

AD ORIENTEM

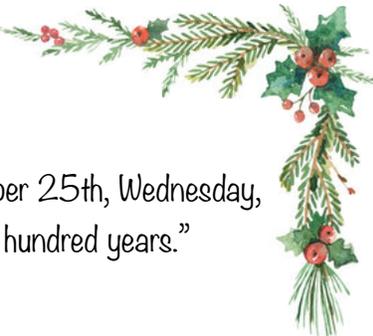


“And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people: For, this day, is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will.”

Luke 2:10-14



Advent and Christmas Season



“For the first advent of our Lord in the flesh, when he was born in Bethlehem, was December 25th, Wednesday, while Augustus was in his forty-second year, but from Adam, five thousand and five hundred years.”

-Commentary on the book of Daniel (c. 204) Hippolytus of Rome

Advent

The season of Advent begins the new liturgical year in the Church's calendar. It is a time of somber anticipation before the coming of Jesus Christ and the joyous commemoration of His Nativity. Sermons of the 5th century by St Maximus of Turin and other sermons possibly written by St Cesarius of Arles urged early Christians to prepare for the Lord through prayer and penance. Advent is less rigorous than the season of Lent and has varied in length throughout the ages. Until the 11th century Advent began on the feast of St Martin of Tours, November 11, making it about 40 days in length, this is still maintained in the eastern church. It is not possible to say, with certainty, when the season of Advent was first instituted, however the Birth of Our Lord has every right of being honored through prayer and works of penance in preparation for His coming.

Some traditions during Advent include: Advent wreaths with a nightly prayer and lighting of the candle(s) at dinner time, Jesse Trees, Christmas cribs, Advent calendars, cleaning of the home from top to bottom, baking of Christmas cookies for neighbors, making Christmas tree ornaments (although the tree should not be decorated/lit until Christmas Eve).

Christmas

If the Advent preparations have been carried out well, all work should be done, the house clean, and all baking should be complete. Christmas Eve is the time to replace the Advent wreath with a Christ candle and get ready to rejoice for the next 12 days! The Feast of the Nativity to the Epiphany are known as “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. This is the time to get together with friends and family and celebrate!

Liturgically Christmastide ends on the Octave of the Epiphany, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, January 13. However, Christmas does not end spiritually until the Purification of Our Lady, Candlemas, February 2, exactly 40 days after Christmas.

For more Christmas customs and traditions please visit fisheaters.com and click on “Being Catholic”.

Saint Nicholas Day

Saint Nicholas day, December 6, is a popular day among Catholics. There are some traditions, and many ways to celebrate this Saint's feast day. If you have not started a tradition, try starting one today!

1. **Attend Mass** at your parish, or make a visit to Saint Nicholas Church in Zanesville, OH for a plenary indulgence.
2. **Pray the St Nicholas Novena**- It begins on November 27
3. **Decorate with dried orange peels** (represents gold)
4. **Leave your shoes out**- see what is there the next morning!
5. **Read a story** about Saint Nicholas.

Our family wishes you a happy Saint Nicholas Day!

St Andrew Christmas Novena

Please join our family in praying this novena prayer 15 times each day beginning on the Feast of St Andrew November 30 and ending on Christmas Day. We plan to pray 5 times in the morning, 5 in the afternoon, 5 in the evening.

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which
the Son of God was born
Of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold.

In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God,
to hear my prayer and grant my desires,
[here mention your request]
through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ,
and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.

ACTIVITIES

Cranberry Pumpkin Bread: From Taste of Home

Submitted by The Burkholder Family

3 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup flour
3 cup sugar
4 tsp of pumpkin pie spice (2tsp of cinnamon, 1tsp of ginger, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of cloves, $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp of nutmeg)
2 tsp of baking soda
1 tsp of salt
4 lg eggs
1 can of pumpkin
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil
2 cup of fresh cranberry

Mix flour through salt. Whisk together eggs, pumpkin, and oil. Stir in dry ingredients. Fold in cranberries. Bake at 350 for 60-70 minutes. Makes 2 large loaves.

Jokes

1. What do you call a reindeer with no eyes?

No eye-deer!

What do you call a reindeer with no eyes and no legs?

Still no eye-deer!

2. What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?

3. What bug hates Christmas?

(Answers are at the bottom of the page)

A Journey to Bethlehem

Help the shepherds find their way to Jesus.



Christmas Music

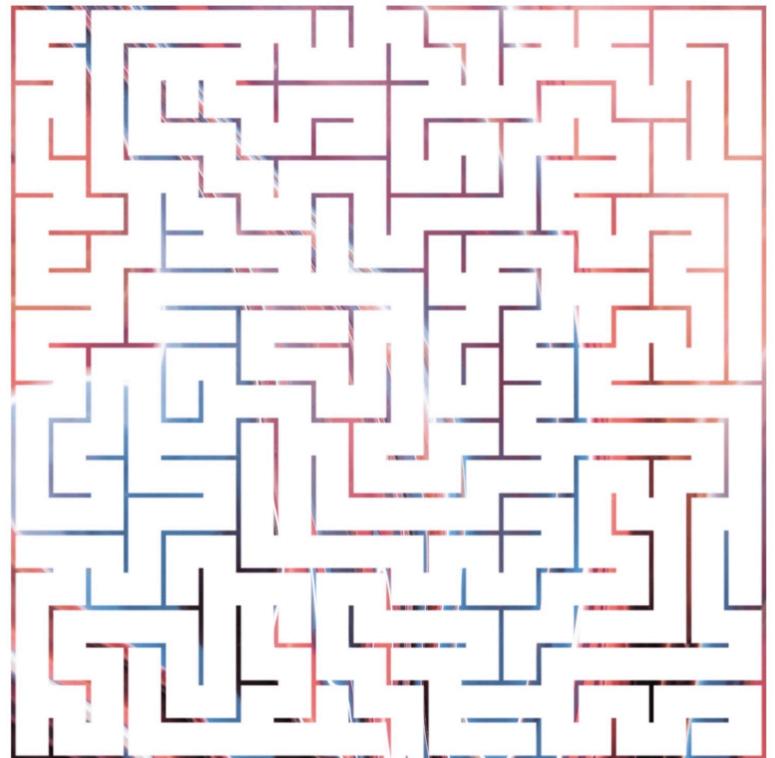
Are you a piano player who is looking for some Christmas music to entertain your family? Please visit www.christmasmusicsongs.com to find free Christmas music sheets online!

We encourage your feedback!

We would like to know what you think of Ad Orientem.

Is there anything we need to improve on, change or keep the same? If so, we would like to know. Contact us at jmthedillmans@gmail.com

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Riddle Answers:
2. A Holly Davidson!
3. A Humbug

COLOR AND PRAY



While coloring, say this prayer:

Lord God, we give you thanks for your abundance, and for all the great things you have given us, especially the birth of Your Son on Christmas day. We ask your blessing upon our friends and family. We also pray that in your great mercy, you would look kindly upon all those in need this day.

Amen.