

EUCHARISTIC LESSONS

FROM

Our Heavenly Mother's Life.**The Christmas Message**

The Preparation: The long months that intervened between the Angel's Visit and the blessed day when the world's Redeemer first saw the light were passed by our Sweet Lady in most eager and fervent preparation. So intense was her desire to see Him face to face that the Church celebrates a special feast in its honor—that of “The Expectation.”

How beautiful, how perfect were the dispositions in which Mary made ready for the coming of Jesus! She who was always holy, always spotless, considered herself, nevertheless, unworthy of this unspeakable favor, and it was with the deepest humility that she prepared to look upon the face of her Son. But who shall tell the love with which her heart overflowed as the moment approached which she desired so ardently? Mary had always loved her God with a love so perfect, so adoring, that the love of all the Saints for their Creator could not approach it, and now she knew that the Son of God was her Son; that it would be given to her to gaze upon His sweet Infant face, to clasp Him in her arms; that she would be near to Him as no created being was ever near; that He would love her with the closest, fondest love; that she would be permitted to work for Him, to minister to Him, to cherish Him as her Son even while she adored Him as her God. Oh! what wonder that she sighed for the fruition of her holy desires, that she awaited the coming of Jesus with yearning love.

Does not our Lord come to us, too, in Holy Communion, uniting Himself to our souls and taking up His