



# MISSION MATTERS

## monthly



No. 6 Vol. 4

| December 1, 2025

| Staff/BOT Edition

### Blessed Mary Angela Says (Foundress of the Felician Sisters)

*"Be ready at all times for God's call, that is, do what he demands of you at each moment and do not worry about the rest."*

#### CATHOLIC Q&A

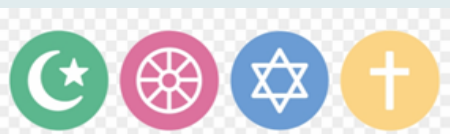
How should we celebrate Christmas?

Click [here](#) learn more

#### INTERFAITH CALENDAR

Click [here](#) for more information

12/01: Advent begins - Christian  
12/01: Nativity Fast begins - Orthodox Christians  
12/06: Feast of St. Nicholas - Christian  
12/08: Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Christian  
12/08: Bodhi Day - Buddhism  
12/12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Christian  
12/14: Hanukkah begins - Judaism  
12/21: Yule - Neopagan  
12/25: Christmas - Christian  
12/26: Kwanzaa begins - African American



### Happening in December!

#### Advent Monday Morning Prayer Services

Pray with us this Advent Season during the first four Mondays of Advent for a brief morning prayer service over zoom. This will be a special event, as we will be joined by our two other Felician sponsored higher education ministries, Madonna University in Livonia, MI and Felician University in Lodi, NJ. We will come together each morning from 8:45 am to 8:55 am on December 1, 8, 16 and 22. See zoom invite below and let's have a strong Villa presence with our sister institutions!

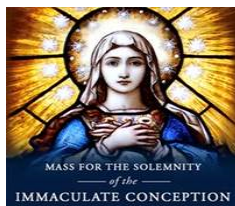
#### Blessing of Advent Wreath & Nativity Display

The Season of Advent has begun. It is a time to spiritually prepare ourselves for the real reason for this holiday season, the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Join us in the lobby of the Main Building on Monday, December 1 at 11:15am as we bless our Advent wreath and our Nativity display. Treats will be served afterwards.



#### Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 8 the Church celebrates the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The college will hold a Mass that day at 11:15 pm in the college chapel.



### A Christmas Reflection

by Thomas Moore

On The celebration of Christmas can be meaningless and maddening, especially if you don't have access to its deep layers of history and symbolism. You may feel frantic looking for gifts, rather than understanding that gift-giving is a way of being in family, friendship, and community, and that Christmas is a time for modeling a Utopian gift economy.

You may feel that Christmas is a license to eat and drink too much, and yet the idea of transcending ordinary limits has been part of solstice celebrations for hundreds of years. You don't have to go to literal extremes, but you can stretch your personal rules, based on the idea of liminal time, a period of days or weeks set aside to celebrate an important aspect of life. You could aim for a paradoxical "moderate excess."

It would be better to enter the spirit of the liminal rather than fight it. Step outside of ordinary time: be of good cheer, give some real gifts, make some good food, and spend more time than usual with friends and family. The best way to deal with the exhaustion of the holidays is not to withdraw but to enter them thoughtfully.

Christmas is a holy time that invites you to reflect on the most important issues in life, especially escaping the darkness of ignorance and arriving at the light of new understanding and possibility. It ritualizes the birth of your soul. Remember that ritual is an ordinary action carried out with special attention to its poetics that has far greater significance than would appear.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



## OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for  
Human Dignity

Compassion

**JUSTICE  
AND PEACE**

Transformation

Solidarity with  
People in Need

2025-2026 Focus

## Putting Justice and Peace Into Action

### Felician Sisters and the *Laudato Si* Action Platform (Part II)

As a Franciscan community, the Felician sisters are dedicated to being responsible stewards of the environment. We advocate for responsible public policy and implement "green" initiatives at our convents and ministries, including:

**Response to the Cry of the Earth:** Ecological Education: Commit to educating yourself on one issue, such as, water use, rain forest destruction, soil health, biodiversity loss, etc. Connect on line with groups such as, Catholic Climate Covenant, Laudato Si' Movement, Earth Day Network, National Wildlife Federation, etc. Create awareness in others by talking about the need to protect the Earth for future generations and to equitably share its resources.

**Ecological Spirituality:** Spend time outdoors, using your senses to experience the beauty of creation Read Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home or view a video in the resource section. Include the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor in your prayer

**Community Engagement and Participatory Action:** Call or e-mail your political leaders and/or sign petitions asking for legislation to protect the environment, immigrants, trafficking victims, workers, and those enduring injustice and/or racism. Attend a town hall meeting; check local newspapers or websites for information for happenings in your local area Encourage your parish or neighborhood group to plant trees, pollinator gardens, or vegetable gardens and join in the work

## LEARN MORE ABOUT HANUKKAH

In the second century BCE, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs instead of mitzvah observance and belief in G d. Against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and rededicated it to the service of God.

When they sought to light the Temple's Menorah (the seven-branched candelabrum), they found only a single cruse of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks. Miraculously, they lit the menorah and the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity. To commemorate and publicize these miracles, the sages instituted the festival of Chanukah. Click [here](#) to learn more.



## LEARN MORE ABOUT KWANZA

As an African American and Pan-African holiday celebrated by millions throughout the world African community, Kwanzaa brings a cultural message which speaks to the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense. Given the profound significance Kwanzaa has for African Americans and indeed, the world African community, it is imperative that an authoritative source and site be made available to give an accurate and expansive account of its origins, concepts, values, symbols and practice. Moreover, given the continued rapid growth of Kwanzaa and the parallel expanded discussion of it and related issues, an authoritative source which aids in both framing and informing the discussion is likewise of the greatest importance. Therefore, the central interest of this website is to provide information which reveals and reaffirms the integrity, beauty and expansive meaning of the holiday and thus aids in our approaching it with the depth of thought, dignity, and sense of specialness it deserves. Click [here](#) for more.



### CONNECT WITH MISSION MATTERS:



[www.villa.edu](http://www.villa.edu)

### The Felician Sisters of Our Lady of Hope Province:

Click [here](#) for more  
information

### The Association of Franciscan Colleges & Universities:

Click [here](#) for more  
information and  
resources

### Felician Community Services - Food Pantry:

*Serving Staff & Students*

[mpinelli@feliciancommunityservices.org](mailto:mpinelli@feliciancommunityservices.org)

716-961-2860



*Villa Maria College is a Felician Sponsored Ministry*

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