

CHRISTMAS - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Our waiting for the coming of Christ is over. As a Church, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. He comes as savior of the world, promised by God and proclaimed by the prophets. Recognizing our personal need for a savior, we rejoice that God has saved us through his son, Jesus.

First Reading (Isaiah) See, your salvation comes.

Second Reading (Titus 3.4-7)

The goodness and loving kindness of God has saved us.

Gospel (John 1.1-18) The Word became flesh and lived among us.

REFLECTION:

Within thirty-six hours the church gives us five different sets of readings with five different sets of prayers for the proper of the Mass.

They all have different messages for us, centering on the Incarnation of God in the birth of Jesus Christ.

In the one Gospel we hear the genealogy of Jesus starting with Abraham. We hear the promise that God will build a house for David from David's own descendants, rather than David building a house for God.

The household of David will be the source of the Messiah.

In another Gospel, once Zechariah's voice has been restored during the circumcision and the naming of his son, John (the Baptist), Zechariah praises God for raising an offspring of David to rule over God's people in fulfillment of the promises of old. Zechariah also realizes the special role his own son will play in the fulfillment of messianic prophecies, since John will go before the Lord Jesus to prepare straight paths.

Christmas the readings begin with rejoicing at the announcement of the Good News of God's Reign being established through the birth of Jesus. The Letter to the Hebrews relates the fact that God has spoken more clearly than ever before, through God's own Son, Jesus. The Son is the perfect reflection of the Abba-Father's glory. The introduction to John's Gospel is beautiful. John begins: "In the beginning was the Word."

"The Word was with God in the beginning, and through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word, nothing came to be." It is for that very reason that God has taken on human flesh and lived among us in the person of Jesus the Christ – true God and true human. Jesus has shared our human life so that we might accept the greatest gift of all – a share in the divine life of God, not just now but for all eternity.

May the Incarnation of the Son of God continue to empower your life with Love, Light, and Purpose.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



Every family has received a mission from God to be a vital part of society and to bear witness to God's love for everyone. Let us place our families under the protection of the Holy Family.

First Reading: (Sirach 3.2-6,12-14)

Those who respect the Lord honour their parents.

Second Reading: (Col 3.12-21) Family life in the Lord.

Gospel (Luke 2.41-52)

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers.

REFLECTION:

Today's focus is on family life, with the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph taking the center role as can be seen in the Gospel. The Gospel relates the events when Jesus was about twelve years old and stayed in the Temple while Mary and Joseph journeyed home.

Family life is an essential aspect of any society. If family life is devalued, then a community will soon fail to function properly. Family is more than a blood connection with relatives. It is not just a natural process by which we are united with others. It takes a lot of work by each member of a family for them to truly be a family. Mutual support, care, and love are hallmarks of a family. God gives us examples of what it means to be a family. We must look to these role models and try to incorporate the most important elements into our relationship with those with whom we are bound.

May you continue to grow in appreciation and love for each member of your family, whether you live with them or not.



**The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week
For the People.**

Mass Intentions from Dec 26-31, 2021

Sun. Dec 26/11:00 a.m. Nick Baird -Teresa Baird
Michael Broccolini - Annette Broccolini
Eileen Shanahan - Shanahan & Scott family
Giuseppe Venanzi & Giuseppe Giancola - Angela Venanzi
Victor Chartier - Doreen, Rick, Lise, Cindy, Kristin, Glenn, Christian, Alexa & Kate
Thanks giving to the Lord for 50 blessed years of married life - Nathan family

Wed. Dec 29/10:00 a.m. Francesco Nardi & Francesco Andreacchi - Elisabetta Nardi

Thu. Dec 30/10:00 a.m. Giving Thanks and Praise to The Lord for 50 blessed years of married life - Nathan family

Fri. Dec 31/10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Baird, Shanahan, Ryan Scott, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner Family - Teresa Baird

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve December 24 ~ Mass 4:30 p.m. (St. Pat's Square)
Christmas Eve December 24 ~ Mass 8:00 p.m. (St. Richard's)
Carols begin at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve December 24 ~ Mass 10:30 p.m. (St. Joseph Parish)

Christmas Day December 25 ~ Mass 9:00 a.m. (St. Joseph Parish)

Christmas Day December 25 ~ Mass 11:00 a.m. (St. Richard's)

New Year's Day January 1, 2022

Mass 11:00 a.m. (St. Richard's)

Mass 4:30 p.m. (St. Pat's Sq)

Regular weekday morning mass at 10 a.m.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Friday Evening from 5 to 6 p.m.

(Silent meditation followed by the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation can be heard every Sunday
30 minutes before and after mass.**

SUNDAY ENVELOPE BOXES for 2022 are available for pickup at the back of the church arranged in alphabetical order for your convenience.

Please note annual contributions \$20 and below for 2021 will not be assigned an envelope box for 2022.

If your box is not available, please continue using a blank envelope with your contribution and 2021 number and leave your name, phone number and box number on the sheet provided on the table.

Please feel free to leave a message at the parish office.

Should you take the wrong box by mistake, please don't forget to return it.

If you have moved please fill out one of your envelope with the new address for tax purposes.

Thank you for supporting your parish.

The parish office will be closed from Friday December 24, 2021 until Tuesday January 4, 2022.

You may view St. Richards weekly bulletin on our website and also use the Donate button for E-transfer for contributions.

Go to www.strichards.ca

We thank you for your ongoing generosity!

*Merry
Christmas*