

## 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.*

**Christmas is a commemoration of God's coming into the world.**

He came for all of us - believers and non-believers alike. His birth should bring us hope and triumph which will dispel the sadness from our lives. But after years of celebrating Christmas after Christmas many of us are yet to see that triumph in our lives and our hopes may be giving way to despair.

**Has the Messiah really come? If He has where is He?**

Why doesn't He bring the triumph that dispels the sadness of humanity? The real problem today is that we are waiting for God to literally come to us.

We celebrate His birth just like that of any one of us - offering prayers, eating, drinking and making merry. **We celebrate his coming into the world but we do not welcome Him into our hearts and lives.**

Yes, He has come into the world and is very much in our midst but unfortunately we refuse to recognize Him therefore fail to welcome Him. By being born to poor parents, in an environment of extreme poverty, Jesus is telling us where He dwells - not in places of majesty and glamour but among the poor and the down-trodden, the sick and dying, the hungry, the oppressed and in those we love and even in those we hate.

**In short He is among the masses.**

Amidst our celebrations this Christmas, let us pause a while to look around us to recognize that Jesus who was born into the world two thousand years ago. He is among us in every person and in every trial and tribulation we encounter in our lives. Let us take a moment to look around to recognize Him in those who do not have joy and peace in their lives.

Let us do the little within our means to alleviate the pain and misery in their lives. Let us do whatever we can to give them the hope that triumph will one day wipe out the sadness in their hearts.

We too, like Jesus, must have the humility to come down from our positions of comfort and power to meet Him in the people around us. If we isolate ourselves from the masses by building a fortress around us with all our wealth and power together with greed, selfishness and pride, then we can keep waiting for Jesus all our lives but it will only be in vain.

To us then His birth into this world, that is Christmas, will be just another day to celebrate, eat, drink and make merry. It will never become the day when hope shall sing of triumph and sadness flees away.

**The good news of salvation is for all people to hear.**

**Blessed Celebration of Love Incarnate to you and yours!**

**Mass Time (Dec 24, 2022 – Jan 1, 2023)**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS EVE)**  
(Mass for the People)

Saturday, Dec 24/7:00 pm St. Patrick's Square  
9:00 pm St. Richards Parish  
(Carols begins at 8:30 pm)

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)**  
(Mass for the People)

Sunday, Dec 25/10:00 am St. Richards Parish

**NEW YEAR EVE**

(Mass for the People)

Saturday, Dec 31/4:30 pm St. Patrick's Square

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD  
& WORLD DAY OF PEACE**  
(Mass for World Peace)

Sunday, January 1/10:00 am St. Richards Parish

**Mass Intentions (Dec 28 - 30, 2022)**

**Feast – THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

Wed. Dec 28/10:00 am Carolina & Lorenzo Ciallella - Anna Muzzo

Thu. Dec 29/10:00 am Francesco Nardi & Francesco Andreacchi - Elisabetta Nardi

**Feast - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

Fri. Dec 30/10:00 am Living & Deceased members of the Baird, Shanahan, Scott, Ryan, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner Families - Teresa Baird



**The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for The People  
December 25<sup>th</sup> and for World Peace on January 1.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation every Sunday, 30 minutes before  
mass or any other day/time by appointment. (514) 488-0778.**

**SUNDAY ENVELOPES BOXES** will be available for pick as of December 24<sup>th</sup> at the back of the church, arranged in alphabetical order for your convenience. If your box is not available, please leave your name and box number on the sheet provided on the table and your box will be ready for the following Sunday. 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.**

**January 1, 2023**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**



*Today the Church celebrates the place of Mary in God's plan of salvation. She is the bearer of God to the world. Her acceptance of God's invitation has given the world a Saviour and enabled us to be adopted as sons and daughters of God.*

**First Reading** (Numbers 6:22-27)

The Lord promises his blessing to the people of Israel and with the blessing the gift of peace.

**Second Reading** (Galatians 4:4-7) God sent his Son, born of a woman.

**Gospel** (Luke 2:16-21)

The naming of Jesus reveals his identity as Saviour.

**REFLECTION**

Jesus means "The Lord Saves", indicating his religious significance as longed –for Messiah. Mary has a unique place in God's plan of salvation as the Bearer of God to the world.

She is venerated with honour as the Mother.

*God, our Father,  
so loved the world  
that He gave His only Son.  
May you and your loved ones  
share the peace and happiness  
of that love with each other.*

**Merry Christmas**



**Jesus is The  
Reason for The Season**