

Tonight at 6:45: The  
Novena in honor of the  
Sorrowful Mother.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
December 6, 1957

Tomorrow: First Saturday of  
the month -- Fatima Devotions  
in private.

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About Tomorrow's Fast And Abstinence  
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Tomorrow is the Vigil of the Immaculate Conception -- a day of fast and abstinence. You are exempted if you eat on campus. This exemption applies to faculty, students, visitors, employees, etc. The Bishop extends this exemption to the Off-Campus students, provided they give no scandal by eating in public downtown where everyone else is bound to observe the fast and abstinence. You, too, if you leave the campus for a weekend, or if you go downtown, you are likewise bound by the general laws of fast and abstinence. Your exemption is local only. Tomorrow is one of those days like Friday -- when you are not allowed to eat meat even at the principal meal taken off the campus.

While the Mass for the Feast is assigned to Monday, there is no obligation to assist at Mass on Monday. But your spirit of filial devotion to the Mother of God may draw you to the chapel on that day. It should.

It's Advent, Too  
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Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas -- for the coming of Our Lord. The world waited four thousand years for this event; and it is this long period of waiting that the Church calls to our attention. The liturgy is redolent of hope and longing for this tremendous event -- the happiest moment in the history of mankind, because it marked the day of salvation for all humanity. The Church also reminds us that Christ will come again in glory and triumph at the end of the world.

And again, the Church recalls to our minds the true meaning of Christmas -- that it is something more than the meaning given by the hucksters in the market place. The Church wants us to participate in the great hope of eternal salvation through the coming of this Child Who was also God; and that it is through Him that we shall be delivered from injustice and selfishness; from violence, hatred, and war. The Church even recommends that we practice a kind of joyful penance these days -- the more to purify ourselves, and so imitate the goodness of the Child in the manger. She tells us that the world has need of Christ and His teachings, and begs us to imitate Him more and more in our daily lives. These are the days the Church prays that His Kingdom may come! -- in the factory, in the office, on the farm, in our houses, on our streets, in our cities, and in all our human communities among nations, on earth as in Heaven!

Don't Miss This One  
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There's no more gracious gesture you can make at this time of year than participate in the Novena for Parents which begins next Tuesday. It's something distinctive, and in the best Notre Dame tradition. But it's going to take a little sacrifice on your part -- offering your Mass, Communion, and Rosary for nine days in a row! But there are few, if any, other gifts in this world they would prefer -- because it's a token of love. It's a gift that can't be bought in any store by anyone. This has to come from your own heart and your own energies. You know Mother and Dad are worthy of your best -- don't let them down on this one!

Later, next week, at the pamphlet racks you'll find Christmas Novena Cards and envelopes, with a fitting message that explains your spiritual gesture adequately. If your parents are dead, this novena will be the only gift possible to give them.

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PRAYERS - Deceased: father of Fr. Lauck, CSC; brother of Fr. Coughlin, CSC; mother of Brother Ronald, CSC; 2 friends of John Mack of Walsh; Tom Fitzgerald, 34; Mark Nieman, '53; aunt of Tom Burke of Dillon; John Murphy, '55; James Boland, '17; mother of Frank McBride, '50. Ill: wife of Willard Moss; cousin of Jim O'Day of Keenan.