

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2016

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

— John 1:5

THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God. At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning. Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

Psalm — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

Gospel — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$4,140.00	\$3,253.00
Number of Families contributing	140	101
Total Pledge for 2016	\$171,467.00	\$185,504.00
Pledged to Date (50 Weeks)	\$167,145.00	\$179,398.00
Received to Date	\$197,053.73	\$143,960.23
Envelopes Outstanding	(\$29,908.73)	\$35,437.77

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$421.00	\$12,050.00

Forty-six ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2016 Parish Goal	\$23,330.00
Amount Received to Date	\$15,002.07
Amount Outstanding	\$8,327.93

Six people made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$65.00	\$11,538.00

Three people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$7.00.

46 **CHILDREN** contributed \$219.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$60.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 175, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 250 and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 210.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once shared these thoughts about Jesus' birth:

"Joseph searched for a place for the birth of Him to whom heaven and earth belonged... Certainly, thought Joseph, there would be room in the village inn. There was room for the rich; there was room for everyone who had a tip to give to the innkeeper. But when finally the scrolls of history are completed...the saddest line of all will be:

There was no room in the inn.

But there was room in the stable. The inn was the gathering place of public opinion...the rendezvous of the worldly, the rallying place of the popular and the successful. But there's no room in the place where the world gathers. The stable is a place for outcasts, the ignored and the forgotten. The world might have expected the Son of God to be born in an inn, a stable would certainly be the last place in the world where one would look for Him. The lesson is: divinity is always where you least expect to find it."

God is everywhere, so keep your eyes—and heart—open.

The Word became flesh. (John 1:14)

Thank you for sharing n our humanity Divine Messiah.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Jimmy Benedict and Paige in thanks for Embassy on her 6th Birthday;
2. Tommy Newman in loving of Popeye's Kate on the 13th Anniversary of her death;
3. Pio and Bridget in thanks for their twin girls Eva and Zeta;
4. Johnny Jones, April Ann and Family in loving memory of Margaret Sherlock on the 2nd Anniversary of her death.
5. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

CHRISTMAS 2016 MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24th — 5:00 P.M. — Children's Mass

Saturday, December 24th — Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25th — 10:00 A.M. — Christmas Day Mass

Merry Christmas From Father Cherian

With heart brimming over with love and joy, let me wish all members of St. Edward's Parish family the Blessings and Joys of Christmas. May Christ come to you with the gift of Love, the Blessing of Hope, and the Promise of Peace. I will remember you all and your loved ones in the Christmas Mass.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed this Monday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 31st — 4:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.— New Year's Eve

Sunday, January 1st — 10:00 A.M. — New Year's Day Mass

DEDICATION OF NEW STATUE The Dedication of the statue donated by the Samulski Family will be at Mass this Tuesday, December 27th at **12 NOON**. All are encourage to attend this dedication to receive the blessings of Our Lady of Peace.

THE BANNS OF MARRIAGE are announced for the second time for Nicholas Riley and Farrah Carroll.

CHRISTMAS HUMOR

***What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve.**

***Who is never hungry at Christmas?
The turkey – he's always stuffed!**

THANK YOU to two members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite.

MASTER'S TABLE The Youth Group is scheduled to prepare and serve a hot meal to the clients of the Master's Table in Augusta on Thursday, January 5th. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity please contact Jack's Mary Rita.

JOKE OF THE WEEK Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and santa Claus were riding in the elevator of a very posh hotel. Just before the doors opened they all noticed a \$20 bill lying on the floor. Which one picked it up?
Santa, of course, because the other two don't exist.

CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

What do they do?
They all come to earth and spend with it you.
So save them a space, one empty chair,
You might not see them, but they will be there.

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** In loving memory of Ann Sherlock on her Birthday.
- Tuesday:** In honor of the Holy Spirit and Sacred Heart.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
- Thursday:** For the Holy Souls in Purgatory.
- Friday:** In honor of the Holy Souls.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** St. Stephen
- Tuesday:** St. John
- Wednesday:** The Holy Innocents
- Thursday:** St. Thomas Becket;
- Friday:** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Saturday:** St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve

CHRISTMAS IS

*Christmas is family, Christmas is fun.
A time for giving to everyone.
The message of hope, the promise of peace
That love might prevail and fighting cease.
Christmas is memories, Christmas is cheer,
A time to greet friends far and near;
The leap of the heart, delight of the soul
When love fills us up and renders us whole.
Christmas is laughter, Christmas is song,
A time for dancing and getting along.
The flower of joy, the season of light
When love came upon us that Winter night.*

READERS

Christmas Eve, 5:00 P.M.	MIDNIGHT Mass
Macy & Grace	Jay & Blue
Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.	Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack
New Year's Eve, 4:00 P.M.	New Year's Eve, 7:00 P.M.
Apple's Christina & Scott's Mercedes	Jay & Mary Melissa
New Year's Day, 10:00 A.M.	Jimmy Joseph & Tommy Mack

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday	Kathy Ann/ Theresa Maria
Tuesday	Ann T.
Wednesday	Grace
Thursday	Mary Ashley
Friday	Christina

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Christmas Eve 5:00 P.M.	MIDNIGHT
Front	Bridget Ann
Left	Bridget Rat & Mary Regina
Left Cup	Bibbie's Catherine Ann
Right	Ann T. & Kim Gallon
Right Cup	Rose Melissa

Saturday 4:00 P.M.	Dec. 31st
Front	Bridget Ann
Left Cup	Winnie Ann

Saturday 7:00 P.M.	Dec. 31st
Front	Jay
Cup	Johnny Jay's Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

Dec. 25th	Jan. 1
Pete Man's Nora	Pete Man's Nora
Rose Marie	Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday	Mary Cat
Tuesday	Pete Man's Nora
Wednesday	Ann T.
Thursday	Rose Marie
Friday	Bridget Ann

PRAYER CORNER

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise You for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the World made flesh in a little child. We behold His glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeeper and wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.