

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Is 2:1-5

Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

DECEMBER 4

Advent Weekday

Is 11:1-10

Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday

Is 25:6-10a

Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

DECEMBER 6

Advent Weekday

Is 26:1-6

Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

DECEMBER 7

*St. Ambrose, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church*

Is 29:17-24

Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

DECEMBER 8

*Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Gn 3:9-15, 20

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12

Lk 1:26-38

Sunday

DECEMBER 9

*Second Sunday
of Advent*

Bar 5:1-9

Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

Lk 3:1-6

Dear Padre,

I noticed in our Sunday bulletin that our parish is setting up a Jesse tree and a giving tree for Advent. What are these trees?

Parishes and families use the Jesse tree and the giving tree as two distinct ways to prepare for the coming of Jesus, the child king.

We use the Jesse tree to remember Jesus' own royal family tree. The Gospel of Matthew traces Jesus' genealogy back to Abraham (1:1-17), while Luke lists his ancestors back to Adam (3:23-28). The purpose is to connect Jesus to Abraham and Adam, and convey the historical longing of the Chosen People for a messiah. Throughout Advent, names of significant figures in Israelite history and quotations from the Hebrew Testament are hung on the branches. Usually, the Jesse tree is placed in a prominent position, in church or at home, so all can see the history of Jesus unfold as we get ever closer to Christmas.

The giving tree challenges each parish family or member to buy a gift for someone in need. The parish sets up a tree that is decorated with tags suggesting gifts for those in need. Clothing sizes and children's ages are connected with the requests on the tree, so that the givers can easily get the needed items and take their gifts to the church by a designated date. The gifts are then distributed before Christmas. The giving tree unites us to the great message Jesus continues to give us at Christmas: Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me (see Matthew 25:40).

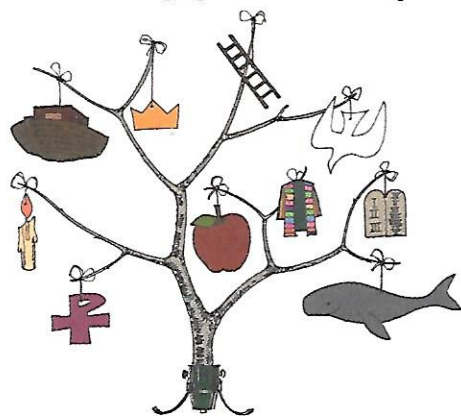


ILLUSTRATION: JIM COBBETT

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From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications



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A Word From Pope Francis

Christmas is near, the signs of his approach are evident along our streets and in our houses....These outward signs invite us to welcome the Lord who always comes and knocks at our door, knocks at our heart, in order to draw near to us.

—Angelus, December 11, 2016



A Redemptorist Ministry

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