JANUARY 1, FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION

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Station at St. Mary in Trastevere.

The Roman Calendars originally made no mention of the Circumcision, which

came in through the influence of the Gallican Liturgies. Rome preferred to solemnize the eighth day after the Nativity of Our Lord. The Mass and Office for today's feast show a mixed character. At first it was merely a question of the Octave of Our Lord; then, in connection with the

Basilica of Our Lady, where the station was held, a special commemoration of the virginal motherhood of Mary Most Holy was inserted, the Circumcision and Presentation in the Temple being afterwards added, although this last, doubtless through Byzantine influence, was afterwards expunged from the office of January 1, so that it should be celebrated on February 2, 40 days from the

The Latin of Postcommunion, terse and forcible, yet perfectly balanced and

rhythmical, implores through the prayers of Mary our purification from sin and

our attainment of celestial bliss. Jesus in heaven, in the essential brightness of

His glory, is seated at the right hand of the Father, but here below his more fitting throne of mercy and grace is in the bosom of the Virgin who holds Him a little babe in her arms. **INTROIT Isaias 9: 6** Puer natus est nobis, et fílius datus est For a Child is born to us, and a Son is

consílii Ángelus. (Ps 97: 1) Cantáte

Dómino cánticum novum: quia mirabília 97: 1) Sing ye to the Lord a new fecit. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui canticle: because He hath done Sancto, sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, wonderful things. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy et semper, et in sécula seculórum. Amen. Puer natus est nobis, et fílius Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is datus est nobis: cujus impénum super now, and ever shall be, world without húmerum ejus: et vocábitur nomen ejus end. Amen. For a Child is born to us, magni consílii Ángelus. **COLLECT** Deus, qui salútis ætérnæ, beátæ

nobis: cujus impénum super húmerum

ejus: et vocábitur nomen ejus magni

Maríæ virginitáte fecúnda, humáno

géneri præmia præstitísti: tríbue,

intercédere sentiámus, per quam

merúimus auctórem vitæ suscípere,

in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per

quésumus; ut ipsam pro nobis

birth of the infant, in accord with Jewish practice.

Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum: Qui tecum vivit et regnat

ómnia sæcula sæculórum. EPISTLE Titus 2: 11-15 Caríssime: Appáruit grátia Dei Salvatóris nostri ómnibus homínibus, erúdiens nos, ut, abnegántes impietátem et sæculária desidéria, sóbrie et juste et pie vivámus in hoc sæculo, exspectántes beátam spem et advéntum glóriæ magni Dei et Salvatóris nostri Jesu Christi: qui dedit semetípsum pro nobis: ut nos redímeret ab omni iniquitáte, et mundáret sibi pópulum acceptábilem,

vocátum est nomen ejus Jesus, quod vocátum est ab Ángelo, priúsquam in útero conciperétur.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 12, 15

terrárum et plenitúdinem ejus tu

Tui sunt cæli et tua est terra: orbem

GREATER ALLELUIA Hebrews

Allelúja, allelúja. Multifárie olim Deus

novíssime diébus istis locútus est nobis

In illo témpore: Postquam consummáti

sunt dies octo, ut circumciderétur Puer:

1: 1-2

loquens pátribus in Prophétis,

in Fílio. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 21

fundásti: justítia et judícium præparátio sedis tuæ. **SECRET**

grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus. Quia per incarnáti Verbi mystérium, nova mentis

cánimus sine fine dicéntes: **COMMUNICANTES FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD** Communicántes, et diem sacratíssimum celebrántes, quo beátæ Maríæ intemeráta virgínitas huic mundo édidit Salvatórem: sed et memóriam venerántes, in primis ejúsdem gloriósæ semper Vírginis Maríæ, Genetrícis eiúsdem Dei et Dómini nostri Jesu Christi: sed et beati Joseph, ejusdem Virginis Sponsi,

et beatórum Apostolórum ac Mártyrum

tuórum, Petri et Pauli, Andréæ, Jacóbi,

Thaddæi: Lini, Cleti, Cleméntis, Xysti,

Chrysógoni, Joánnis et Pauli, Cosmæ

Joánnis, Thomæ, Jacóbi, Philíppi,

Bartholomæi, Matthæi, Simónis et

et Damiáni: et ómnium Sanctórum

tuórum; quorum méritis precibúsque

concédas, ut in ómnibus protectiónis

tuæ muniámur auxílio. Per eúndem

Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Amen.

