

JANUARY 2025
@ Christ the King Catholic Church, Sarasota, FL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Sunday in the Octave of Christmas 7 am (frp), 8:30 am (frv), & 10:30 am (frh) & 12:30 pm Masses (frh) Ocala-4:30 pm Mass (frv)	30 6 th Day in the Octave of Christmas 12 noon Mass 3:30 Vespers Ocala – 7 am Mass	31 7 th Day in the Octave of Christmas 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions	January 1, 2025 A.D. Octave Day of Our Lord (holy day of obligation) 8:30 am (frh), 10:30 am (frv), & 12:30 pm (frh) Masses Ocala – no Mass	2 Feria of Christmastide 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 3 pm staff meeting 4; 30 pm Vespers 5-8 pm Adoration 5:30-6:30 pm Confessions (frh)	3 1st Friday / Sacred Heart of Jesus 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 Holy Hour 6:30 pm Mass 7 pm Young Adults	4 1st Saturday / Immaculate Heart of Mary 7 am Mass & devotions 9 am Mass & devotions 4:30 pm Vespers Ocala-10:30 am Mass (frv)
5 Holy Name of Jesus 7 am (frh), 8:30 am (frh), 10:30 am (frv) & 12:30 pm (frv) Masses. Ocala-4:30 pm Mass (frh) & Blessing of Epiphany Water after Mass	6 The Epiphany of the Lord 10:30 am Blessing of Epiphany Water 12 noon Mass 1-3 pm St Theresa Devotions Guild (hall/chapel) 4:30 pm Vespers 6:30 pm sung Mass Ocala - 7 am Mass	7 Feria of Epiphany (Mass of Epiphany) 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions	8 Feria of Epiphany <i>Confessor</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	9 Feria of Epiphany 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 3 pm staff meeting 4:30 pm Vespers 5-6 pm Youth Catechism	10 Feria of Epiphany 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 Holy Hour 6:30 pm Mass	11 St Hyginus 9 am Mass 10 am Server Practice 4:30 pm Vespers
12 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 7 am (frv), 8:30 am (frv), 10:30 am (frh) & 12:30 pm (frh) Masses Ocala-4:30 pm Mass (frv)	13 Commemoration of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ 12 noon Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 6-7 pm Adult Catechism Ocala - 7 am Mass	14 St Hillary, <i>Bishop & Doctor</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions 6:30-8 pm Women’s Book Club (frv)	15 St Paul the First Hermit, <i>Confessor</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 9-5 pm CTK Day at PP	16 St Marcellus I, <i>Pope & Martyr</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 3 pm staff meeting 4:30 pm Vespers 6:30 pm St Joseph Guild	17 St Anthony, <i>Abbot</i> 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 Holy Hour 6:30 pm Mass	18 Votive Mass of the Chair of St Peter 6:45 am Mass 7:30 am Pro-Life Bus departs to Ave Maria (Youth Group) 5 pm Bus returns 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers
19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 7 am (frh), 8:30 am (frh), 10:30 am (frv) & 12:30 pm (frv) Masses Ocala-4:30 pm Mass (frh)	20 Ss Fabian, Pope & Sabastian, <i>Martyr</i> 12 noon Mass 4:30 Vespers 6-7 pm Adult Catechism Ocala – 7 am Mass	21 St Agnes, <i>Virgin & Martyr</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face devotions 6:30-7 pm Archconfraternity of the Holy Face (3 rd Tuesdays)	22 Votive Mass for Peace (day of penance for the sin of abortion) 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	23 St Raymond of Penafort, <i>Confessor</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 3 pm staff meeting 4:30 pm Vespers 5-6 pm Youth Catechism	24 St Timothy, <i>Bishop & Martyr</i> 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 Holy Hour 6:30 pm Mass	25 The Conversion of St Paul, <i>Apostle</i> 9 am Mass 10 am Potluck & Rosary 4:30 pm Vespers
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 7 am (frv), 8:30 am (frv), 10:30 am (frh) & 12:30 pm (frh) Masses Ocala-4:30 pm Mass (frv)	27 St John Chrysostom, <i>Bishop & Doctor</i> 12 noon Mass 4:30 Vespers 6-7 pm Adult Catechism Ocala – 7 am Mass	28 St Peter Nolasco, <i>Confessor</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass 10:15 am Holy Face Devotions 6:30-8 pm Women’s Book Club (frh)	29 St Frances de Sales, <i>Bishop & Doctor</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass	30 St Martina, <i>Virgin & Martyr</i> 7 am Mass 9 am Mass (frh) 3 pm staff meeting 4:30 pm Vespers	31 St John Bosco, <i>Confessor</i> 9 am Mass 4:30 pm Vespers 5:30 Holy Hour 6:30 pm Mass	February 1 1st Saturday / Immaculate Heart of Mary 7 am Mass & devotions 9 am Mass & devotions 4:30 pm Vespers Ocala-10:30 am Mass (frv)

