



St. Catherine's Academy Gazette®

Issue 20

December 2011

This month has been dedicated by Holy Mother Church to
 ~ The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~

Advent

The four weeks of Advent are set apart by the Church to commemorate the ages that intervened between the fall of our first parents and the birth of Christ, which we celebrate at Christmas. It is a Season of special prayer and penance mingled with joyful expectation, and calculated to fit our souls for a worthy keeping of this great solemnity. Advent is also the beginning of the Ecclesiastical year, and as each succeeding year brings us closer to the second coming of Christ as Judge of the world, this holy time is likewise intended to make us ready to meet our Judge.

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December the 8th ~ Holyday of Obligation

God the Father loves us so much that He sent His Divine Son Jesus into the world to be our Saviour and to show us how to get to Heaven. God wanted His Son to have the best and holiest Mother in all the world. That was why He made the soul of Mary more beautiful than any other soul ever created.

All other babies born into the world have the stain of original sin on their souls. But not Mary. Her soul was spotless and pure from the beginning. God kept it free from the least shadow of sin. That is what is meant by her Immaculate Conception.

Immaculate means "pure." Conception means "the very first moment of life." So, when we speak of Mary's Immaculate Conception, we are saying that Mary's soul was spotlessly pure as soon as it began to exist.

From all eternity God the Father knew that Mary would be the Most Pure Mother of His Son. A prophecy from the Old Testament tell us this:

"Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His Name shall be called Emmanuel." (Isaias 7:14)

Feasts and Fast Days

This Month

Feast Days

December 8th - The
Immaculate Conception

December 25th—
Christmas Day

Fast Days

December 7th -
Vigil of the Immaculate
Conception

December 14, 16 and 17,
Ember Days

December 24th -
Vigil of the Nativity of
Our Lord

Inside this issue:

A child's preparation for Christmas	2
Bells	9
Immaculate Conception Coloring Picture	11
Christmas Customs	13
The Birth of Our King	20
Nativity Coloring Picture	24
Novena to the Infant Jesus	27



“Emmanuel” comes from the Hebrew word which means “God is with us.”

Another beautiful Old Testament passage is often repeated to show us that Mary’s soul belonged to God alone. The devil would have no power over her:

“The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His ways, before He made anything from the beginning. I was set up from eternity and of old before the earth was made.” (proverbs 8: 22-23)

Long ago the Catholics of the United States chose Mary as the patron of our country under her title of the Immaculate Conception. This means they asked her to look after the country and watch over it. On the Feast of her Immaculate Conception we should ask Mary to protect the United States and guard it from harm.

“O Mary conceived without sin: Pray for us who have recourse to thee!”

~ from: “Days of Praise for Mary our Mother” Imprimatur 1949

A CHILD’S PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS



To little boys and girls and to all good Christian people, the feast of Christmas means more than a time to give and receive gifts. To them it is a remainder of the greatest of all gifts that the world has ever received, Jesus Himself. Jesus gave Himself to us on the day He came into the world. He comes into your hearts each time you earnestly wish Him to come to you. You see that you ought to prepare your hearts well so that when Jesus comes to you on Christmas Day, He will find your heart a beautiful place, pure and clean and ready for Him.

Just watch how carefully your dear mother cleans the house for Christmas. She wants everything to be spotless and shining. So, too, your heart ought to be pure and clean, that is, free from sin. Jesus will love to come into the hearts of those children who try to be obedient, kind, pure and simple. Now is the time for you to begin preparing your heart for Jesus. When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they could find no other shelter than a poor stable. I hope that when Jesus comes to you on Christmas

morning, He will find your heart ready for Him and then you will not turn Him away from you.

Practice:

1. *I will carefully watch over myself that I may not hurt Jesus by any unkind action today.*



*Infant Jesus, meek and mild,
Look on me a little child;
Pity mine and pity me,
Suffer me to come to Thee.*

All people who truly love God prepare their hearts for the coming of Jesus on Christmas Day. Many people do not think of Jesus and what He did for us when they make ready for Christmas. They are thinking only what pleasure they can get out of the feast, what gifts they will receive and what they will eat on that day. Jesus loved us so much that He came from His beautiful home in heaven to live and suffer and die upon earth for the love of us. He became a little child to teach us that we must always have hearts pure and innocent like those of little children.

Let us think now about what you can do to make your hearts ready for the Infant Jesus. If you had been living at the time when our Blessed lady and St. Joseph were looking for a place of shelter on that cold winter's night and they had come to your house, would you have refused to let them in? How proud you would have been to give them your own room, your own bed! I am sure you would gladly have given your warm clothes to the Blessed Mother for the Infant Jesus. I am sure when you heard the story of the Birth of Jesus for the first time, you felt sorry that you were not living in Bethlehem for you would gladly have given Jesus a warm and comfortable shelter. You can do this even now, though Jesus is no longer a little child. How can you give Jesus shelter? By giving Him your heart as a resting place. Jesus is God. He can come into your heart, and He will come into your heart if you ask Him to do so. You must earnestly wish for Jesus to come to you and He will come into your heart.

Practice:



- 1. I will think often of Jesus Who will soon come into my heart.*
- 2. I will ask the Blessed Mother to help me to make my heart ready for Jesus.*



IDEAS TO HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST

1. At the end of this newsletter you will find a sheet with a stable and another sheet with sheep. The stable can be colored and hung in a place where the children can see it as a reminder. Each child in the family can write his/her name on a sheep and cut it out. The sheep can be placed at the bottom of the steps to the stable and in the evening if the children's conduct for that day has been good, their sheep can be moved up a step. If the behavior has not been good, the sheep is put down a step. The goal - being able to reach the stable on Christmas Day to see the Newborn King.
2. A Bed for the Holy Infant - Ask the children to make a little bed for the Infant Jesus. Tell them they can do it by offering prayers, each prayer is to represent a part of the bed on which the Infant Jesus is to rest. Explain to them that by saying these prayers devoutly they will please the Infant Jesus as much as if they were making a real bed for him. The parent may add other furnishings and acts and also substitute other practices for those here suggested.
Bedstead 10 decades of the Rosary
Mattress 10 Acts of Obedience
Sheets 10 Acts of Kindness
Blankets 10 Acts of Unselfishness
Pillow 10 Acts of Contrition
3. The following practice is a favorite with many families - Arrange a pile of straw (we use straw colored yarn) on a table or stand, near the crib. Tell the children that for each good work performed for the love of the Infant Jesus they may carry a wisp from this pile to the crib and place it in the manger. The parent may suggest the various acts, for example, kindness, unselfishness, obedience, cleaning up toys properly, etc.

