



**The month of December
is dedicated to the
Immaculate Conception**

December 2025 — Overview for the Month

The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as of [Advent](#) and are represented by the liturgical color purple—a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the [Christmas](#) season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2025

For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope. (See also <http://popesprayerusa.net/>)

Feasts for December 2025

3. [Francis Xavier](#), *Memorial*
 6. [Nicholas](#), *Opt. Mem.*
 7. [SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT](#), *Sunday*
 8. **[IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY](#)**, *Solemnity*
 9. [Juan Diego \(USA\)](#), *Opt. Mem.*
 11. [Damasus I](#), *Opt. Mem.*
 12. **[Our Lady of Guadalupe \(USA\)](#)**, *Feast*
 13. [Lucy](#), *Memorial*
 14. [THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY](#), *Sunday*
 21. [FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT; O Oriens \(O Dayspring\)](#), *Sunday*
 23. [John of Kanty; O Emmanuel](#), *Opt. Mem.*
 25. **[NATIVITY OF THE LORD \(Christmas\)](#)**, *Solemnity*
 26. **[Stephen](#)**, *Feast*
 27. **[John, Apostle](#)**, *Feast*
 28. **[Feast of the Holy Family](#)**, *Feast*
 29. [Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas; Thomas Becket](#), *Opt. Mem.*
 31. [Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas; Sylvester I](#), *Opt. Mem.*
-

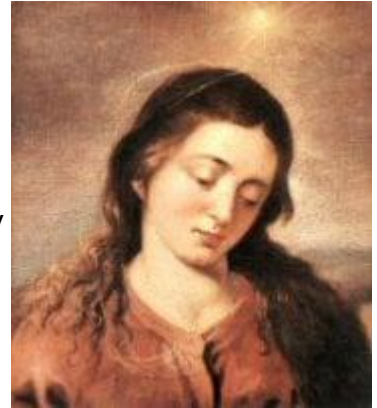
Focus of the Liturgy

The Gospels for the four Sundays in December 2025 are taken from St. Matthew, Cycle A in the Lectionary Cycle. The Weekday readings are from Year II.

December 1st First Sunday of Advent	Matthew 24:37-44: Stay awake, that you may be prepared!
December 8th Second Sunday of Advent	Matthew 3:1-12: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!
December 15th Third Sunday of Advent	Matthew 11:2-11: Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?
December 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent	Matthew 1:18-24: Jesus will be born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.
December 25th Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord [Christmas]	Vigil: Matthew 1:1-25: The genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David Mass During the Night: Luke 2:1-14: Today a Savior has been born for you. Mass at Dawn: Luke 2:15-20: The shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant. Mass During the Day: John 1:1-18: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
December 28th Feast of the Holy Family	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23: Take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.

Highlights of the Month

The liturgy of Advent focuses on remembering Christ's first coming at Bethlehem which then directs our mind to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. The readings focus on the people of the Old Testament awaiting the Messiah, John the Baptist, heralding the way for Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary and her maternal preparations.



The liturgy of Advent focuses on remembering Christ's first coming at Bethlehem which then directs our mind to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. The readings focus on the people of the Old Testament awaiting the Messiah, John the Baptist, heralding the way for Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary and her maternal preparations.

The main feasts of Advent are:

St. Francis Xavier (December 3),
St. John Damascene (December 4),
St. Nicholas (December 6),
St. Juan Diego (December 9),
Immaculate Conception (December 9),
Our Lady of Loreto (December 10),
St. Damasus I (December 11),
Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12),
St. Lucy (December 13),
and **St. John of Kanty** (December 23).

Christmastide begins with the First Vespers (Evening Prayer) of Christmas on December 24th and ends on the Sunday after Epiphany. The Solemnity of Epiphany is transferred to January 5 in the United States in 2025. Christmas and Easter are the only solemnities with octaves attached in the current calendar. The Christmas Octave differs from Easter in that it includes some major and minor feasts: **St. Stephen, Protomartyr** (December 26), **St. John the Evangelist** (December 27), the **Holy Innocents** (December 28), **St. Thomas Becket** (December 29) and **St. Sylvester I** (December 31). The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday within the octave, or on December 30 if there is no Sunday. The octave day is on January 1, **the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**.

The feasts of **St. Ambrose** (December 7), **St. John of the Cross** (December 14), **St. Peter Canisius** (December 21) and **Holy Innocents** (December 28) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy.

The Reason for the Season

The month of December is filled with expectation and celebration. Preparation is the key word for the first 24 days of December. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas — shopping and decorating, baking and cleaning. Too often, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the real reason for our activity.

Christmas is a Christian feast — and we must reclaim it as such! In the same way that a family eagerly prepares for a baby, so in Advent should we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. We should keep Advent as a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and of hope and keep our thoughts on the incredible love and humility of our God in taking on the flesh of the Virgin Mary. Let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein our Savior may come to dwell.

The best person we can turn to for help during Advent is Mary, Christ's and our Mother. She awaited the day of His birth with more eagerness than any other human being. Her preparation was complete in every respect. Let's crown our preparation and borrow something of Mary's prayerfulness, her purity and whole-hearted submission to God's will.

