

LITURGY BYTES

Merry Christmas

We made it, and now it is Christmas! Did you know Christmas is an actual liturgical season that lasts through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord? Be prepared to hear Christmas carols at Mass through the weekend of January 6 and 7, as the Baptism of the Lord falls on Monday, January 8, this year! Many blessings and happy moments are shared by one and all at this time of the year.



On the weekend in between Christmas and New Year's, the Church celebrates another beautiful feast, that of the Holy Family. I have a beautiful statue of the Holy Family given to me by some special people many years ago that has sat in my bedroom on my dresser for the past 35+ years. I think about the significance of it more than ever at this time of the year. This feast celebrates the sanctity of the holy family but also celebrates the family unit.

Devotion to the Holy Family became more popular during the 15th century mainly through works of art. It was during that time that the Holy Family was presented as the ideal for Christian families which is still most important today. In 1921, the feast was a liturgical celebration in the Church, added to the Roman calendar by Pope Benedict XV. Since 1969, the feast has been celebrated during the season of Christmas.

This is a day for all of us to reflect on our own family life. It is a day people can think about how they can strengthen communication between all family members and perhaps how to heal past wounds. What a wonderful example we have to guide us and our families by looking at Jesus' earthly family!

Have a most blessed season with good health and happiness! ~~ *Michele Hall*