JESUS' LOVE FOR PURE HEARTS

Dear children: Have you made up your minds that you will think about Jesus coming into your hearts? I hope so. Would you wish to ask Jesus to come into a heart soiled by faults and sins? I do not think so, you want your heart to be spotless. Jesus loves pure hearts. Jesus, is the Spotless Lamb, and the best way to please Him is to try to keep your hearts pure for Him. If you offend Him in anyway you must say to God: "Lord I am very sorry because I have offended you. Please forgive me, I will never do it again."



Practice:

1. I will tell Jesus how sorry I am that I ever committed a sin.
2. I will ask Jesus to keep my heart free from sin.

JESUS' LOVE FOR KIND HEARTS

When Jesus was born, His dear Mother wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. What is a manger? Many of you have never seen a real manger. Have you ever been in the country to visit your uncle or aunt on the farm? If you were, you have probably been in the stable and noticed that the cows and horses have their food put in a sort of box. This box is either nailed to the wall of the stable or stands on legs like a table. This is what is called a manger or crib. Now in the stable in which Jesus was born, there was, of course, no bed. So the Blessed Virgin laid the little Infant in the crib or manger. There was some hay or straw in this manger, for there were some animals in the stable. You would not think that hay or straw very soft for a bed, would you? At home mother has a soft mattress in your bed; then you have warm blankets with which to cover yourself. But Jesus did not have any of these things. A crib with a little hay or straw and swaddling clothes were all He had. But

He was satisfied with this little bit. He was happy because by suffering for us He could open heaven again and redeem the souls of the just.

How can you give Jesus a warm bed and a comfortable place in which to rest? By making your heart pure and by filling it with thoughts of love and kindness. Little children can do a great deal of good by being kind. If people are unkind to you, do not try to have them punished but be very kind to them, and soon they will love you, and be very sorry that they hurt you.





We must remember that Jesus loves all and came into this world to save all; so if we really love Him, the best way to show it is to love and be good to all His creatures, even to the animals.

Try to remember that Jesus loves a kind heart, and that the more you treat others kindly, the more Jesus will love you. Here are some ways that you can show kindness to others. Your parents, brothers, sisters, your playmates, all with whom you live or with whom you have something to do, should be treated kindly. Do you know what the Golden Rule says? “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.” Keep this Golden Rule and your heart will be a warm and loving place in which Jesus will love to rest.

MARY AND JOSEPH ON THEIR WAY TO BETHLEHEM

My dear children: Christmas, the birthday of Jesus, is coming nearer and nearer. Soon Jesus will knock at the door of your heart and ask you to let Him in. Will your heart be ready? Will you be able to give Jesus a place to which He can come? That all depends upon you, my children. You remember the story of the birth of Jesus.

After the angel told the Blessed Virgin that she was to be the Mother of God, Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth for some time. But they could not remain in this quiet little place very long, for soon they had to go to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph give us a good lesson herein. They were told to do something which was hard to do. They had a cozy little home where they lived happily together. Mary knew that Jesus would soon come into the world and she would have been happy to have Jesus born in her little house, where she could take the best care of Him. Instead of this, she had to go to a place where she was not sure about finding a house or even a few rooms in which they could live.

THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they found the small town quite crowded. Joseph went from house to house to ask for shelter, but everywhere he was told, “We have no room.” What a great sorrow this was to St. Joseph. For himself he did not mind, but he felt very sorry for the Blessed Mother. It was getting dark and they had to find some place in which to sleep. It was also getting cold, and on this night Jesus was to come into the world. Mary and Joseph felt very sad as they walked out of the town and made their way towards a stable. A stable is quite comfortable for animals, but it is not a place where people could stay long.

In this stable there was not a chair, nor a table, nor a bed. There was no place where a fire could be made. Everything was rough and cold. It was the only place to which Mary and Joseph could go, and although they were tired and sad, they thanked God for the shelter.

Dear children, I am sure that most of you wish you had lived in Bethlehem at the time Jesus



was born, so you could have given Him shelter. But you have the same chance now, if you make use of it; you can give Jesus a better place than a stable to live in when He comes to you on Christmas Day. Keep your heart pure, be kind to others, obey father and mother and your teachers, do all you know Jesus expects you to do and your heart will be a pleasing resting place for the dear Infant Jesus. Prepare your heart well. Do a good act whenever you get the chance. Be kind to the poor, pray devoutly, study your lessons as well as you can, and in everything you do or say, try to please Jesus. Then you will not be like the people of Bethlehem who said to Joseph, "We have no room."

Practice:

1. Do a kind deed as often as a chance offers today.
2. Make a special effort to keep my heart pure today.

What lovely Infant can this be
That in the little crib I see?
So sweetly on the straw He lies,
It must have come from Paradise.

~ Father Faber ~

Adapted from: Practical Aids for Catholic Teachers, Imprimatur 1928



UNSCRAMBLE THE SAINTS NAMES

1. AAMXIM _____
2. SRYLEVEST _____
3. THSOMA A TECBEC _____
4. YLCU _____
5. SIFRCNA _____
6. ABIBINA _____
7. TEPHEN _____
8. SANILOHC _____
9. MBRAOSE _____
10. YOLH STNECINNO _____

Hint: all of the above saints feasts are in the month of December
(Answers are at the back of this newsletter)



BE STILL
AND SEE
THAT
I
AM
GOD

Psalm 45; 11.

IF ANY MAN
OFFEND NOT
IN WORD
THE SAME
IS A
PERFECT
MAN.

James 3; 2.

VIRGIN MOTHER MARY.

O VIRGIN mother! Pure and sweet,
As low before thee bending,
We cast our garlands at thy feet,
In faith and love unending,
We sing the glory of thy name,
Who bore our Lord and Brother,

And since from Heaven the angel came,
Has been our loving Mother.
Blessed name to God most dear,
Sweetest name to sinners here,
Holy name that all revere,
Virgin Mother Mary.

~ William Livingston.



BELLS

Gilbert Keith Chesterton, the great English writer, was received into the Catholic Church on July 30, 1922. From then on he was an outstanding apologist for the Church he had come to love. On June 14, 1936, he passed away—rather suddenly. He was buried in the graveyard of Beaconsfield Catholic Church, toward the construction of which Chesterton and his wife, also a convert, had been generous contributors. A few years after his death the Republic of Ireland gave a great bell for the Chesterton Memorial Church. On the bell is this inscription:

“Presented to the parish of Beaconsfield by friends and admirers of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, to ring the call to faith, which he so chivalrously answered in song, in word, and in example, to the glory of God and of England.”

A similar inscription might be carved on every bell in every Catholic Steeple throughout the world, for those bells are ever calling to faith and worship. And all true Catholics, like Chesterton, answer that call every time they hear it.

