

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2022

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

— Luke 1:42

WHAT ALL THE WAITING HAS BEEN FOR

Today's readings are as familiar to most of us as the carols we sing and the commercials that overwhelm this holiday season. Often Christmas finds us tired, struggling with preparations and expectations. What we really want to feel is joy and peace. The stress of preparation, of waiting, is reflected in both Isaiah and Paul's letter to Titus. Luke tells us of the exhaustion that Mary and Joseph felt: a young pregnant wife and her husband, forced to travel just as she is about to give birth, unable even to find a room to stay in. It must have been miserable. They must have been afraid. In the midst of this exhaustion, misery, and fear, a child is born, a Son is given. The world is then filled with light and hope, joy and peace. In that moment they, and we, know what all the waiting has been for.

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TODAY'S READINGS

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

Psalm — The whole world has seen God's salvation (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	\$2,240.00	\$1,367.00
Number of Families contributing	86	65
Total Pledge for 2022	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (49 Weeks)	\$155,626.00	\$158,484.00
Received to Date	\$147,851.00	\$114,321.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$7,775.00	\$44,163.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$219.00	\$10,594.00

Twenty-three ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2022
\$2261.00	\$158,500.00

Three people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

POOR BOX totaled \$70.00.

11 **CHILDREN** contributed \$54.00.

BAA totaled \$45.00.

CHURCH IN AFRICA totaled \$30.00.

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. Tommy Newman, Josie, Saylor, and Eric Draven in loving memory of Popeye's Kate on the 19th Anniversary of her death;
2. The Family of Angela Fox in loving memory of her on the 2nd Anniversary of her death;
3. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

Merry Christmas from Father Chetian

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.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE The Banns of Marriage are announced for the first time for John Patrick Carroll and Gianna Carroll.

CHRISTMAS

“Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display — so much tinsel and decorations. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow, it isn't the tree not the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again.”

NEW YEAR'S 2023 MASS SCHEDULE

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

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

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

PEACE OF MIND

Peace of mind is available free just by letting go 3 C's:

1. C — Criticizing
2. C — Comparing
3. C -- Complaining

CHURCH ENVELOPES The Offertory and Development Fund Envelopes, Ladies envelopes, and Children's envelopes for 2023 are in the Atrium of the Church. If you don't find your envelopes, please contact the Church office immediately.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

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.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (*Christmas*)
Monday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
Tuesday: St. John
Wednesday: The Holy Innocents
Thursday: St. Thomas Becket;
Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Saturday: St. Sylvester I; *New Year's Eve*
Seventh Day within the Octave of the
Nativity of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: In honor of the Holy Family for a special intention.
Tuesday: For Petie and Mary Louise Carroll.
Wednesday: In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory; and for Bryan Jude Carroll.
Thursday: For Teeter's Eddie Sherlock.
Friday: In honor of the Holy Family for a special intention.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*I heard the Lord on Christmas Day;
These words to me He did say,
"Look for Me in the candle's glow,
In the softly falling snow.*

*See My joy in a child's happy face,
Feel My love in a friend's embrace.
See My hope in aging eyes,
As Christmas light within them rise.*

*Hear My voice in the carols sung;
My gentle peace as bells are rung.
In giving, loving, I'll be there,
All My goodness with you to share."*

READERS

Christmas Eve, 4:00 P.M. Macy & Royalty	Christmas Eve, MIDNIGHT Dominique & Dayna
Christmas Day, 10:00 A.M.	Jimmy Joseph & Blue
Sat. Dec. 31st, 4:00 P.M. Julie Ann & Macy	Sat. Dec. 31st, 7:00 P.M. Leah & Dayna
Sun. Jan. 1st, 10:00 A.M.	Jimmy Joseph & Blue

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday	-	Christina Apple
Tuesday	-	Macy
Wednesday	-	Josie
Thursday	-	Natalie
Friday	-	Dayna

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

Monday	-	Theresa Hun
Tuesday	-	Jack's Mary Rita
Wednesday	-	Julie Ann
Thursday	-	Betty Jo
Friday	-	Rosie Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M.	December 24th
Right	Winnie Ann
Left	Bridget Rita
Saturday 7:00 P.M.	
December	Mary Regina & Julie Ann
Sunday 10:00 A.M.	
December 25th	January 1st
Nora	Ned's Rose Marie

CHRISTMAS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q. How do you know Santa has to be a man?**
A. *No woman is going to wear the same outfit year after year.*
- Q. What do monkeys sing at Christmas?**
A. *Jungle Bells, Jungle Bells.*
- Q. What did the big candle say to the little candle?**
A. *I'm going out tonight.*

WHAT YOU DO

ABILITY is what you're capable of doing.
MOTIVATION determines what you do.
ATTITUDE determines how well you do it.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

## CHRISTMAS PRAYER

*God, sometimes I get too caught in the Christmas commercialism. Okay, a lot of times. Today, I'm going to refocus my heart and remember why I'm celebrating this wonderful day in the first place. I'm celebrating Jesus today...and every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.*