

Celebrate Bambinelli Sunday!



Bring the Baby Jesus figure from your family nativity to Mass to be blessed on Dec. 15th /16th of December, the Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice! The Lord is at hand!

This wonderful tradition originates in the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II and is celebrated when the children of Rome and their families fill St. Peter's Square on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, for the blessing of the *Gesu Bambino*, the 'little baby Jesus.' On this day the children bring from home their Christ-child figures, their *bambinelli*, in hands, in pockets, in backpacks, from their own family nativity scenes. Some will even bring the *bambinelli* of friends and neighbors unable to attend. Then, during the noontime Angelus address, the Holy Father invites all to hold up their *bambinelli* for a special blessing of the Christ-child figures, the children and their families.

Upon returning home the figure is set safely out of sight for the remainder of Advent until happily placed in the creche with the arrival of Christmas. What a beautiful, tangible way to keep the anticipated coming of the Lord Jesus into our homes and hearts central to our holiday preparations.

St. Rose invites everyone to celebrate Bambinelli Sunday!

A suggestion is that following the blessing your 'bambinello' is taken home, put in a gift box and wrapped or placed in an unseen place of honor to await Christmas. Let this be the first gift your family opens on Christmas as together you place the blessed Christ-child figure in the manger and welcome Christmas into your home.