Bells have been used for religious purposes from very ancient times, especially in Egypt and among the Jews. All these bells were of small size. It is said that Paulinus, Bishop of Nola, in Italy, introduced bells into Christian Churches. Bells grew to their present large size, great variety, and beautiful tone solely under the inspiration of the Catholic Church. The churchmen and saints of the faith founded by Christ made laws for their use, drew up a beautiful ceremony for their blessing, gave them a Christian meaning and name and provided shelter and honor for them in glorious towers, steeples, and belfries. Bells are a beautiful sacramental.

As such, Mother Church blesses them, christens them, in a ceremony that is unusually impressive and solemn. The bishop and clergy assemble around the bell placed in the center of the church. The group recites psalms asking God for His mercy and help and promising to adore and serve Him faithfully. Holy water is blessed in the usual manner, with the addition of a particular prayer for the purpose intended. With this holy water the bishop and priests wash the inside and outside of the bell as psalms of praise and thanksgiving are recited.

Then the bishop asks God that when the sounds, it may kindle in the hearts of the faithful true love and devotion for His blessed service. He asks that disturbances in the weather may be calmed and that the air be free of all diseases and evil spirits. After this comes a psalm inviting all to praise and glorify God Almighty and remember His mighty works.

Then is read the Gospel of our Lord’s visit with Martha and Mary. You remember how Martha complained when Mary did not help her with the serving, and how our Lord exclaimed:

“Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troubled about many things; and yet only one thing



is needful. Mary has chosen the best part, and it will not be taken away from her.” (St. Luke, 10:41-42.)

The thought is that everyone who listens to the Lord’s voice is pleasing to Him. The church bell is in many ways the voice of the Lord. It calls us to rejoice and it calls us to mourn. It calls us to seek and find consolation in distress, and direction in danger. It calls us to adore and worship our Creator and Redeemer.

Who can describe our feelings when we hear the bells on Christmas night and Easter morning? Who can picture our sorrow as we hear those bells, sad and solemn, telling us of the passing of a dear one, and reminding us that they will toll for us? Like the voice of the Lord, the bell calls us to holy Mass and evening services.

Three times a day the bell’s peaceful, soothing, measured tones remind us of the great mystery of the incarnation, and invite us to bow our hearts and heads to adore the Word made flesh and to ask the protection and assistance of our Lord and His sweet Mother. That is the Angelus bell.

And when on Holy Thursday the bells tumble joyfully in their sturdy cradles we remember the great gift of the Holy Eucharist, and we are warned to prepare for the terrible hours to come, the hours of our Lord’s passion and death, when the bells are sadly silent.

Holy Saturday morning they burst forth again, it seems just a little ahead of time, but they cannot keep silent when there is such glorious news of that as the Resurrection to be announced. Truly the church bell is the voice of God.

The smaller bells used in the church need not be blessed. They are generally used to remind us of the principal parts of the Mass, and the solemn moment of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

~ “Talks on the Sacramentals,” Imprimatur, no year listed ~





Feast of the Immaculate Conception ~ December 8th



SAINT BARBARA

~ Feast Day, December 4th ~

St. Barbara was the daughter of a pagan, Dioscorus, who placed her in a high and beautiful tower surrounded by marvelous gardens, and sent philosophers, poets, and scholars to teach her all things. Convinced that polytheism was nonsense, she consulted Origen, one of the most brilliant and controversial of early Christian apologists; he sent her his disciple Valentinian, who forthwith instructed and baptized her. She thereupon threw all the statues of pagan gods and goddesses out a window of her tower, traced a Sign on the Cross everywhere on the walls, and had a third slit of a window cut in honor of the Holy Trinity.

This upset her father to no end. He had her dragged out of the tower, but she somehow escaped to the mountains as he was about to slay her. He pursued her and dragged her back by the hair of her head and handed her over to Marcellian, a master at the art of torturing Christians. She was beaten with rods, torn with iron hooks, and suffered other horrible torments. Her father then asked for the privilege of striking off her head with an axe. As she was being carried to Heaven by the angels, her father was struck dead by lightning and "hurried before the judgment seat of God." This is why she is invoked to preserve us from lightning and a sudden and unprovided death.

Taken from: "The Year and Our Children", Imprimatur 1956



Collect of her Mass:

O God, who among the marvels of Thy power has given the victory of martyrdom even to the weaker sex, grant in Thy mercy that we who keep the birthday of blessed Barbara, Thy virgin and martyr, may, by her example, draw nearer to Thee. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God world without end. Amen.



CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

We should strive ever to emphasize the fact that Christmas is the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The greeting cards we send at this holy season should be a manifestation of our Catholic faith, an aid to our friends to enter into the spirit of the holy season, and a reminder to them that we are praying that they may know Christ more intimately and love Him more ardently. Your cards to non-Christian friends may be a means of causing them to make inquiries in regard to the real meaning of Christmas.

Christmas derives its name, "Christ's Mass," from the Mass offered in honor of the Birth of Christ. Its early English form was written as "Christes Maesse," and in the course of the change of the English language it eventually became Christmas. In the earliest days of the Church this feast did not exist. Greater stress was placed upon the feast of the Epiphany, because it commemorates the day on which our Saviour was made known to the Gentiles, when the Wise Men came to adore Him. The feast of the Nativity came gradually into existence in the fourth century. Its first mention is made by the great Christian writer, Clement of Alexandria, about the year 200, and shows that it was celebrated on May 20. About the year 300, the Latin Church began to observe it on December 25, because an ancient tradition assigns that day as the probable date of the Birth of our Saviour.

Love of the Babe of Bethlehem, who was born to redeem us, caused Catholics, in centuries long gone by, to introduce into our churches a representation of the crib: the Divine Babe, the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and the shepherds. St. Francis of Assisi deserves the credit of making this practice very popular. His zeal prompted him to place at Graccio a representation of the cave of Bethlehem. His plan permitted the Faithful vividly to grasp the story of Bethlehem and to realize the poverty and suffering of our Saviour in the bleak, cold stable where He was born. The plan has spread to churches in all parts of the world.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, it is customary to put the statues of the Wise Men beside the crib. In the early Church, this feast was celebrated with great solemnity because it was the day on which our Saviour was made known to those who were not of Israel. In the fourth century, the Feast of the Nativity came into its own and was given first importance, though in many Catholic countries the custom exists of giving all Christmas presents on the Feast of Epiphany, since on that day the Wise Men brought gifts to our Saviour.

The Christmas tree is of recent origin. It represents for us the Tree of the Cross. Bethlehem and Calvary are ever associated together in our Christian thoughts, for Christ was born to die on the Tree of Ignominy and thus redeem a sinful world. The lights placed upon the Christmas tree have for us a symbolic meaning. They portray the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.



