

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

"All The Ends Of The Earth Have Seen The Saving Power Of God!" Psalm 98

December 25, 2016

Nativity of the Lord

Celebrating 165 years of living faith since the foundation of our parish in 1851.

Lord Jesus, Welcome!

The angel comes to Mary, and Mary says yes with a pure hopefulness that has not been known before in human history. The angel comes to Joseph, and Joseph is moved to give his life to protect and serve this unforeseen fulfillment of all the Father's promises. Mary comes to Elizabeth, and Elizabeth marvels at God's mercy in choosing her to receive the Mother of God, and God himself, into her home. Angels come to the shepherds, and, on a



night that began like any other, they are led to gaze upon a baby whose presence somehow assures them that this night offers salvation to every future day and night. The star guides the Magi, and they rejoice that this child has come not only for the Jews, but for every man and woman.

Just like Mary, and Joseph, and Elizabeth, and the shepherds, and the Magi, so, too, are you called to participate in His coming, in His Incarnation. His saving presence becomes more evident in the world through our hope, through our eyes. The hope of the world rests upon His coming.

And in this inscrutable love, Jesus allows the expression of this hope to rest also upon our response. Let us marvel on this Christmas Day at this intimate union between God and man. Welcome to our home, welcome to our family, EMMANUEL !

Our Joy Is Jesus Christ

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"-these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Christian joy, like hope, is found on God's fidelity, on the certainty that God always keeps his promises. The prophet Isaiah exhorts those who have lost their way and have lost heart to entrust themselves to the faithfulness of the Lord, for his salvation will not delay in bursting into their lives. All those who have encountered Jesus along the way experience a serenity and joy in their hearts which nothing and no one can take away. Our joy is Jesus Christ, His faithful love is inexhaustible!

May the Virgin Mary help us to hasten our steps to Bethlehem, to encounter the child who is born for us, for the salvation and joy of all people. May she obtain for us the grace to live the joy of the gospel in our families, at work, in the parish, and everywhere—an intimate joy, fashioned of wonder and tenderness, the joy a mother experiences when she looks at her newborn baby and feels that he or she is a gift from God, a miracle for which she can only give thanks! Dear friends, be glad! Do not be afraid of being joyful! Don't be afraid of joy! That joy which the Lord gives us when we allow him to enter our life. Let us allow him to enter our lives and invite us to go out to the margins of life and proclaim the gospel. Don't be afraid of joy.

Have joy and courage!

Pope Francis



‡ ANNOUNCED MASSES ‡

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Vigil

5:00 p.m. 1st anniversary, Michael Carmone, requested, wife Pat O'Hara

Saturday, December 24

3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. Confessions

Sunday, December 25 Nativity of the Lord

10:00 a.m. Memorial, Helen Langton, requested, family

Monday, December 26 St. Stephen, The First Martyr

8:00 a.m. Memorial, Robert Gouch, requested, Sr. Mary Ellen

Tuesday, December 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 a.m. Memorial, Arthur A. Sears Sr., requested, Shirley Sears

Thursday, December 29 St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

8:00 a.m. Birthday remembrance, Joseph Machado, requested, Shirley Sears

Friday, December 30 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00 a.m. Intentions for the Parishioners of St. Joseph Church

Saturday December 31 Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God, Vigil

5:00 p.m. For the Christmas Flower donors

Sunday, January 1 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

11:15 a.m. Memorial, Alice Jordan MacManus, requested, family

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday December 31

5:00 p.m.

Olivia, Grace, Kirsten, Max

Sunday, January 1

11:15 a.m.

Ben, Will, Lily, Jessica, Daniel

LECTORS

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

Carolyn Piatek

Sunday, January 1

11:15 a.m.

Ed Bozzi

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

Jan Carrara, Jan Jaquinto, Pat O'Hara

Sunday, January 1

11:15 a.m.

Mike Reilly



January 1, 2017 is a Holy Day of Obligation

The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:15 a.m.

Rosary

Please join us in reciting the Rosary on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the chapel following the 8 a.m. Mass.



Mass Book

2017

The Mass Book for 2017 is now available.

Please call the Rectory at 421-9137 to reserve anniversary or memorial Mass dates.

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,

and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,

and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Remembering Our Loved Ones

It is the longstanding tradition of the Church that each Mass have an intention, for either a living person, a person who has died, or a particular intention. The value of ONE Mass is beyond our imagining, and the practice of having a Mass offered on someone else's behalf is a reminder of our profound interconnectedness as members of the Body of Christ.

Perhaps there is a deceased relative, a living friend or family member in need, or even an intention that you hold in your heart. Consider having a Mass celebrated for your intention, especially during this month that we remember our loved ones who have gone before us.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Due to the upcoming "Flu Season", as of **January 1, 2017** St. Joseph's will temporarily discontinue the distribution of the Precious Blood of Christ during all Masses. St. Joseph Church, therefore, will only distribute the Holy Eucharist. We will also temporarily suspend the "sign of peace" at all Masses. We will continue this practice until Holy Thursday. Thank you for your understanding.

New Year's Mass Schedule

Mary, the Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation

New Year's Eve - December 31

5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day - January 1

11:15 a.m.



The 2017 Calendars are available at the Church entrance. Please feel free to pick one up on your way out of Mass.

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING
DECEMBER**

PLEASE NOTE: *There are no budget figures for this week because the bulletin was printed earlier than usual for Christmas.*

Next week's second collection: Solemnity of Mary