

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.
Dec. 18, 1924.

The Three Masses on Christmas Day.

The Church permits her priests to say three Masses on Christmas Day to indicate the three-fold birth of Christ, according to the distinction of His two natures and also of the graces He confers on us.

The first Mass reminds us of His divine birth from His Heavenly Father, according to His divine nature. The second, of the temporal birth of Christ of the Virgin Mary, according to His human nature, and the third, of the spiritual birth of Christ in the hearts of Christians by His Sacraments and grace.

The Midnight Mass.

Mass is celebrated at midnight to remind us first, that the eternal birth of Christ is, for us, hidden in mystery; second, that Christ was born at midnight; third, that those who lived under the laws of ~~Moses~~ like the shepherds to whom the birth of Christ was announced, did not have as clear a knowledge of God as we have, second, that the shepherds came about dawn to Bethlehem to adore the new-born Christ.

The third Mass is celebrated at broad daylight to remind us, first, that the birth of Christ has given us the broad light of the knowledge of God, second, that the spiritual birth of Christ takes place under the influence of His enlightening grace.

Wherever it is not possible to celebrate the three Masses in the order given above, they nevertheless conform to this spirit in so far as circumstances permit.

Intentions: Adore the Divine Child in His three-fold birth. Receive Holy Communion. Pray for the team; Van Wallace; Notre Dame.

Spend the day at home.

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Prefect of Religion.