Our modern Santa Claus, a crude, ridiculous figure, can be traced back to that gentle lover of children—St. Nicholas. This Saint’s feast is celebrated on December 6, and parents and friends gave children presents on that day. The Dutch settlers in New York brought this custom with them to the New World, and the giving of presents on December 6 became somewhat confused. St. Nicholas was contracted into “Santa Claus” and, with the increasing pagan idea of Yuletide, became the rollicking, bewhiskered figure so alien to the true Christmas spirit.

Let our children look to the Christ Child for their Christmas presents. There is no need of deception here, and of shattering childish faith. The Christ Child exists; He loves the little ones and He wishes them to love Him. We have no use in a Catholic home for the fraudulent Santa Claus and the pagan Christmas he now symbolizes. Let the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ be for young and old a day of spiritual joy and of close union with the Saviour Whom we love.

~ “Can You Explain Catholic Practices?” *Imprimatur* 1937 ~



CATHOLIC DOCTRINE DRILLS

Drill 93 - Names by Which Our Lord is Known

1. Our Saviour.
2. Our Redeemer.
3. Christ.
4. Our Lord.
5. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Drill 94 - Names by Which Our Lady is Known

1. Our Blessed Mother.
2. Mary.
3. Mother of God.
4. Mediatrix.
5. Co-Redemptress.



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

T	H	E	C	A	T	D	R	H	O	L	I	J	C	R	E	R	1. Jesus
L	M	A	N	G	E	R	I	A	G	I	K	O	N	P	R	S	2. Saviour
O	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	V	T	E	D	S	B	Y	T	T	3. Kings
H	E	N	P	R	O	H	L	T	E	S	S	E	J	A	N	N	4. Shepherd
T	B	G	I	B	L	P	E	B	W	H	A	P	R	T	E	I	5. Sheep
V	E	E	R	Y	C	E	H	R	A	T	I	H	S	N	T	A	6. Oxen
I	S	L	A	N	M	H	U	S	T	T	E	B	E	A	L	S	7. Stable
I	G	S	Y	J	E	S	U	S	E	I	S	B	E	F	S	E	8. Manger
H	N	A	R	P	I	E	R	E	T	R	P	A	C	N	T	M	9. Joseph
A	I	B	A	L	E	I	M	Y	A	D	H	T	R	I	B	A	10. Mary
Y	K	S	M	S	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	L	C	11. Christmas
F	C	O	R	U	O	I	V	A	S	N	M	P	U	T	E	X	12. Star
P	T	H	E	N	P	R	I	Z	N	S	T	R	H	O	P	B	13. Inn
B	Y	B	E	R	O	D	E	R	B	U	N	D	C	O	L	Y	14. Messiah
O	R	X	I	H	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	G	B	E	15. Infant
M	O	I	C	R	P	O	S	O	F	T	P	L	X	Z	Q	Y	16. Angels
O	N	I	C	L	I	T	Y	E	K	N	O	D	Y	L	E	T	17. Birthday
																	18. Bethlehem

THE CRADLE OF BETHLEHEM

O SING a joyous carol
 Unto the holy Child,
 And praise with gladsome voices
 His mother undefiled;
 Our infant voices greeting,
 Shall hail our Infant King;
 And our sweet Lady listens
 When infant voices sing.

Who is there meekly lying
 In yonder stable poor?
 Dear children, it is Jesus;
 He bids you now adore.
 Who is there kneeling by Him,
 In virgin beauty fair?
 It is our Mother Mary;
 She bids you all draw near!

Who is there near the cradle,
 Guarding the holy Child?
 It is our Father Joseph,
 Chaste spouse of Mary mild.
 Dear children, oh, how joyful,
 With them in Heaven to be!
 God grant that none be missing
 From that festivity.

~ taken from: Greetings to the Christ Child, copyright 1879



~ St. Nicholas, Feast Day, December 6th ~ Patron Saint of Children and Russia ~



ST. LUCY

Feast Day ~ December 13

St. Gregory the Great placed St. Lucy, together with her patroness St. Agatha, in the Canon of the Mass, and there we ask God to grant us "some part and fellowship" with her.

St. Lucy was born in Sicily. Since her mother was ill four years with a hemorrhage, Lucy reminded her that a woman in the Gospels with the same complaint was cured by Our Lord, and suggested that perhaps praying at the tomb of St. Agatha, who died for love of Him, would procure her mother's recovery. They went to the tomb and prayed all night until as they fell asleep St. Agatha appeared to Lucy in a vision, called her "sister" and foretold her martyrdom. Her mother was then cured, and as a thanksgiving gave away her money and goods to the poor. Lucy also gave away all her money and goods to the poor, as well as took a vow of virginity.

Lucy refused to marry her suitor because she had given herself to Christ, she was denounced by him as a Christian, tried in the praetorium and convicted, then sentenced to work in slavery with wicked people who were not pure of heart. But when they tried to take her away they could not move her. They brought a yoke of oxen to drag her, but even then could not move her at all. Raging mad, her persecutors poured pitch, oil, and resin over her and ignited it, only to see her stand amid the flames, unharmed. "How is it that you do not burn!" they screamed. She replied that it was by the power of her Lord Jesus Christ that she was saved in order that she might be a witness to Him. With that they plunged a dagger into her throat and she finally died and went straight to Heaven.

A beautiful Hungarian custom on the feast of St. Lucy is to plant the "Christmas Wheat." Pressed gently into a pot of garden soil, watered, and kept in a moderately warm room, the wheat will be sprouted soft green by Christmas. Then the children may carry it to the creche as a gift for the Child Jesus, symbolic of the Eucharistic bread by which he feeds our souls at the altar as well as of the staff of life by which His Father keeps life in our bodies.

Collect From the Mass of St. Lucy

Graciously hear us, O God of our salvation, and grant that we, who keep with joy the festival of blessed Lucy, Thy virgin and martyr, may be taught to be loving and devout towards Thee. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who livest and reignest with Thee and the Holy Ghost now and forever. Amen.



~ ST. LUCY ~
FEAST DAY ~ DECEMBER 13th





CHRISTMASTIDE

This joyful season extends from Christmas eve to Septuagesima; and during it the Church is rejoicing over the happiness of possessing the Saviour. It commemorates the birth of our Lord and the manifestations of His divinity which were exhibited in His infancy, the coming of the Magi, His baptism, teaching and miracles.

Antiphon . Behold the Lord the Ruler is come, and a kingdom in His hand, and power and dominion.

V. Give to the King Thy judgment, O God.

R. And to the King's son Thy justice.

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS IN THE NEW WORLD

On Christmas, 1492, Christopher Columbus officially established his first settlement in America. This was on the northern coast of the island of San Domingo.