Considering God's Gifts to Man... lest we think only of the gifts of man.

1st, & foundational, is **creation** itself. Each created thing, and more, each person (made in God's image), is a tremendous gift & proof of God's love - for God does not make what He does not love. This is a first gift & proof of God's love for me, for you, for all persons; let us never forget this and return to it often... should we feel abandoned by God; again, God loves me, so He made me. Suicide is an act of despair; & somewhere, in its unreasoning committal, is the desire to destroy this gift & remove, thereby, the first & primal evidence of God's love.

Closely following creation itself, is the **continuation of its existence**. As God began creation's existence, so its continued existence depends upon God continually willing it to exist. This gift should surprise & gladden us especially when we consider all the evils which God must patiently endure throughout the ages, but we go on...

2nd, & stemming from the first, is the **Incarnation**. God created man even foreknowing he would offend Him. Adam's test was no *setup* but the way the Eternal Wisdom deemed most profitable to give another visible Gift of love to man; that God Himself would enter His creation, being born of a woman, to repair the offense of Adam, & open once more the gates of paradise, is no small token of benevolence; but we spoke on this last Sunday & so go on...

3rd, & related to the previous, is the **Passion & death of Jesus** for mankind. Being born, God goes further to prove His generous love for man; from His poor surroundings at Bethlehem to His agony & bloody death atop Calvary, God presents a tremendous Gift of visible love of which the crucifix is a constant reminder to every Catholic; nor should we forget that God could have redeemed the world any number of ways, less humiliating & painful; that He chose this manner is a gift that should continually startle & fortify us in our trials.

4th, & again flowing from above, is the **Church**. God, in the divine Person of Jesus, established an organized religion whereby mankind, throughout the ages, after His Ascension, should benefit from His meritorious Passion & death. Me, you & many others are members of this wonderful institution without any merit of our own for none are owed this privilege. I could have been a Muslim, Buddhist, or without any religion; by Providence & cooperation with grace, *I am what I am* and should be very thankful for this wonderful gift! (Alas, what shame some dread the Sunday obligation; even to call this Gift "an obligation" is unfortunate.)

Of many gifts within the Church, we count **the seven wonderful Sacraments**; here is the full array of gifts to deliver men from darkness & error, sin & death, to the light & kingdom of God... to the God who *restores joy to my youth*. **Baptism** is the gift of new life, making us a child of God; **Confession** restores life in God should it be lost by mortal sin after baptism; **Holy Eucharist**, Jesus Himself, continues His Presence on earth under the appearance of Bread & Wine, preserving us from death & nourishing us in famine; **Confirmation** makes us soldiers of Christ (alas, some soldiers cannot rouse themselves from bed to begin the day's battle with prayer! How can such an important war be won this way?); **Priesthood** is the gift which continues many of these; **Matrimony** is the gift formed between two baptized persons, a man & a woman (alas, we have to say this!) wherein they join themselves together until death for children, for mutual fidelity & for mutual sanctification; **Anointing** prepares us to leave this life worthy to enter eternal life.

5th, & helping us in our journey, is **our guardian angel**. A God-given invisible friend who protects us from evils, seen & unseen, to guide us Home; indeed, how rude to overlook this divine gift - when did I last thank God for, or thank my angel for, his many benefits?

6th, & another gift not to be dismissed, is **the Blessed Mother**. What an outstanding gift that God gifts His mother to us beneath the tree of agony! Now, certainly, God must hear us out - for what Son of God would ignore the pleas of His mother on our behalf.?

7th, & where we must end, is the promised gift of **Eternal Life**. We can only say of this gift, "Eye has not seen nor has ear heard what God has laid beneath this Tree for those who love Him."

Merry Christmas!