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UNIVERSITY of



DAYTON

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NEWS RELEASE

UD CELEBRATION TO BRING SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS TO DAYTON CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY

DAYTON, Ohio — Since 1964, University of Dayton students, faculty and staff have abandoned their daily routines each Dec. 8 to participate in Christmas on Campus, a festive, campuswide celebration of community and the holiday season.

Dec. 8 marks the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, so classes are canceled and campus offices are closed for the day. In the spirit of celebration, UD students will open their hearts and home to more than 1,200 underprivileged children from the Dayton area. Each child will be "adopted" for the night by a different UD student. While on campus, they'll participate in carnival games, musical performances, arts and crafts projects and other activities.

Families from the Miami Valley are also invited to attend. All in all, more than 8,000 people are expected to participate in the evening's activities.

To prepare for the celebration, members of the UD community will spend the day giving the campus a holiday makeover, complete with lights and decorations.

Once the children have arrived on campus, the official celebration will begin with a tree-lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Plaza. UD president Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., will lead the countdown to illumination, which will be followed by a surprise visit from Santa. At this time the plaza will also be graced with a live Nativity scene.

After the children leave campus, the evening activities will culminate in a Mass at 9:30 p.m. in Collins Gymnasium at the University's Physical Activities Center, located on Frericks Way. The celebration will include a 300-member choir and an entrance procession enhanced by poinsettias and liturgical dancers. More than 5,000 people are expected to attend this night Mass.

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For media interviews, call the **Christmas on Campus** office at (937) 229-2483.

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