At eleven o'clock on Christ Eve the *Santa Maria* rose almost motionless on a calm sea. Columbus had not slept at all the preceding night; so finding all was well, he now gave the helm to one of the mariners and retired. This steersman too was weary; he turned his task over to one of the ship's boys and also went to sleep. Suddenly the ship struck a sand bar. A swiftly running current had quietly carried the *Santa Maria* into its own course, and the treacherous breakers had been unnoticed by the boy at the helm until too late. He sent up a cry for help, and Columbus himself, who always slept lightly, was the first to reach the deck. However, the vessel was lost, and the crew rescued only with difficulty.

Columbus therefore was reduced for the time being to the *Nina*, for the *Pinta* with its commander, Pinzon, had temporarily deserted.

Early on Christmas morning the chief of the Indian tribe a league and a half away heard of the wreck. He sent canoes and men, and all day long they assisted the sailors in salvaging what they could from the abandoned vessel.

It was this Christmas disaster and friendliness of the Indians which prompted Columbus to establish here the germ of a future colony.

To honor the Feast of the Nativity, and as a memorial of gratitude for having escaped from the shipwreck on Christmas Day, Columbus named the fortress and adjacent village "La Navidad," the Spanish equivalent for "The Nativity."

The deserter Pinzon with the caravel *Pinta* rejoined Columbus on January 6, 1493, the Feast of the Epiphany.

~ "A Christmas Chronicle," *Imprimatur*, no year listed ~



THE BIRTH OF OUR KING THE EDICT

“God save us from the Romans!”

“Why must we go to the city of our fathers?”

“What is it all about?”

“Oh, the cruel Roman emperor!”

“What a hard journey!”

It had been many a long day since the little village of Nazareth was excited. Small groups gathered here and there along the main street to the town, talking loudly. Women came rushing to windows and doors to learn the cause of the noise and excitement.

The men of the town were just returning after having heard the reading of the Roman emperor’s latest command. He wanted to find out just how many subjects he had, so he had ordered the people of the whole country to go to the city of from which their fathers had come, and there have their names placed upon the lists. These lists would then be counted and the results sent to him. He did not care if the people had to walk ten miles or fifty miles. Neither did he think of the many hardships that he was forcing upon them.



It was no wonder that the quiet people of Nazareth were excited. Of course, few of them looked upon their journey with pleasure, because it gave them a chance to meet their friends and relatives. For most of them, however, the order meant a long, weary trip filled with hardships.

There was one man who did not linger with the crowds. He was Joseph, the carpenter. The news saddened him very much, but he thought to himself, “It is the law and must be obeyed.” He feared to tell his wife Mary the bad news, but when she heard the order of the emperor she said mildly, “We shall obey.”



THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Plans were quickly made. The people gathered in small groups. In each group there were several donkeys to carry the little children, the women, and the food. Those going toward the west went in one group, those going toward the south in another. Among those traveling south were Joseph and Mary. They were going to Bethlehem, because they both belonged to the family of David, the great king who was born in Bethlehem.

It was long, tiresome journey for Mary, even though she rode most of the way on one of the donkeys. Riding a donkey over a rough, stony road is not a pleasant thing. But she never complained. When Joseph thought that she was tired, he would drop from the company and rest with her along the roadside.

Some of the friends who left Nazareth with Joseph and Mary withdrew from the group as they passed through the towns of their families. Others joined the company as it went from town to town. When the tired travelers beheld the gray walls of the city of Bethlehem rising from the top of a distant hill, the men cheered with joy. The end of a long and weary journey was in view. They hastened their steps, in order to arrive in the town before nightfall.

IN BETHLEHEM

The sun had already disappeared behind the hills and a cold evening breeze was blowing when the travelers reached the gates of Bethlehem. The gathering shades of twilight had grown deeper and deeper. A prayer of thanks rose from weary hearts. They had come to the end of the journey.

Bethlehem was all astir. There seemed to be crowds of people everywhere. Men, woman, and children were talking and laughing, as they walked down the main street or gathered here and there in small groups. Friends and relatives who saw each other from the first time in years made the town ring with joy and mirth.

How could the little town hold all the people? Never before had such large numbers of men, women, and children passed through its gates. There were no great hotels nor large houses for the visitors. Many had made plans to spend the night in the homes of relatives of friends.



Those who could not do this sought a place in the inn of little hotel. Very soon, however, the owner sent a message through the town, saying that he had no more room.

The pilgrims from distant Nazareth had arrived late. They hastened to the inn, but found no place to stay. The little group scattered in search of places to spend the night. Each family went its own way to find shelter.

The wintry winds that blew across the city were cold, sharp, and biting. Saint Joseph wrapped the Blessed Virgin's shawl closely around her to protect her from the chilly air. She remained near the gates to the city while Joseph went in search of a place for her. Up and down the streets he went, knocking at every door and begging for a place for Mary. As he passed from door to door, he always received the same answer, "We have no room."

Poor Saint Joseph was tired. His heart was heavy and sad. He did not think of himself but he thought of his dearly beloved Mary. He must find a home for her. He took the few coins that he had, and offered them at house after house. Many of the people of the town became angry and slammed the door in his face. Some of the kind people saw Mary near the gate tried to find a home for her, but the task was hopeless.

Joseph was sorry for Mary when he saw that the darkness of night had settled over the town and he had found no place for her. He did not mind the harsh treatment he had received. He did not mind the insults which had been heaped upon him. But it grieved him to tell Mary that nobody wanted them because they were poor. The humble homes of Bethlehem little knew that they were turning the Lord of heaven and earth out into the cold world.

Almost in despair, Joseph approached a group of men standing near the gates of the city. He asked them if they knew of any place where Mary might spend the night. They had heard the same request from so many others that they paid no attention to it. But an old, old story tells of a little boy of twelve years who heard Joseph speak to the men. He noticed the sad disappointed look on Joseph's face, and saw about the head of Mary a strange light that made her appear very beautiful. He shyly walked up to Joseph, and told him of a cave near the foot of a hill beyond the city gates.

There were the first kind words that Joseph had heard since his arrival in Bethlehem. It was now very dark, and Joseph did not know the way to the cave. The good boy was glad to go with him. Joseph placed Mary on the donkey. He led the tired animal by the halter, while the little boy walked ahead of them with a lantern in his hand. It seemed that Joseph's and Mary's only friends were the little boy and the stars twinkling in the sky above them. The story says that Jesus rewarded this boy for his kindness by giving him the gift of faith, and that later He called him to serve as a priest at the altar of God.



4. THE SAVIOUR IS BORN

Joseph and Mary entered the cave. How dark, damp, and cold it was! Joseph raised his lantern to look around. The cave was just a large room carved out of rock. From cracks here and there, could be heard the continual drip, drip, drip of the water as it fell upon the ground. In one corner was the manger—a rather large hole cut the rock, where clean hay and straw were kept. Here Mary sat down to rest. In another part of the cave, an ox lay, quietly eating some hay. Joseph placed his donkey near the ox, and soon all was silent, without and within.

