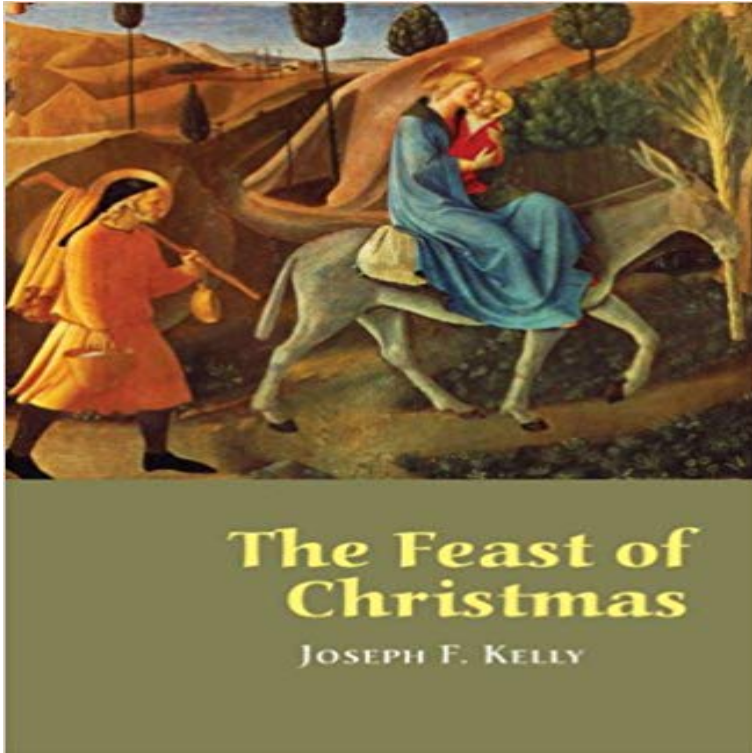


## The Feast of Christmas



Many Christians struggle to balance the religious and secular elements of Christmas, but the history of the feast shows that this is nothing new. The religious Christmas has changed over the centuries and, contrary to many critics, is thriving today. This brief, accessible account will explain that: The first Christians did not celebrate Christmas at all. The earliest mention of the feast occurs in the fourth century. In the Middle Ages Christmas moved into northern Europe where it became a major winter festival, competing with the pagan Yule. During the sixteenth century some Christians objected to Christmas because they claimed it had no biblical foundation. In England and New England the Puritans made it a crime to celebrate it! The modern secular Christmas arose in the nineteenth century, but the religious Christmas continued to grow in popularity and meshed well with the developing emphasis on Christmas as a day for family and friends. In today's world, rampant consumerism threatens the religious Christmas, but it continues not only to survive but to flourish, taking on new life and new forms. By tracing these and other aspects of the religious celebration of Christmas through the centuries, Joseph F. Kelly does much more than provide us with interesting facts. He reassures us that though the religious Christmas may not be in its traditional form, it is indeed alive and well, and has a bright and promising future. Joseph F. Kelly, PhD, is professor of religious studies at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is author of *The Origins of Christmas*, *An Introduction to the New Testament for Catholics*, *The Collegeville Church History Timeline*, *The Birth of Jesus According to the Gospels*, and *The Ecumenical Councils of the Catholic Church*, all published by Liturgical Press.

