

# THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS????????????????????

The only appropriate atmosphere for Christmas is a truly SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE! Worldliness is totally inappropriate at such a time. Wherever Christ is absent at the Christmas time (especially Christmas Day), there is where one will find sadness and boredom and depression (if not worse)! Wherever Christ is the REASON FOR CHRISTMAS, there is where one will find joy, serenity and peace.

As things have come to be, we simply cannot do away with all of the bright lights and tinsel decorations found during this most holy season. It has all come to be a way of life. To fight to do away with all such is neither practical nor realistic. The anticipation of the occasion is all around us. The very air rings out with the excitement. To refuse to be part of it serves only the purpose of causing confusion in the minds of our children. To them, the expectancy of Christmas should be in their homes - ALSO. We have a problem, and we must do something about it. Perhaps we can follow the example of our holy church in past ages when similar problems had to be confronted. We must explain - we have to give them a clear picture concerning the matter. And then - - - WE MAKE SOME NEEDED ADJUSTMENTS.

The world decorates so that Santa Claus will have a proper place in which to place many, many pretty boxes which contain all sorts of wonderful and expensive things, things which the world tells us will make us happy on Christmas Day??? The world thinks that tinsel and pretty boxes containing wonderful and expensive things are the right things to make us happy. However, as we look about us we find all kinds of sadness and depression on Christmas Day - even where there are the greatest number of pretty boxes which contain all sorts of wonderful and expensive things????? They tell me that Christmas Day is the single most depressing day of the ENTIRE YEAR! But how can this be??? What is wrong???

Now comes the Church - - EVER READY to use the ways of the world and turn them to good use. In Roman times, the Church turned the decorations of December 25th, and made them the Central Holy Moment of the History of Man. We must do the same today. Good and holy people of the Church of Jesus Christ can and should decorate, and should make their houses beautiful and attractive, and should foster the excitement of the Season. The beautiful tunes of the Christmas Time should be heard, and this should begin as a prudent and reasonable time before the Day of Celebration. This will make the children happy and will fill our hearts with the right kind of joy and happiness. TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE PROPER FAITH AND CHARITY, CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS ARE FULLY IN ORDER AND IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON. We are about to celebrate the BIRTHDAY OF THE KING - - THE BIRTHDAY OF GOD! So we start somewhat early because there are so many things to get ready. However, the preparations include the Holy Readings of Scripture which tell us of the Coming of our Most Holy Saviour. It is not wrong to exchange gifts (modest is good enough), but in the preparation of the gifts, let us not forget to prepare the best one for the King Himself. He does not want the wonderful things of the world - He wants our hearts and souls and love. The quality of our love is what Baby Jesus wants - not the quality of what we buy in a store.

The children of the world look at the decorations and pretty boxes, and they see only decorations and pretty boxes. The Children of the Holy Ones of God look at the SAME decorations and things - BUT THEY SEE THE BEAUTIFUL FACE OF JESUS! Is it any wonder that the Children of these are happier????? WE LOOK UPON THE BABE AND WE SEE GOD!!!!

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday: 6:00 A.M. For Prayer Promises and Ben.	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY:</u>
9:30 A.M. For the People of the Chap.	Midnight: Community of
12:30 P.M. Dec. Roberts and Hoover F.	Christ the King.
Monday; Dec. Florine Brisbois	9:30 A.M. For the People of
Tuesday: Dec. Annie Marone	the Chapels
Wednesday: Dec. John & Grace Giardina-W/Anniv	5:30 P.M. Welfare of Sister
Thursday: Benedictine Dead Obligation	Regina Campbell OSB
	Saturday: Dec. Frank Sansone