

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



Icon of the Nativity of Christ -- December 25th

The Christmas Spider

There is a beautiful legend told during the Christmas season. It tells of the Holy Family spending the night in a particular cave. Inside the cave, a little spider saw the Holy Child, and wished that it could do something to keep the Infant Jesus warm during the cold night. The spider decided to do the only thing it could and spun its web across the entrance of the cave to make a type of curtain there.

During the night, a detachment of Herod's soldiers passed by the cave. They were seeking children to kill in order to carry out the king's order. When they came to the entrance of the cave, they passed by when they saw the spider's web. "Surely," they said to one another, "no one could be in that cave." The soldiers passed on and left the Holy Family in peace, because a little spider had spun its web across the entrance to the cave.

The lesson of the legend is that there is no gift too small or too insignificant to give to Christ. The gifts that we give to each other during this holiday season are not as important as the gifts we give to Christ. The gifts we give to Christ come not with ribbons or with bows, but come from the heart. The gift of a phone call or a visit to a lonely or elderly person; the gift of spending more time with our family; the gift of forgiving a grievance; or the gift of a kind word: these are among the most precious gifts we can give to our Lord.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!