

# THE CROSS.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal. vi. 14.

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## Weekly Calendar.

- Dec. 24 Sunday IV of Advent. Vigil of Nativity, Vesp. of following festival.
- 25 Monday, NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, Holy Day of Obligation, At Vesp. com. of following festival.
- 26 Tuesday, S Stephen, First Martyr.
- 27 Wednesday, S John, Apostle and Evangelist.
- 28 Thursday, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs.
- 29 Friday, S Thomas, of Canterbury, B and Mart.
- 30 Saturday of the Octave of Nativity.

## DISCOURSE ON THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD.

*“B’old I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people, for this city is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the City of David.”—St. Luke ii. 10, 11.*

If there ever was a time, O Christian when your faith should be enlivened, your hope excited, or your love inflamed; when all the acts of humility, purity, gratitude, and praise, which have been elicited from the time you drew your first breath, should be united in the common adoration of your God, it is certainly in the present solemnity of this day and of humiliation.

Let your Faith be strengthened, for the object of it has descended upon the earth.

Let your hope be enlivened: for the “Desire of the Eternal Hills” has verified the predictions of his Prophets, and fulfilled the promises which he made to his servants.

Let your love know bounds, for a God has become man; heaven and earth are united together—the angels are astonished—a daughter of guilty Eve is at the same time a mother and a virgin, and all this for your interest and happiness!

Let your humility be unexampled; for he that was rich, has, for your sake, become poor; the God of God—the Light of Light—the Splendour of Heaven—the Omnipotent—Immense—Eternal Jesus, has for you concealed all the resplendent rays of his glory under the vilest rags, within the confined compass of a crib, in the midst of a desolate stable!

Let your purity shine forth with the lustre of a polished mirror, untarnished by a single breath; for your illustrious Mother now receives the full recompense of her angelic innocence; though ennobled by the dignity of Heaven’s Queen, and enraptured by the joys of the Mother of a God, she still breathes an unspotted Lily of the Valley—all the undying fragrance of Virgin bloom.

Let your gratitude be immeasurable; for your redeeming Jesus, amid the loneliness and misery of Bethlehem, comes smiling to earth to expiate your crimes, and the inestimable price of your atonement already flows through his infant veins.

Let your praise and thanksgiving, for so singular a mercy, be uninterrupted and ardent: for Heaven has dispatched