About midnight the cave suddenly brightened with a golden light. A sweet odor like perfume filled the air. The joyful music of angel voices was heard; for in the cave, Jesus, the Infant Saviour, was born. The Lord God of heaven and earth came into the world as a tiny Babe in the cave of Bethlehem.

Joseph knelt in silent adoration before the Holy Child. Mary kissed her Child again and again with all the tenderness of a fond mother's love. The joy of heaven was in her heart as she gazed into the sweet face of the Infant Jesus. He was her Child and she loved Him as her Son and her God.

Now, the Blessed Virgin had no lovely crib in which to place her Babe and she had no pretty clothes to give Him. So she wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes and placed Him in the manger. Yes, a manger filled with straw in a cold, damp cave was the cradle of the Infant Jesus. A large cave dug in the side of a hill, a place without doors or windows, a shelter where the farmer kept his cows, was the first home of the Baby Jesus. How poor, how humble it was!

"The night is so cold," Said Mary. "What shall I do to keep little Jesus warm?" She had already taken the shawl from her own shoulders and wrapped the Christ Child in it. But still He seemed cold. Just then the ox and the donkey walked over to the manger. They knelt before it and warmed the Holy Child with their breath. Sinful men had no place for Him in their homes in Bethlehem, but the ox and the donkey welcomed Him in their cave.

Taken from: "A Child's Garden of Religion Stories,"

Imprimatur 1929







QUIZ ON THE BLESSED VIRGIN

1. What is the canticle of the Blessed Virgin (the Magnificat)?
2. What does the Church celebrate on December 8th?
3. How old was the Blessed Virgin at the birth of Christ?
4. What is meant by the Purification of the Blessed Virgin?
5. The first miracle performed by Our Lord in His public life was done at the request of His mother - what was the miracle?
6. Distinguish between the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth?
7. What is the only event in the life of our Blessed Mother at Nazareth of which the Gospels speak?
8. On what occasion were these words addressed to the Blessed Virgin - "And thy own soul a sword shall pierce?"

FINGERS IN A CHRISTMAS PIE



“Little Jack Horner sat in a corner,
Eating his Christmas pie;
He put in his thumb and pulled out a plum,
And said, ‘what a good boy am I!’”

This familiar old nursery rhyme dates back to an incident in the year 1536. The Benedictine monks of Glastonbury, in England, together with their Abbot, the Blessed Richard Whiting, had steadfastly refused to subscribe to the Oath of Royal Supremacy.

For months King Henry VIII had kept a watchful eye on the community, awaiting some minor infraction of his new laws to give him a pretext for confiscating the Abbey.

It happened that the Abbot, as a matter of policy, desired to transfer the deeds to several manors in Somersetshire which were under his jurisdiction, to Edward Seymour, brother of Jane Seymour, who at the time was Henry’s queen.



The transfer was entirely legal, but in that troubled period it was not safe to send the documents through the usual channels. Finally a device suggested itself.

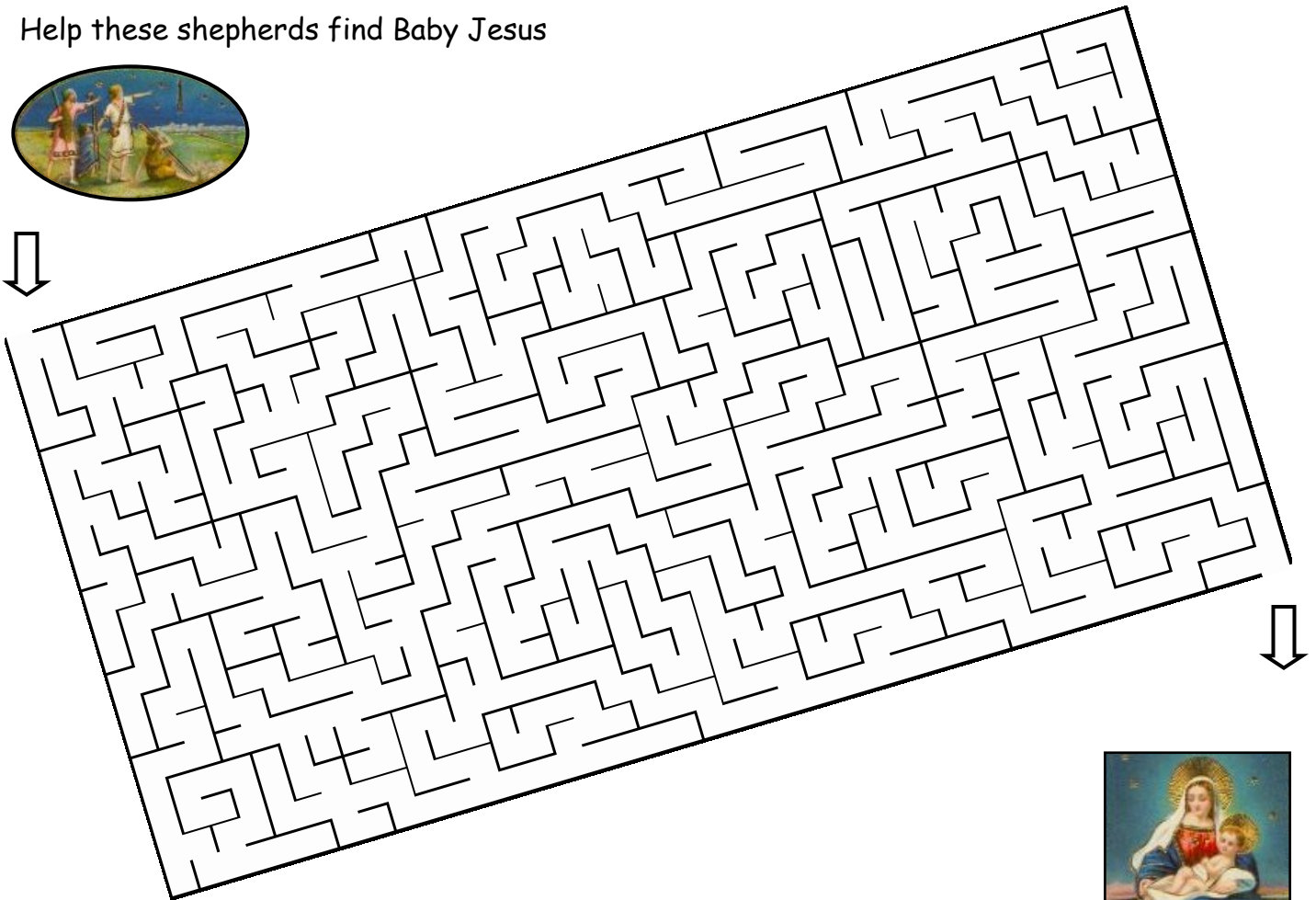
Christmas was near, so a pie was baked and sent as a Christmas present to Edward Seymour. John Horner (the “Jack” of the rhyme) was selected by the Abbot to deliver the gift.

