is known as Día de Los Reyes and is a major holiday. They make “Rosca de Reyes” (a version of kings cake), a sweet round bread covered in sugar and dried candied fruits. It is round in shape to symbolize a crown. Inside, a tiny figure of the baby Jesus is hidden. Before Santa Claus became a popular staple in Western culture, it was the Three Kings who were the traditional gift-bringers, and so on this day there is plenty of gift exchanges. It is another common tradition for children to leave their shoes out, like many do on St. Nicholas’ feast day, where the kings may leave gifts.



Ways to celebrate:

- Have your home blessed. You can find the prayer to do so here: www.usccb.org/prayers/blessing-home-and-household-epiphany
- Make Kings Cake! Submitted by Kathleen Powers, parishioner of Nativity Catholic Church, on behalf of Sr. Celine Arrigo, CSJ, who managed her school cafeteria! This New Orleans staple is a delicious treat colored with sprinkles of purple, green, and gold. You can find this recipe in the “Recipe” section of the guidebook.
- With younger children, decorate and adorn crowns to wear.
- Move the Three Kings in your nativity set close to baby Jesus. You may even hold a “procession” of the Three Kings, walking around your home with the figures before placing them next to the baby.
- Sing “We Three Kings.”
- In many cultures, they wait until Epiphany to distribute presents. If this is a tradition you would like to incorporate, consider setting aside some small gifts to distribute to family on this day.
- In the evening, if skies are clear, go star gazing!
- Read Matt.2: 1-12, “The Visit of the Magi”.



- Children can collect grass and straw in a basket, and place it under the tree the night before for the king’s camels to eat!

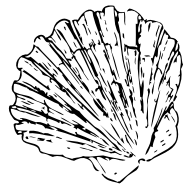
Monday January 8- The Baptism of the Lord

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. On this day, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, not a child as many are baptized today, but as an adult, by St. John the Baptist in the Jordan River. When St. John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down like a dove, and voice of God the Father announced “*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt 3:17)

This also marked the start of Jesus’s public ministry, and we celebrate Jesus’s desire to become one with us, as He humbled Himself to be baptized by St. John.

Today, you can celebrate in many ways:

- If you don’t already know it, determine the date of your own baptism and mark it on your calendar with the goal to celebrate it annually.
- Renew your baptismal promises. This can be done at home, with the head of the household leading the call, and all others responding “I do.” This guide from *Ave Maria Press* provides a wonderful option:
- Shells are symbolic of baptism, as they are often used to pour water over the head. If you can find shells at a craft store, adorn your house with them, or use them in a centerpiece.
- Include scallops, clams, or shellfish of choice in one of your meals for the day
- Meditate on scripture that tells the story of the baptism of Jesus: Matt 3:13-17



The Twelve Days of Christmas

This section invites you to use the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as a guide throughout the first twelve days of the Christmas season. You can start this on December 25th and end January 5th, or start it on December 26th and end on January 6th. Each day, the corresponding "gift" is connected to one or more elements of the faith that it *could* symbolize and linked to relevant scripture. If you desire, you may come up with your own ideas on what each gift symbolizes to you.

You may focus on any symbol you wish and read the suggested verses aloud with your household. This exercise offers an opportunity for discussion on the symbolism and the verses within scripture, or if you are drawn to more quiet prayer, could be treated as a form of *Lectio Divina*, a meditative way to read through scripture.

To learn more about this prayer method, visit Hallow.com.



*Scan the QR Code to be directed to Hallow.com's
Lectio Divina Resources*

The First Day of Christmas

A Partridge in a Pear Tree

Symbolizes: Jesus Christ, Sacrificial Love

Scripture: Matt. 27:32-61, Mark 15:21-41,

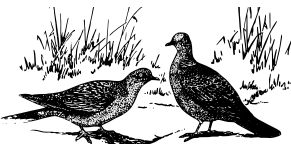
Luke 22:26-49, John 19:16-37; Isaiah 53



The Second Day of Christmas

Two Turtle Doves

Symbolizes: Jesus' Human & Divine natures; Old & New Testaments



Scripture: Mark 8:27-30, John 1: 1-18,

Col. 2:9-10, John 8:58; Matt. 1:18-25;

Luke 1:26-38, Phil. 2:1 -11;

Matt. 5:17-20; Luke 24:44-47, 2 Cor.3: 7-18

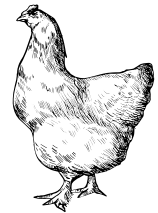
The Third Day of Christmas

Three French Hens

Symbolizes: The Trinity; Faith, Hope, & Charity;

Three Gifts of the Magi

Scripture: Matt. 28:19, 2 Cor. 3: 17-18; 1 Cor. 13; Matt. 2:1-12



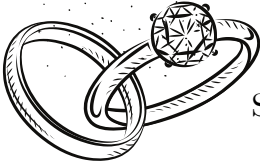
The Fourth Day of Christmas

Four Calling Birds

Symbolizes: Four Gospels; Torn Garments of Christ;

Scripture: John 19:23-24

The Fifth Day of Christmas



Five Golden Rings

Symbolizes: Wounds of Christ; the Pentateuch
(the first five books of the Bible)

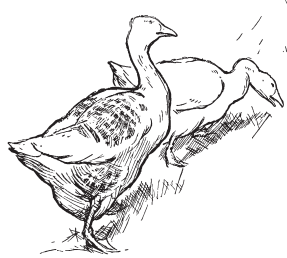
Scripture: John 19: 31-37, John 20:24-29;

