

Nearly one week after Christmas, and we hear the same Gospel we heard on Christmas Day. We are nearing the end of the Octave of Christmas - the eight-day "super-day" that the Church provides us to give emphasis to the Solemnity of Our Lord's Nativity.

While the rest of the secular world has taken down the Christmas trees, the stores have anything 'Christmas-y' on clearance tables - and have already put up displays for Saint Valentine's Day ... we are still enjoying the liturgical celebration of Christmas Day.

At one time, the Church celebrated more than two-dozen octaves - but currently the only remaining Octaves are Christmas and Easter.

And while tomorrow, we celebrate the Octave Day of Christmas - the Christmas liturgical season continues for two more weeks; ending with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.

Let us take advantage of this prayerful opportunity to extend our spiritual celebration of Christmas through the Octave and the Season of Christmas ... to preserve the delight, joy, and wonder of this season in our hearts, our minds, and our lives.