But this Christmas pie was unusual in that beneath its crust valuable deeds were hidden.

While he was delivering the pie, Horner “put in his thumb and pulled out a plum”—that is, he extracted one of the deeds, the title of the Manor of Mells, where the Horner heirs live to this day.

~ “A Christmas Chronicle,” *Imprimatur*, no year listed ~

Help these shepherds find Baby Jesus





A NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS

December 16th is the day to start the Christmas novena.

The following is a novena in honor of the Infant Jesus which can be used at any time, but is usually made during the nine days preceding Christmas, to prepare for the coming of Christ in our hearts, and to obtain some particular favor. We ask especially for a spiritual favor. Being fully recollected in spirit, and respectfully kneeling before an altar or picture of the Nativity of Our Lord, we address the following petition to our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph, beginning with the Sign of the Cross.

PETITION

O most holy Virgin, and blessed St. Joseph, obtain for us the grace to perform this novena with such attention, devotion, and ardent charity, as will entitle us to join the angels in rendering glory to God. Amen.

~Let us say twelve times the Hail Mary, in remembrance of the care and solicitude shown by our Blessed Lady towards the Infant Jesus till His twelfth year.

~Let us make three aspirations, to incline the Infant Jesus to turn His favorable attention on us.

~ O Divine Infant of Bethlehem, Whom we adore and acknowledge to be our sovereign Lord, come and take birth in our hearts. Amen.

~ O Infant Jesus, grant that each moment of our lives, we may pay homage to that moment in which Thou didst begin the work of our salvation. Amen.

~ O holy Mother of Our Infant Saviour, obtain that we may so prepare for His coming, as not to be separated from Him for all eternity. Amen.

Let us pray.

Most holy Infant Jesus, true God and true man, our Saviour and Redeemer; with all earnestness and respect, we beseech Thee, by that charity, humility and bounty, which Thou didst display in Thy Infancy, graciously undertaken for love of us, that Thou vouchsafe to grant us the favor we now beg, if it be for the honor of God and our salvation. Amen.

(Here each one will beg in spirit the particular favor desired~ Pause for a short time.)

O most amiable Infant Jesus, we are most unworthy to be heard in this our petition; but Thy holy Mother, the Virgin Mary, and the great St. Joseph, Thy foster-father while on earth, are worthy to be heard soliciting in our behalf. Then, O divine Infant, being mindful of their most sublime



merits, especially those they acquired during the time they served Thee in Thy infancy in Bethlehem, Thy flight into Egypt, and Thy childhood at Nazareth, vouchsafe to grant our request, and give us grace to promote the honor of Thy omnipotent infancy, to serve Thee with fidelity, as domestic servants, all the days of our lives, and to obtain a happy death, assisted in that last hour by the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, whose zeal for Thy honour will lead us to praise and bless Thy divine mercies forever and ever. Amen.

Anthem

Whilst deep silence dwelt on all things below, and the night was in the midst of its course, the almighty Word came down from its throne. Alleluia.

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, Who didst, for the love of us, vouchsafe to reduce Thy incarnated divinity and most divine humanity to the humiliating state of birth and infancy; grant that we, acknowledging Thy infinite wisdom in Thy infancy, thy power in Thy weakness, and Thy majesty in Thy littleness, may adore Thee, a little one on earth, and behold Thee great in heaven; Who livest and reignest with God the Father, in unity with the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

(I'm sorry I can't give a source for this Novena, years ago I put it in our Family Advent and Christmas Booklets and can't remember where I got it from. It is imprimated, as we don't say prayers that aren't. If anyone else has the source could they please pass it on. Thank you!)

THE BRIGHT STAR OF BETHLEHEM

The bright star of Bethlehem shineth
Over the humble stall;
In the arms of the Virgin reelineth
The Holy One, Lord of us all.
The Shepherds have come to adore Him,
The angels are hovering round;
St. Joseph's gray head bows before Him,
And Mary gives worship profound.
O children, with hearts pure and holy,
With Joseph come bow at His feet;
Like shepherds untutored and lowly,
Hasten the Infant to greet.



Hymns, with your angel, be singing
Who never from His presence departs;
With the Wise Men offerings bringing,
Dear little ones, give Him your hearts.
No crown your Redeemer yet weareth,
The pallet of straw is His throne,
For love He our humble lot sharerth,
And chooseth the Cross for His own.
Mary, beloved! We entreat thee,
Plead that we go not astray,
Until we in Paradise greet thee,
Ever with Jesus to stay.



CHRISTMAS OCTAVE PRAYERS

December 25th to January 1st

HOLY MOTHER CHURCH observes the feast of Christmas with an octave. During these eight days she gathers around the crib those who have shed their blood for Christ. In union with these saints of Christmas-tide ask for the special grace to become as "little children" so as one day to be able to enter the kingdom of heaven.

First Day - Christmas

O sweet Jesus, Who didst become a little child for us, having been born of the Virgin Mary, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, give us the grace to imitate Thy humility, purity, patience, and charity, so that we may become more pleasing to Thee.

Sweet Infant Jesus, be Thou my love!

Second Day - St. Stephen

O St. Stephen, first of the glorious army of martyrs to shed thy blood for Christ, and who didst plead with our Lord for the forgiveness of thy persecutors, obtain for us the grace to imitate thee and to learn to love our enemies.

St. Stephen, pray for us!

Third Day - St. John, Apostle

O St. John, beloved Apostle of Christ, lover of the Incarnate Word, favorite Evangelist, obtain for us a great love for Jesus, a tender devotion to Mary, and courage to remain steadfast in all trials and sufferings of body, mind and soul.

St. John, pray for us!

Fourth Day - Holy Innocents

O all you Holy Innocents, who gave your lives for the Child Jesus, obtain for us the grace to profess our faith not only with our tongue, but mostly by our lives and through our actions, so that like you we may give praise and glory to God.

All you Holy Innocents, pray for us!

Fifth Day - St. Thomas of Canterbury

O great St. Thomas glorious Confessor, who didst fall a victim to the sword of the wicked in the defense of the Church, obtain for us the grace always to defend the divine rights of the Church and never to be ashamed of our faith.

St. Thomas of Canterbury, pray for us!



Sixth Day - Of the Octave of Christmas

Grant we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that as the Saviour of the world, Who was born on this day, is the Author of our divine generation, so He may Himself be to us the giver of immortality.

Sweet Infant Jesus, be Thou my love!

