



Christmas Calendar 2016-17

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>December 25</p> <p>On this day when we celebrate Our Savior's birth, meditate on the infancy narrative from Luke's Gospel.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Today is the feast day of our first martyr, St. Stephen. Pray today for Christians and religious minorities throughout the world, who suffer persecution and even death because of their faith.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>"For his nativity on both sides was marvelous: divine without mother, human without father" (St. Augustine, <i>Tractate</i> 33.2 on John 7:40 ff.). Read the Discussion about the Origins of the Messiah in John's Gospel.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Today, as we remember the Holy Innocents put to death by King Herod, pray a Rosary for life and meditate on the glorious mysteries.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Today we remember St. Thomas Becket, who was martyred for defending religious freedom. Pray for the protection of our religious freedoms.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Today in honor of the Holy Family, and on every Friday, join others in ongoing prayer and sacrifice for the protection of life, marriage, and religious liberty.</p>	<p>31</p> <p>"Memory is related to past time, hope to future. . . . We love, persuaded by faith that the past was as it was, and by hope expecting the future." —St. Clement of Alexandria, <i>Stromata</i>, 2.2</p>
<p>January 1</p> <p>Today, on the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, on which we also observe the World Day of Peace, attend Mass and pray for peace in our communities.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Today, we remember Sts. Gregory Nazianzen and Basil the Great, who once wrote, "Do everything possible to make yourself worthy of the Kingdom. Do not disdain the invitation you have received" (Basil the Great, <i>Exhortation to Baptism</i>, 7-8).</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Meditate today on the Most Holy Name of Jesus. "Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:9-10).</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Remember today our first native-born North American saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, whose journey of faith points to "the reality that in all of us there is a longing to know God and to draw closer to him" (USCCA, p. 2).</p>	<p>5</p> <p>St. John Neumann understood what it meant to follow God's will with his whole heart and soul. Knowing he was meant to be a priest but denied ordination in his diocese because of the overabundance of priests, John traveled from Bohemia to New York City to be ordained. Pray today for vocations to the priesthood.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>St. Andre Bessette: "For him, believing meant submitting freely and through love to the divine will. Wholly inhabited by the mystery of Jesus, he lived the beatitude of pure of heart, that of personal rectitude." (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, October 17, 2010)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>"We help, we lead others to Jesus, with our words and our lives, with our witness" (Pope Francis, <i>Address, September 27, 2013</i>). Pray today for the New Evangelization.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Today, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, National Migration Week begins. Pray for the protection of refugee families fleeing persecution that they may find refuge and comfort.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Today, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the end of the Christmas season: "He was not baptized because he needed to be purified, but so that he might bring sanctity to the waters themselves" (St. Gregory Nazianus, <i>Oration 29</i>, 19-20).</p>			<p>"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." —Lk 2:14</p>		