

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

from the *Roman Martyrology*

The announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord from the *Roman Martyrology* draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the announcement help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

This text, *The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*, may be chanted or recited, most appropriately on December 24, during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night. It may not replace any part of the Mass.

The twenty-fifth day of De - cem - ber, when ages beyond number  
 had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the  
 beginning created hea - ven and earth, and formed man in his own  
 like-ness; when century upon century had passed since the Al -  
 -mighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of  
 covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham,  
 our father in faith, came out of the Ur of the Chal-dees; in the  
 thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the

Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was  
anoint-ed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Dan-iel:  
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth O-lym-pi-ad, in the year  
seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of  
Rome, in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavi-  
an Au-gus-tus, the whole world be-ing at peace, JESUS CHRIST,  
eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the  
world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born  
of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man:  
The Nativity of Our Lord Je-sus Christ according to the flesh.