Seventh Day - St. Sylvester

O great St. Sylvester, Pope and Confessor, under whose pontificate the Church began to enjoy the great boon of liberty; obtain for us a great love and devotion to the Divinity of Christ which thou didst defend so ardently.

St. Sylvester, pray for us!

Octave Day - The Circumcision

O sweet Jesus, in Whose Holy Name every knee should bow in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, give unto us a perpetual fear and love of Thy Holy Name, that we may praise and magnify it forever.

Concluding Prayers

O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of the Blessed Virgin Mary hast bestowed upon the human race the reward of eternal salvation ; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may experience her intercession for us, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the author of life, Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, Who with Thee and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

Aspirations to the Infant Jesus

O sweet Jesus, with the angels let me praise Thee; with the shepherds let me see Thee; with St. Joseph let me find Thee.

O sweet Jesus, with Thy holy Mother I will embrace Thee; with the Magi I will adore Thee.

O sweet Jesus, with Thy spouses let me love Thee; with the servants let me serve Thee, live for Thee, honor Thee, and follow Thee.

O sweet Jesus, with all Thy chosen friends especially the saints of Christmas-tide, let me proclaim Thee, suffer for Thee, and finally die for Thee, O Jesus, Who art my Model, my Master, and my King. Amen.

+ Imprimatur ALBERT G. MEYER, S.S.J. Feast of St. Albert, November 15, 1955



THE SHEPHERD BOY

Shamar was a little shepherd boy who lived in Palestine at the time when Our Lord was born as a little Babe at Bethlehem, over two thousand years ago. Poor little Shamar! Why poor? Oh, because he was blind.

One night—it was the first Christmas night—he heard a heavenly voice speaking mysterious words to the shepherds with whom he was camping on the plains near the ancient city of David. There were words about a Child, Christ the King, about tidings of great joy, and then some singing such as he had never heard before—singing the tender sweetness of which thrilled him through and through. Then there had been excited talk among the shepherds tenting there and nearly all of them had hastened away. Shamar wondered.

Early in the morning, however, they all returned, and Shamar had to wonder no longer. The other shepherd boys gathered round him and eagerly told him what they had heard and seen. “Angels appeared to us in a glow of light,” they said, “and told us of the new-born King—Who is Christ the Lord, the long-expected Messiah. They said we would find Him in a stable at Bethlehem, and we hastened thither. And lo, what a lovely sight! There is a poor stable-cave on a hillside we found the Babe with his foster-father and His Mother. He was lying on the straw in the manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes; and His Mother, the sweetest, dearest Lady in the world, was watching over Him so tenderly. His foster-father, Joseph, was kneeling there. An ox and an ass were in the stable, looking on. The Babe was so beautiful we could not take our eyes off Him. He was cold, though, and suffering. Still, He looked at us and smiled and stretched out His little hands. He wanted us to come to Him—and oh! His mother let us kiss Him!”

And all that morning they spoke of nothing but the Babe, the Babe, the Babe. They were going to see Him again that afternoon.

“Oh, do take me with you!” Shamar cried. “I, too, want to visit the little King. Lead me by the hand—please do!”

“But why should you go?” one of the boys, Isaac, asked him. “What will you do there? You are blind; you cannot see.” And he would not offer to take him.

Now, Shamar had a little pet lamb with fleece as white as snow and soft as down, which followed and led him around everywhere. He loved that tiny lamb more than anything else in the world; it was the best friend he had on earth. Isaac had often asked for the lamb, but he would never give it to him. Now, however, he wanted to see the Babe at Bethlehem so badly that he said, “Isaac, if you take me along to the stable, to the Babe, I will give you my little lamb.” This the boy



gladly agreed to; it was a great bargain.

So that afternoon Isaac took Shamar by the hand and led him along to the stable on the hillside. And he took the little lamb, too. He was going to give it away to the new-born King. It would be such a nice present.

They entered the poor, rough cave. With eyes that could not see, Shamar looked towards the place where the Babe lay on the straw. Then from his breast he took his shepherd's flute and began to play his very best pieces for Bethlehem's Boy.

And when Jesus heard the lovely music He looked towards the poor blind shepherd boy and smiled.

The smile was a ray of heavenly sunshine to the lad's darkened eyes. It gave him back his sight and he saw—saw the Child and His Mother and dear St. Joseph, and the ox and the ass, and everything, just as his comrades had told him.

And kneeling down he adored the Babe Who had restored his sight to reward him for his boyish goodness of heart. And he kissed the little hands stretched out to bless him.

~ "Tell us Another," *Imprimatur* 1925 ~

This is a series of Catholic Gazettes for children. We are trying to put a little information in each gazette for all ages. We pray that it will help all to know and love the Faith better. It is put together by the students of St. Catherine's Academy as part of their Language, Religion, Art and Typing Courses. A.M.D.G. We hope you enjoy it. If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments please let us know at : <jwillson61@charter.net>

God Bless all of you!

Tim, the father of this clan, Timmy, Mary, Sarah, Katie, Patrick, Elizabeth and the teacher, Julie. God is good!!

~ ALL ARTICLES ARE MEANT TO BE IN KEEPING WITH THE SOUND TEACHINGS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, WHICH IS THE SAME CHURCH FOUNDED BY OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST AND WILL LAST UNTIL THE END OF TIME.~

Answers to unscramble saints names

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Maxima | 6. Bibiana |
| 2. Sylvester | 7. Stephen |
| 3. Thomas a Becket | 8. Nicholas |
| 4. Lucy | 9. Ambrose |
| 5. Francis Xavier | 10. Holy Innocents |

Answers to Quiz on the Blessed Virgin

1. It is the prayer spoken by the Blessed Virgin Mary in the home of St. Elizabeth after the Annunciation. The canticle begins - "My soul doth magnify the Lord: And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."
2. The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
3. Fourteen years is often said to be her age; the real age is not known.
4. Under the Jewish law, a woman after childbirth presented herself in the Temple as did Mary after the birth of Christ.
5. The changing of water to wine at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee.
6. The Immaculate Conception pertains to Mary's freedom from original sin from the first instant of her conception in the womb of her mother. The Virgin Birth pertains to the fact that Mary was a Virgin before, during and after the birth of Christ.
7. The journey to Jerusalem, when our Lord reached his twelfth year.
8. These words were said by holy Simeon on the occasion of the purification of the Blessed Virgin in the temple (Sunday in the octave of Christmas).

To our Newsletter Recipients:

It is our prayer this Holy Season that the Star of Bethlehem
shine brightly over the door of your hearts . . . and lead you ever closer
To the Light of the world, Our Saviour Jesus Christ! Amen.



We wish you all a very Happy and HOLY Advent and Christmas Season!
With Prayers,
The Willson Family