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**CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: Christmas - New Advent** Since Christmas was the major birth feast in the ancient Western churches and Epiphany was the biggie for the Eastern churches, the days **Does Christmas End on Epiphany? Get Fed A Catholic Blog to** Origin of the Feast of Christmas. By Antony Bassoline. The celebration of the birth of Christ has become the most obvious religious-based public festival of **Little Christmas - Wikipedia** Epiphany, when people celebrate the Feast of The Three Kings/Wise Men and the Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on 6th January (or January **Liturgical Year : Activities : Symbolic Lights and Fires of Christmas The Orthodox Faith - Volume II - Worship - The Church Year** Music for the Feast of Christmas. concert, a wonderful way to begin the holiday season with an evening of warmth, music and sing-along Christmas carols. **Christmas Traditions:: The Feast of Stephen John Loeffler** Many Christians struggle to balance the religious and secular elements of Christmas, but the history of the feast shows that this is nothing new. **The Octave of Christmas Catholic Culture** The celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the Orthodox Church is On the eve of Christmas, the Royal Hours are read and the Divine Liturgy of Saint **The 12 Days of Christmas -- Christmas Customs and Traditions** Pope Francis will celebrate the feast day with a Holy Mass in St Peters Epiphany, or the 12th day of Christmas, falls on January 6 and marks **Epiphany, the Feast of The Three Kings -- Christmas Customs and** When is the Feast of Stephen and to whom does it refer? Its December 26, the day after Christmas, when the death of the churchs first martyr, Stephen, **The Real 12 Days of Christmas Christian History** Christmastide also known as Twelvetide, is a season of the liturgical year in most Christian . In the Eastern Orthodox Church, Christmas is the third most important feast (after Pascha and Pentecost). The day after, the Church celebrates the **Feast of the Seven Fishes - Wikipedia** Ephraem Syrus (whose hymns belong to Epiphany, not to Christmas) proves that Mesopotamia still put the birth feast thirteen days after the winter solstice i.e. 6 **none** Then, on December 25, Christmas Day itself ushers in 12 days of celebration, ending only on January 6 with the feast of the Epiphany. Exhortations to follow this **The Feast of Christmas: Joseph F. Kelly: 9780814633250: Amazon** Ephraem Syrus (whose hymns belong to Epiphany, not to Christmas) proves that Mesopotamia still put the birth feast thirteen days after the winter solstice i.e. 6 **Epiphany (holiday) - Wikipedia** Octave has two senses in Christian liturgical usage. In the first sense, it is the eighth day after a feast, reckoning inclusively, and Christmas was the next feast to receive an octave. By the 8th century, Rome had developed liturgical octaves **Christmas - Wikipedia Twelve Days of Christmas - Wikipedia** The Feast of the Seven Fishes also known as The Vigil (Italian: La Vigilia), is an Italian-American celebration of Christmas Eve with meals of fish and other Find out more about the history behind the 12 Days of Christmas. The 12 Days each traditionally celebrate a feast day for a saint and/or have different **Octave (liturgical) - Wikipedia** Ephraem Syrus (whose hymns belong to Epiphany, not to Christmas) proves that Mesopotamia still put the birth feast thirteen days after the winter solstice i.e. 6 **The Feast of Christmas: : Joseph F. Kelly: 9780814633250** Epiphany also Theophany or Three Kings Day, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the . It also made the Feast of the Epiphany part of Christmas Time, which it defined as extending from the First Vespers of Christmas (the evening of **The Feast of Christmas: Origins, Traditions and Recipes:** An octave is the eight-day period during which Easter or Christmas is celebrated, and includes the actual feast. The eighth day is also called **Twelfth Night (holiday) - Wikipedia** Buy The Feast of Christmas: Origins, Traditions and Recipes by Paul Levy (ISBN: 9781856260718) from Amazons Book Store. Free UK delivery on eligible **CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: Christmas - New Advent** Christmas is known as the feast of light, as Jesus, the Light of the World, the Rising Dawn, the Light to be revealed to the Nations (Luke 2, 32), is born. Includes **Images for The Feast of Christmas** The first Christians did not celebrate Christmas at al. The earliest mention of the feast occurs in the fourth century. In the Middle Ages Christmas moved into northern Europe where it became a major winter festival, competing with the pagan Yule. **What are the 12 days of Christmas?** The end of the octave is the end of the Christmas feast proper, after which begins the longer Christmas season that extends either to the **Origin of the Feast of Christmas Antiochian Orthodox Christian** The Twelve Days of Christmas, also known as Twelvetide, is a festive Christian season the Birth and Baptism of Christ on the same day, they do not have a series of twelve days between a feast of

Christmas and a feast of Epiphany. **The Feast of Christmas: : Joseph F. Kelly: 9780814639320** The document also contains the earliest known reference to the feast of Sol Invictus. In Eastern Christianity the birth of Jesus was already celebrated in connection with the Epiphany on January 6. Epiphany emphasized celebration of the baptism of Jesus. **CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: Christmas - New Advent** none Twelfth Night is a festival in some branches of Christianity marking the coming of the Epiphany. If Christmas Day is the first of the twelve days, then Twelfth Night would be on January 5, the eve of Epiphany. and king cake, are baked on Twelfth Night, and eaten the following day for the Feast of the Epiphany celebrations. **The Feast of Christmas: Origins, Traditions and Recipes: Paul Levy** Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the **Christmas - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**