

Liturgy Reminders-Christmas 2018

- The 4th Sunday of Advent falls on December 23rd.
 - Plan an environment that allows a simple transition from Advent to Christmas.
- The Christmas season extends from evening on 12/24 through the Baptism of the Lord on 1/13.
 - Extend your Christmas environment throughout; keep it fresh.
- The Manger
 - For the blessing of the manger, see the Book of Blessings, (BB #1541-1569).
 - Find a location that is accessible to the people. Avoid placing the manger in front of the altar or anywhere in the sanctuary (BB #1544).
 - The blessing may be given by the priest, deacon or lay minister (BB #1546).
- The Proclamation of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - This is an option for evening prayer of Christmas Eve or Christmas Mass during the Night.
 - Find the rubrics and an updated text of the Proclamation in the last pages of “Appendix One” of the Roman Missal.
 - If used at Mass, it occurs before Mass begins. It “may not replace any part of the Mass” (RM, Appendix I).
- At the Creed in all Christmas Masses, the Roman Missal calls for all to kneel at the words “and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate” (RM). This may help assemblies focus on a broader understanding of the Incarnation, “God with us” now, rather than solely on the historical birth of the Christ child. Suggestions:
 - Before the Creed begins, say that there will be a pause to kneel at the mention of the Incarnation after the words “he came down from heaven.”
 - At that point, ask all to kneel “as you are able.”
 - After “and became man,” pause for a few seconds of silence and then say. “Please stand.” After the echo of kneelers has stopped, continue the Creed with: “For our sake he was crucified...”

Many of these reminders are found in the Ordo.

Have a blessed Christmas Season!