

Tidbits...

a little food for thought,
prayer & ministry



Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
Office of Lay Ministry and Parish Faith Formation

December
2021



Solemnity The Nativity of the Lord

Whenever we pray these words of the Nicene Creed at Mass "...and by the Holy Spirit [the Only Begotten Son of God] was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man," we are supposed to bow. However, on Christmas at the Mass During the Night, we are asked to genuflect. We are never asked to bow or genuflect at any other point during the Nicene Creed. Perhaps it is because we commemorate, especially on Christmas, something so remarkable that we cannot but bow or genuflect in awe and wonder: The Son of God became human, one like us in all things except sin (cf. *Hebrews 4:15*). We call this the Incarnation. This act of humility and love by our God has changed the trajectory of humanity by giving us a hope that will never disappoint (cf. *Romans 5:5*), no matter what. This Christmas, perhaps more than ever, we need to be and to live that hope in the world. Like the Shepherds of old, let us worship the Child of Bethlehem, but then let us go forth "glorifying and praising God, for all [we have] heard and seen just as it [has] been told to us" (cf. *Luke 2:20*).

This reflection on the Incarnation by Chantal Freeman seems more appropriate than ever. She writes, "In Christ we are all connected, and that we are responsible for each other's lives and well-beings."

Christmas Music Musings: Why Performing O Holy Night is so Powerful

More Reflections on the Incarnation by Fr. Kenneth Baker, S.J.

How is the Incarnation Extended through Space and Time

(video clip) by Bishop Robert Barron

St. Vincent DePaul on the Incarnation (video clip)

Keeping Christmas Well: Focus on the Incarnation

Incarnation – A Poem by Fr. Michael Moynahan, S.J.

The Incarnation: A Great Surprise – Catholic Bytes Podcast

The Work of Christmas by Howard Thurman

The Wonder of the Incarnation by St. Gregory of Nazianzen –

Office of Readings Podcast

Busted Halo Advent Calendar (that goes through Christmas Day!)

Pope Francis - Catechesis on Christmas



mccrimmons.com



Family Fun

Gifts

Aleteia Christmas Gift Guide for Children

Christmas Books for Children

Life Teen Home Made Gift Ideas

Aleteia Christmas Gift Guide for Teens

Thank You Note for Children



Baking

Baby Jesus Birthday Cake from Catholic Icing

Gluten Free Christmas Cookie Recipes

Baby Jesus Cup Cakes - Awww!

Catholic December Recipes



Games and Activities

28 Ways to Prepare for Christmas - Poster

Christmas Prayers

Family Activities

Blessing the Christmas Tree

Feast of the Holy Family

Imaginative Prayer at Christmas



Videos

Christmas Prayer - A Christmas Reflection: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love - Merry Christmas 2020

Dear God, Help us to focus on you today, remembering that the gift of Christ, is our most treasured gift for the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Help us to be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as You forgave us. We pray not to be ...

[Christmas Prayer - A Christmas Reflection: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love - Merry Christmas 2020 - YouTube](#)



The Best Christmas Song I've Ever Heard. It Will Give You Chills.

Over A Thousand People Came Together To Break a Record And Bring This Moving Christmas Hymn To Life. The Piano Guys, Peter Hollens, David Archuleta, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir get together to sing \"Angels We Have Heard On High.\" Watch the #sharethegift video:

[The Best Christmas Song I've Ever Heard. It Will Give You Chills. - YouTube](#)

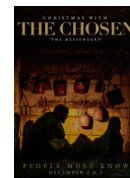


A Theatrical showing of Christmas story from the makers of The Chosen..

Tickets for showings on Dec. 1 & 2 at local theatre – Regal Theatre Colonie Center

*probably will be available afterward on youtube, but no date specified..

[The Chosen Christmas - Fathom Events](#)



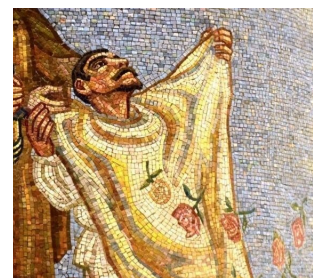
December Saints

St. Juan Diego- December 9th

[Catholic Current - St. Juan Diego](#)

[Catholic Icing - St. Juan Diego for Children](#)

[Franciscan Media - Saint of the Day](#)
[Saints of Advent](#)



St. Lucy- December 13th



[Catholic Current - St. Lucy](#)

[Catholic Icing - St. Lucy for Children](#)

[Word on Fire - The Strangely Beautiful Saint](#)
[Saints of Advent for Kids](#)

[Etsy - Santa Lucia Doll](#)

In December, once again we have a rich company of saints to be our companions throughout Advent and as we celebrate Christmas. In addition to these saints that we all share as church, there are those in the "great cloud of witnesses" that have gone before us. Those family and friends who we love and who love us still.

As we tell the stories of our traditions and share memories of ornaments that we hang on the tree, let us remember the saints in our families. Continue to tell the stories of family & faith to the next generations.

God bless us everyone!

[Storytelling - Pope Francis](#)



St. Joseph's Corner:

St. Joseph and the Birth of Jesus

St. Joseph's "Yes"

3 Things The Holy Family Can Teach Us About

St. Joseph a Witness for Our Time, Pope Francis

[Patris Corde](#)



[Jordan Avery Art](#)