

Compiled by Michael Pekar for the Area Catholic Community of, Lastrup, Harding, Pierz and Buckman.  
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December 21 Monday

CCC 2826 By prayer we can discern "what is the will of God" and obtain the endurance to do it.<sup>1</sup> Jesus teaches us that one enters the kingdom of heaven not by speaking words, but by doing "the will of my Father in heaven."<sup>2</sup>

December 22 Tuesday

CCC 2828 "He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."<sup>3</sup>

December 23 Wednesday

CCC 2832 As leaven in the dough, the newness of the kingdom should make the earth "rise" by the Spirit of Christ.<sup>4</sup> This must be shown by the establishment of justice in personal and social, economic and international relations, without ever forgetting that there are no just structures without people who want to be just.

December 24 Thursday CHRISTMAS EVE

CCC 2835 This petition, with the responsibility it involves, also applies to another hunger from which men are perishing: "Man does not live by bread alone, but . . . by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God,"<sup>5</sup> that is, by the Word he speaks and the Spirit he breathes forth. Christians must make every effort "to proclaim the good news to the poor." There is a famine on earth, "not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD."<sup>6</sup> For this reason the specifically Christian sense of this fourth petition concerns the Bread of Life: the Word of God accepted in faith, the Body of Christ received in the Eucharist.<sup>7</sup>

December 25 Friday CHRISTMAS

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<sup>1</sup> Rom 12:2; cf. Eph 5:17, cf Heb 10:36

<sup>2</sup> ⇒ Mt 7:21.\*

<sup>3</sup> ⇒ Mt 5:45.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. AA 5.

<sup>5</sup> ⇒ Deut 8:3; ⇒ Mt 4:4.

<sup>6</sup> ⇒ Am 8:11.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. ⇒ Jn 6:26-58.

CCC 525 Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family.<sup>8</sup> Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty heaven's glory was made manifest.<sup>9</sup>

December 26 Saturday

CCC 2842 ... It is impossible to keep the Lord's commandment by imitating the divine model from outside; there has to be a vital participation, coming from the depths of the heart, in the holiness and the mercy and the love of our God. Only the Spirit by whom we live can make "ours" the same mind that was in Christ Jesus.<sup>10</sup> Then the unity of forgiveness becomes possible and we find ourselves "forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave" us.<sup>11</sup>

December 27 Sunday

CCC 2843 ... "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."<sup>12</sup> It is there, in fact, "in the depths of the heart," that everything is bound and loosed. It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession.

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<sup>8</sup> Cf. Lk 2:6-7.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. ⇒ Lk 2:8-20.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. ⇒ Gal 5:25; ⇒ Phil 2:1,5.

<sup>11</sup> ⇒ Eph 4:32.

<sup>12</sup> Cf. ⇒ Mt 18:23-35