
It's The Family That Makes Christmas

It took a family -- the Holy Family -- to make the first Christmas. And you won't be keeping the day properly, unless you spend it with your family -- with people you know, and love, and want. Christmas was never intended to be spent alone. Christmas is for people -- lots of people whom you know, and whose company you enjoy. There most of all, should you find, and lend merriment.

Because Christmas is a family day, spend it at home. And it's a warming experience to begin it by all going off together to Midnight Mass, and listening to the simple story of the Gospel of St. Luke, and finding nourishment in the Eucharist, and weighing the song of the angels: "Peace on earth to men of good will!" Don't overlook the images in the crib. And join in the carols, whether you can sing or not, because no other day pretends to match music with the melodies of Christmastide.

Christmas is people -- it is the Divine Person becoming Man. It is people recalling the tremendous good tidings that a Saviour has been born to them in the city of David, born as a Child of Mary ever Virgin; that this Child Who was God from all eternity came in flesh to dwell among us, and to communicate divine life to us; and that His coming lighted the face of a dark, sad world. It is a simple story filled with wonder, because it partakes of both the human and the divine elements in God.

Don't miss this spiritual note -- it comes but once a year in this fashion!

A tree, decorated and lighted, is the gateway to a new wonderland in your own home. It does as much, too, for the neighborhood, and so makes you a benefactor of the community. You should never grow too old to enjoy a Christmas tree.

Home Is The Place

Make it a point to spend the day with the family. Indeed, it would be wonderful to have all the household sit down to dinner at the same time. And so, don't give the house a rapid wave and a "phone-number-to-call-if-we-are-wanted" directive, as you skip off to a gathering of cronies. The cronies themselves ought to be at home.

Everyone loves gifts; and so, give something to someone -- maybe not a Cadillac, or Standard Oil stock -- but maybe an outrageous tie, or a box of salt-water taffy. And take time to thank people for your own good fortune.

Have fun at Christmas! Help make it a merry occasion for the family. Tell them about school -- even that you and Frank won 9 and tied 1 -- might have won 10 had he listened to you! For once you'll have an audience. After all these weeks at Notre Dame you'll be amazed how rich and rewarding is the Feast of the Christ Child in the company of those who love you most, and in turn deserve your affection. And don't ever forget this: in much of the world today, there are laws against Christ's Mass, and Christmas trees, and happy family gatherings. Indeed, you are lucky to have a home to go to for Christmas. Make the most of it.

Vacation Reminder

"I don't believe that God made men from monkeys,
But I have before my desk upon a shelf
An image of an ape as a reminder
That a man can make a monkey of himself!"

PRAYERS -- Deceased: grandmother of Joe McGinn of Alumni; grandmother of Bob Montgomery of Old College; uncle of Jim Nerad, '47; grandmother of Dick Ehr (off-campus).
Ill: Julius Leptak (off-campus) very ill in St. Joseph's Hospital (operation).