



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

September 8th

Dom Prosper Guéranger



The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Giotto, in the Scrovegni Chapel, Padua, Italy (c. 1305)

Andrew of Crete [650-712; Archbishop of Crete] calls this day a solemnity of entrance, a feast of beginning, whose end is the union of the Word with our flesh; a virginal feast, full of joy and confidence for all. “All ye nations, come hither,” cries St. John Damascene; “come every race and every tongue, every age and every dignity, let us joyfully celebrate the birthday of the world’s gladness.” “It is the beginning of salvation, the origin of every feast,” says St. Peter Damian, “for behold! the Mother of the Bridegroom is born. With good reason does the whole world rejoice today; and the Church, beside herself, bids her choirs sing wedding songs.”

Not only do the Doctors of the East and West use similar language in praise of Mary’s birth, but moreover the Latin and Greek Churches sing, each in its own tongue, the same beautiful formula to close the office of the feast: “Thy birth, O Virgin Mother of God, brought joy to the whole world: for out of thee arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God: who, taking off the curse, hath bestowed blessing; and, defeating death, hath given us life everlasting.”

Together with the Church, let us ask, as the fruit of this sweet feast, for that peace which seems to flee ever farther and farther from our unhappy times. Our Lady was born during the second of the three periods of universal peace wherewith the reign of Augustus was blessed, the last of which ushered in the Prince of peace himself.

The temple of Janus is closed; in the eternal City a mysterious fountain of oil has sprung up from the spot where the first sanctuary of the Mother of God is one day to be built; signs and portents are multiplied; the whole world is in expectation; the poet has sung: “Behold the last age, foretold by the Sybil, is at hand; behold the great series of new worlds is beginning; behold the Virgin!”

In Judæa, the scepter has been taken away from Juda; but the usurper of his power, Herod the Idumæan, is hastening to complete the splendid restoration which will enable the second Temple worthily to receive within its walls the Ark of the New Covenant.

It is the sabbatical month, the first of the civil year, the seventh of the sacred cycle; the month of Tisri which begins the repose of each seventh year, and in which is announced the holy year of Jubilee; the most joyous of months, with its solemn Neomenia celebrated with trumpets and singing, its feast of Tabernacles, and the commemoration of the completion of Solomon’s Temple.

Our weak human nature, subject to time, can conceive of things only according to the series of their progressive evolutions; but God sees them independently of time, which He rules with His eternity; He sees them in the order of mutual dependence in which He has placed them with a view to the manifestation of His glory. With God, the beginning and the principle of every work is the purpose for which it is done. Now the Most High acts outside Himself solely to reveal Himself, by His Word made Flesh and become the Son of a created Mother as He is the Son of the Creator. The God-Man as end, Mary as the means: such is the object of the eternal decrees, the purpose of the world’s existence, the fundamental conception, with regard to which all else is but accessory and dependent.



Manuscript Illumination with the Birth of the Virgin, from a Gradual of Santa Maria degli Angeli ca. 1375, by Don Silvestro de’ Gherarducci Italia, Made in Florence, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Institute of Christ the King GENERAL CHAPTER 2021



Priests ordained in July give first blessings to their bretheren who were unable to travel for the Ordination ceremonies

✦ Please continue to pray for the superiors of the Institute and all canons who attended this year's Chapter.



✦ Please continue to pray for a speedy and complete recovery of His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, who is recovering from COVID-19. His Eminence made much progress in recent days and we wish to invite all faithful to continue their generous prayers on behalf of Cardinal Burke."

SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS
Sun	5 th Sep	12:30 pm	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	PI
Mon	6 th Sep	10:00 am	Votive Mass of the Most Holy Trinity	PI
Tue	7 th Sep	6:30 pm	Votive Mass of the Angels	PI
Wed	8 th Sep	10:00 am	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	PI
Thu	9 th Sep	6:30 pm	St. Gorgonius, Martyr	PI
Fri	10 th Sep	10:00 am	St. Nicolas of Tolentino, Confessor	PI
Sat	11 th Sep	10:00 am	Our Lady of Saturday	PI
Sun	12 th Sep	12:30 pm	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	PI

All Masses (incl. Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday) are at St. Winefride's Church, 187 Crowmere Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 5LA.

Note that Adoration and Benediction on Tuesdays and Thursdays start at 5.30 pm before the 6.30 pm Mass.

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