The Sixth Day of Christmas

Six Geese-a-laying

Symbolizes: The 6 Days of Creation

Scripture: Genesis 1



The Seventh Day of Christmas

Seven Swans-a-swimming

Symbolizes: Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Seven Sacraments

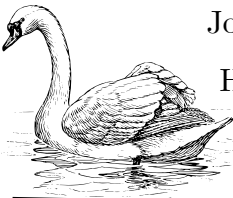
Scripture: 1 Cor. 12: 1-11, Isaiah 11:2-3; Matt. 3:13, Matt. 28:19,

John 3:5, Acts 8:14-17, Luke 22:19-20, John 6:51-56, Luke 11:4,

John 20:21-23, Mark 16:17-18, James 5:14-15,

Hebrews 5:1, 4-6, Genesis 1:27 Mark 10:4-12,

Ephesians 5:25

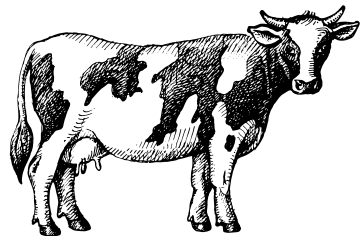


The Eighth Day of Christmas

Eight Maids-a-milking

Symbolizes: The Beatitudes

Scripture: Matt. 5:3-12





The Ninth Day of Christmas

Nine Ladies Dancing

Symbolizes: Choirs of Angels; Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Scripture: Luke 1: 5-25, 26-38, Matthew 1:18-25

Isaiah 6:1-8, Revelation 5:11-12, Revelation 12:7-9,

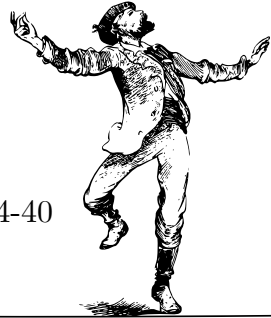
Ezekiel 1-28, Joshua 5: 13-15; Galatians 5:13-26

The Tenth Day of Christmas

Ten Lords-a-leaping

Symbolizes: The Ten Commandments

Scripture: Exodus 20: 1-17, Matt. 22: 34-40



The Eleventh Day of Christmas

Eleven Pipers Piping

Symbolizes: 11 Faithful Disciples:

Scripture: Mark 11:14-18, Matthew 28:16-20

The Twelfth Day of Christmas

Twelve Drummers Drumming

Symbolizes: 12 beliefs in the Apostles Creed

Scripture: *No direct scripture today - consider*

reciting the Apostles Creed. Throughout the

remaining days of the Christmas Season, focus on

3-4 beliefs of the Creed in your prayer and discussions.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

in a different language

Spanish: ¡Feliz Navidad!

French: Joyeux Noël!

Tigrinya: Ruhus Beal Lidet!

German: Frohe Weihnachten!

Italian: Buon Natale!

Portuguese: Feliz Natal!

Japanese: メリークリスマス (Merīkurisumasu!)

Chinese: 圣诞节快乐! (Shèngdàn jié kuàilè!)

Norwegian: God Jul!

Danish: Glædelig Jul!

Finnish: Hyvää Joulua!

Korean: 메리 크리스마스! (Meli Keuliseumaseu!)

Russian: Счастливого Рождества! (Schastlivogo Rozhdestva!)

Icelandic: Gleðileg Jól!

Polish: Wesołych Świąt!

Dutch: Vrolijk Kerstfeest!

Croatian: Sretan Božić!

Czech: Veselé Vánoce!

Akan: Afishapa!

Swahili: Heri ya Krismasi!

Irish: Nollaig Shona!



RECIPES

All recipes included in the guidebook were submitted by the individual and used with permission to appear in the Diocesan cookbook, “Gather At the Table: Multicultural Cooking for Liturgical Living”. Inclusion in this guidebook is intended for promotional purposes.

To access the recipes referenced in this guidebook and learn more about the cookbook project, scan the QR code below:





AT A GLANCE

Feast Day Calendar



December 25	Christmas Day
December 26	St. Stephen (Jerusalem)
December 27	St. John the Apostle (Galilee)
December 29	St. Thomas à Becket (England)
December 31	Feast of the Holy Family
January 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God* St. Zygmunt Gorazdowski (Ukraine)
January 2	St. Basil (Turkey)
January 3	Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus St. Genevieve (France)
January 4	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (America)
January 5	St. John Neumann (Bohemia/Czech Republic) Martyrs of Egypt
January 7	Epiphany of the Lord St. Raymond of Pennafort (Spain)
January 8	Baptism of the Lord

**The obligation to attend Mass on this date is abrogated,
in accord with the complementary norm to canon 1246 §2*

This is not an exhaustive list of all feast days during the Christmas season, nor are all the feast days listed on this calendar expanded upon within this guidebook. We encourage you to research these saints and other feast days, and if any saint resonates with you, to learn more about him or her and determine ways your household can celebrate.

CHRISTMAS 2023 - 2024

DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 8

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
25 Christmas Day	26 St. Stephen	27 St. John the Apostle	28 St. Thomas à Becket	29	30	31 Feast of the Holy Family
1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God St. Zygmunt Gorazdowski	2 St. Basil	3 Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus St. Genevieve	4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	5 St. John Neumann Martyrs of Egypt	6	7 Epiphany of the Lord St. Raymond of Pennafort
8 Baptism of the Lord						



Are we missing anything?

Contact us and let us know if we can include your traditions, recipes and/or parish, ministry, and/or school events and initiatives in future guidebooks!

Email us at mcm@arlingtondiocese.org



This guidebook is project of the Diocese of Arlington's
Golden Jubilee, Multicultural Sub-Committee.

If you would like your seasonal and cultural events,
traditions, feasts, or more, included in future booklets please
reach out to us at:
mcm@arlingtondiocese.org

For more guidebooks, scan the QR Code
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www.arlingtondiocese.org/multicultural

