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Christmas Schedule of the Catholic Church in Bethlehem 2025-2026

(Basilica of the of the Nativity, Church of Saint Catherine & other Sanctuaries in Bethlehem)

December 24

Tomb of Rachel

13:00 H.B. Card. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Patriarch of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is welcomed by the Latin parish priests and representatives of Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour

Manger Square

13:30 Solemn entry of the Patriarch into the Basilica of the Nativity and the Church of Saint Catherine followed by First Vespers

Church of Saint Catherine

16:00 Daily procession to the Grotto of the Nativity

21:00 Church doors open & will close when the church is full

23:30 Office of Readings

00:00 Midnight Mass (*tickets are required*)

December 25

Manger Grotto

00:00 Parish Mass in Arabic (*tickets are required*)

Church of Saint Catherine

01:30 Procession to the Grotto of the Nativity

Manger Grotto

02:30 Masses every 30 minutes (*different languages; no tickets needed*)
interruption at 5:30 until approximately at 7:00 then resumes until 16:30

Church of Saint Catherine

07:30 Parish Mass in Arabic

10:00 Christmas Mass (Arabic and Latin)

14:00 Pilgrimage to the Greek Orthodox and Franciscan Shepherds' Field

December 26, Feast of Saint Stephen, Protomartyr

Church of Saint Catherine

10:30 Holy Mass

December 27, Feast of Saint John the Apostle

Manger Grotto

04:55 Holy Mass **07:30** Holy Mass (*Participation of groups is not possible*)

Church of Saint Catherine

10:00 Holy Mass in Arabic

December 28, Feast of the Holy Family

Manger Grotto

04:55; 07:30 Holy Mass (*Participation of groups is not possible*)

Church of Saint Catherine

7:30 Holy Mass in Arabic (Grotto of the Holy Innocents)

10:00 Solemn Mass in Latin (Grotto of the Holy Innocents)

14:00 Second Vespers (Grotto of the Holy Innocents)

December 29, Feast of the Holy Innocents

Manger Grotto

04:55 Holy Mass; **07:30** Holy Mass (*Participation of groups is not possible*)

Shepherds' Field

17:00 Parish Mass in Arabic

December 30, Octave of Christmas

Manger Grotto

04:55 Holy Mass; **07:30** Holy Mass (*Participation for groups is not possible*)

Church of Saint Catherine

7:30 Parish Mass in Arabic

December 31, New Year's Eve

Manger Grotto

04:55 Holy, Mass; **09:00** Holy Mass (*Participation of groups is not possible*)

Church of Saint Catherine

16:30 Vespers followed by Procession to the Grotto of the Nativity

17:00 Holy Mass of Thanksgiving in Arabic followed by Adoration

2026

January 1, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Manger Grotto

04:55 Holy Mass; **07:30** Holy Mass (*Participation of groups is not possible*)

Church of Saint Catherine

07:30 Parish Mass in Arabic

10:30 Solemn Mass in Arabic followed by the Procession to the Milk Grotto with the icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary

17:00 Parish Mass in Arabic

January 2

Church of Saint Catherine

07:30 Parish Mass in Arabic

January 3

Church of Saint Catherine

07:30 Holy Mass

18:00 Parish Mass in Arabic

January 4

Church of Saint Catherine

07:30 Parish Mass in Arabic

10:00 Parish Mass in Arabic

January 5, Eve of Epiphany

Manger Grotto

04:55 Holy Mass; **07:30** Holy Mass (*Participation of groups is not possible*)

Church of Saint Catherine

07:30 Parish Mass in Arabic

Tomb of Rachel

11:00 The Custos of the Holy Land, H.P. Fr. Francesco Ielpo ofm, is welcomed by the Latin priests and representatives of Bethlehem

Church of Saint Catherine

11:30 Solemn Entry of the Custos of the Holy Land into Manger Square, the Basilica of the Nativity and the Church of Saint Catherine

13:45 First Vespers and Procession to the Grotto of the Nativity

15:30 Office of Readings and Procession to the Grotto of the Nativity

January 6, Epiphany

Manger Grotto

02:30 Masses every 30 minutes with **interruption at 01:00 until 02:30 approximately then resume until 08:00**

Church of Saint Catherine

07:30 Holy Mass in Arabic

10:00 Solemn Mass in Latin and Arabic

15:30 Second Vespers and Solemn Procession to the Grotto and Veneration of the Infant Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh