

30th. St. Andrew, apostle. Having preached the gospel in Thrace and Scythia, he was apprehended by Egeas the Proconsul; he was first imprisoned, the most cruelly beaten, and lastly fastened to a cross, where he lived two days, preaching to the people; and having besought our Lord not to permit him to be taken down, encompassed with a great light from Heaven, he gave up his blessed soul, at Patras in Achaian the year sixty-nine.

DECEMBER.

8th.—*Conception of the glorious and ever B. V. Mary*, mother of God; a feast instituted by St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the year one thousand and seventy, and commanded afterwards by Sixtus IV, to be generally observed, in the year fourteen hundred and forty-six.

21st.—St. Thomas, apostle; having preached the gospel to the Parthians, Medes, Persians, and Hyrcans, he went into India, where he instructed the people in the Christian faith; for which, by the King's command, he was pierced through the body with lances, and gave up his blessed soul at Salamina, in the year forty-four.

25th.—*Christ's Nativity*, a solemn festival celebrated annually by the Catholic Church from the time of the Apostles, in commemoration of our Saviours birth at Bethlehem, called Christmas from the mass then celebrated in honour of his holy birth. The nativity of our Lord is a great subject of joy to Christians: all ought to participate in the joy which the angels declared to the shepherds, Christ being born for the salvation of all. This joy consists in giving glory to God and in relishing the peace given to men of good will. The faithful ought to give great attention to this adorable mystery. They ought not to fail to receive the most holy sacrament; they ought to go to church as the shepherds went to Bethlehem, full of faith, admiration and gladness; beholding the Son of God made man; they ought to adore him, to give him thanks, to learn from the child Jesus humility, simplicity, a contempt of riches, flying from honours, a retirement from the world, self-denial, the love of sufferings, mortification, penance; they ought to reflect on the excess of charity, wherewith the Eternal Father hath loved us, having given to us his only Son, to deliver us from sin; and, by such a reflection, to excite themselves to love God with their whole heart, and most earnestly to hate sin.

16.—St. Stephen, the first martyr after Christ's ascension, was stoned to death by the Jews, in the year thirty-four.

17.—St. John, apostle and evangelist; after writing his gospel, his banishment, and receiving his Revelations, lived to the time of Trajan the emperor, and both founded and governed the Churches of Asia. Finally, worn out with old age,