

Tridentine Rite

To give honor and glory
to God and to sanctify and edify the souls of
the faithful by preserving,
protecting, fostering, and defending the
Traditional Latin Mass and
sacraments as contained in the
Missale Romanum of 1962...

Christmastide 2007

One of the first deacons and the first Christian martyr; feast on 26 December. In the Acts of the Apostles the name of St. Stephen occurs for the first time on the occasion of the appointment of the first deacons (*Acts, vi, 5*). Dissatisfaction concerning the distribution of alms from the community's fund having arisen in the Church, seven men were selected and specially ordained by the Apostles to take care of the temporal relief of the poorer members. Of these seven, Stephen, is the first mentioned and the best known. St. Stephen's Day is often the day for giving food, money, and other items to the needy (it is known as "Boxing Day" in some English-speaking parts of the world).

A note about this day and the next and the next: each of the first three days of Christmas commemorates a different type of martyrdom, and by remembering each type of martyrdom was endured, you can remember the order of these Feasts:

The Feast of Stephen on the 26th recalls the highest class of martyrdom—that offered by both deed and the will—or "martyr by will, love, and blood."

The Feast of St. John the Evangelist on the 27th recalls the sort of dry martyrdom, the martyrdom offered by those we call "confessors," i.e., people who suffered for the Faith, would die for the Faith, but, in fact, didn't have to. He was a martyr by "will and love."

The Feast of the Holy Innocents on the 28th recalls the sort of martyrdom in deed, but not of the will as they were too young to form such a desire. They were martyrs by blood alone, but it is said that "that God supplied the defects of their will by his own acceptance of the sacrifice."



Ordo of Pope Bl. John XXIII

Sunday, "4th Sunday of Advent"

Monday, "Vigil of the Nativity"

Tuesday, "Nativity of the Lord"

The Nuptial Solemnity ends tomorrow

Wednesday, "St Stephen the Protomartyr"

Thursday, "St John the Evangelist"

Friday, "The Holy Innocents"

Saturday, "In the Octave of the Nativity"

Today's Music

Introit: "Rorate coeli"

Kyrie: "XVI"

Gloria: No Gloria

Creed: "III"

Offertory: "Ave Maria"

Sanctus: "XVIII"

Agnus Dei: "XVIII"

Communion: "Ecce Virgo"

The Ordinary Chants can be found in the Roman Kyriale. If you are using the Roman Catholic Daily Missal (Angelus Press) or The Roman Missal (Baronius Press) the Kyriale can be found near the end; pages 1865 & 2147 respectively.