Cornélii, Cypriáni, Lauréntii,

sectatórem bonórum óperum. Hæc lóquere et exhortáre: in Christo Jesu, Dómino nostro. **GRADUAL Psalm 97: 2, 4, 2** Vidérunt omnes fines terræ salutare Dei nostri: jubiláte Deo, omnis terra. Notum fecit Dominus salutare suum: ante conspéctum géntium revelávit justitiam suam.

Munéribus nostris, quésumus, Dómine, precibúsque suscéptis: et cæléstibus nos munda mystériis, et cleménter exáudi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sécula seculórum.

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et

salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubíque

PREFACE OF THE NATIVITY

nostræ óculis lux tuæ claritátis infúlsit: ut dum visibíliter Deum cognóscimus, per hunc in invisibílium amórem rapiámur. Et ídeo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dóminatiónibus, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ

COMMUNION Psalms 97: 3 Vidérunt omnes fines terræ salutáre Dei nostri. **POSTCOMMUNION** Hæc nos commúnio, Dómine, purget a crímine: et, intercedénte beáta Vírgine Dei Genetríce María, cæléstis remédii fáciat esse consórtes. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

and a Son is given to us, and the government is upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor. O God, Who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary hast bestowed upon the human race the rewards of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the Author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son: Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Dearly beloved: The grace of God our

ungodliness and worldly desires, we

in this world, looking for the blessed

hope and coming of the glory of the

should live soberly and justly and godly

great God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

Who gave Himself for us, that He might

redeem us from all iniquity, and might

acceptable, a pursuer of good works.

and exhort: in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All the ends of the earth have seen the

God, all the earth. The Lord hath made

salvation of our God. Sing joyfully to

Savior hath appeared to all men,

instructing us, that, denying

cleanse to Himself a people

These things speak

given to us, and the government is

upon His shoulder: and His name shall

be called Wonderful, Counselor. (Ps.

known His salvation: He hath revealed His justice in the sight of the Gentiles. Alleluia, alleluia. God, Who, at sundry times and in divers manners, spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, last of all, in these days, hath spoken to us by His Son. Alleluia. At that time after eight days were accomplished, that the Child should be circumcised, His name was called Jesus, which was called by the angel

before He was conceived in the womb.

Thine are the heavens, and thine is the

earth: the world and the fulness thereof

thou hast founded: Justice and

throne.

judgment are the preparation of thy

Receive our gifts and prayers, we

beseech Thee, O Lord; cleanse us by

these heavenly Mysteries, and mercifully hear us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for

our salvation, that we should at all

times and in all places, give thanks

almighty, everlasting God: for through

the Mystery of the word made flesh, the

new light of Thy glory hath shone upon

the eyes of our mind, so that while we

may through Him be drawn to the love

acknowledge God in visible form, we

unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father

of things invisible. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dóminations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying: Communicating, and keeping this most holy day, on which the spotless virginity of blessed Mary brought forth a Savior to this world; and also reverencing the memory first of the same glorious Mary, ever Virgin, Mother of the same our

God and Lord Jesus Christ: as also of

Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew,

Cletus, Clement, Xystus, Cornelius,

Matthew, Simon, and Thaddeus; Linus,

Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John

and Paul, Cosmas and Damian, and of

all Thy Saints, through whose merits

and prayers, grant that we may in all

protection. Through the same Christ

our Lord. Amen.

salvation of our God.

things be defended by the help of Thy

All the ends of the earth have seen the

May this communion, O Lord, cleanse

intercession of the blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God, make us sharers of the

heavenly remedy. Through the same

us from guilt: and through the

and Paul, Andrew, James, John,

the blessed Apostles and Martyrs Peter

Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.