

Ways to celebrate the Hol(y)idays during the Christmas Season

<p style="text-align: center;">Feast of St. Stephen</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sing the song "Good King Wenceslas." The story takes place on the Feast of St. Stephen and the message of the song is Christo centric. There is a beautiful version of it narrated by Jane Seymour and song by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. 2. Read the life of St. Stephen from "lives on saints", search him online, down load the new "Saint of the day" app for your phone from Franciscan Media
<p style="text-align: center;">Feast of St. John the Apostle</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the life of... 2. Make a batch of St. John's Wine. It's a delicious mulled wine for a winter day. A cup or Chalice is one of the symbols of John. 3. Read from his Gospel or the Book of Revelations
<p style="text-align: center;">Feast of Holy Innocents</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bless your children, say a prayer for them if they are not with you, say a prayer for all of the children in the parish and Church. Don't forget the innocent taken by abortion. 2. Read Matthew 2:13-18
<p style="text-align: center;">Feast of the Holy Family</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spend time together as a family. Real time. "Worship" the Lord's day any way you want, but with each other. Reach out to your family if they are away from you. Phone, FaceTime, Skype. 2. Meditate on the Holy Family. Use your Nativity scene in your house to help you. Find an image online or in a book you have.
<p style="text-align: center;">Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sing "Ave Maria" or "Salve Regina" or any of your favorite songs for Our Lady. 2. Here is a list of things you can do. 3. Read about one of her apparitions 4. Say a Rosary. "No way" you say? "You have forgotten or never really learn"? Here you go. Even if you just say one decade, HE will be happy. HE wants you to listen to his mother. SHE will take you to HIM. Once only need walk with her.
<p style="text-align: center;">The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bless your homes 20+C+M+B+20 Copies of the ritual blessing will be handed out at Mass the week prior, but copies can be found on the Parish website in the Domestic Church folder. We will also have holy water available at the Church entrances to refill your bottles, as well as blessed white or black chalk.
<p style="text-align: center;">The Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Light your baptismal candle if you still have it. Also, do you and your family know the date of your baptism? 2. Invite Godparents over or at least reach out to them on this day. 3. Say the Apostle Creed for you evening prayer tonight

<p>Octave: means an eight-day celebration, that is, the prolongation of a feast to the eighth day (dies octava) inclusive. The feast itself is considered the first day, and it is followed by six days called "days within the octave." The eighth or octave day is kept with greater solemnity than the "days within the octave"</p>	<p>Solemnity: principal days in the calendar and their observance begins with Evening Prayer I of the preceding day. Some also have their own vigil Mass for use when Mass is celebrated in the evening of the preceding day.</p>	<p>Liturgical Season: White or Gold is the color for Christmas. Which is why we used the Gold/White color for those days. Red is used on feast days of Martyrs in symbol of the blood they spilled for the faith and the Holy Spirit Alive in them. Green Ordinary Time.</p>	<p>December 25</p> <p>Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus the Christ</p> <p>1st day of the Octave of Christmas</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Feast of St. Stephen, 1st Martyr for the Faith</p> <p>2nd day of the Octave of Christmas</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Feast of St. John the Apostle</p> <p>3rd day of the Octave of Christmas</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Feast of the Holy Innocents of Judea</p> <p>4th day of the Octave of Christmas</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Feast of the Holy Family</p> <p>5th day of the Octave of Christmas</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6th day of the Octave of Christmas</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7th day of the Octave of Christmas</p>	<p>January 1</p> <p>The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God "Theotokos"</p> <p>8th day of the Octave of Christmas Season</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>9th day of Christmas Season</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>10th day of Christmas Season</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>11th day of Christmas Season</p>
<p>5</p> <p>The Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>12th day of Christmas Season</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>13th day of Christmas Season</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>14th day of Christmas Season</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>15th day of Christmas Season</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>16th day of Christmas Season</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Merry Christmas!</p> <p>17th day of Christmas Season</p>
<p>12</p> <p>The Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ</p> <p>The last day of the Christmas Season</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Ordinary Time, Again</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Apart from those seasons having their own distinctive character, thirty-three or thirty-four weeks remain in the yearly cycle that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Rather, especially on the Sundays, they are devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. This period is known as Ordinary Time</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>