

The Birthday of the King

Christmas Eve is a Holy Eve. The Season of Advent is now over and Christmas preparation is everywhere. So much to be done, and there is very little time. All must be done before we all leave to go to the Church for Midnight Mass. Mother is busy cooking the Christmas goodies, and she is ever so busy dusting and trying to keep the house in order. Father is attending to the Christmas Tree, and all entangled with the tree lights and ornaments. The smell of cedar is all over the house, and what a wonderful smell it is. In the place of honor in the house we have just finished a beautiful little Manger, where we will all gather to celebrate the Birthday of our King. Nothing must be left out: the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, the ox and the ass and the little sheep. Everything must be in place. The Baby Jesus is not yet to be seen. That comes later. Not long before leaving for Mass, Father blesses the Christmas Tree, and then he goes to bless the Little Crib. The littlest child of the family places the Baby Jesus in His Crib, and all of us go up to give Him the loving presents we have been working on since the beginning of Advent: our sacrifices and our prayers and our acts of love and all the rest. Then we all leave for Church, where a special kind of quiet enchantment is all in the air. The Church is all dark, and tiny red vigil candles burn everywhere. The choir is singing the usual carols, and, finally, the moment arrives when a small child brings in the New Born Jesus and places Him in the Crib waiting to receive Him. For endless generations all mankind has been waiting for this precious moment. Now it is here at last, and yet again. After Mass we all go home, but the wondrous mysteries of Holy Mass continue to fill the hearts and minds of us all – even the tiny ones. As soon as we open our front door we look upon our own little Crib, and as we enter our front door we bring in with us the warmth and loveliness of the Church. Our own little crib makes it all so much more wonderful, for it tells us that in truth we have received God's Love: Jesus Christ our King. Then it is that we all feel the true meaning of Christmas and of a very

Please list here your very special INTENTIONS for which you wish our prayers and good works (confidential information) and return to the Abbey BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 2000. This paper will be kept on the High Altar next to the Tabernacle DURING LENT AND PASCHAL TIME. The Monks, in their daily prayers and work will remember you and your dear loved ones – both living and departed.

PLEASE CUT ON THE DOTTED LINE AND RETURN

