

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 6PM

December 24, 2020 Year B

Nativity of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 9AM

December 25, 2020 Year B

Nativity of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Responsorial Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Homily: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you, who is Christ and Lord.” (Lk. 2:10-11)

Dear brothers and sisters, this message of grace is today addressed to us and to all whom God loves, to all who accept the invitation of living in hope. Today, God has revealed his love, His grace and His faithfulness, mercy and truth. Through the birth of His Son, we have now an unshakeable foundation of true hope for every-man being.

Today we celebrate the Feast of God’s sharing His love with us. Jesus, His Son, brought the Good News that our God is a loving, forgiving, merciful and rewarding God and not a judgmental, cruel and punishing God. The birth of Jesus demonstrates how God our Heavenly Father loves us, forgives us, provides for us and rewards us. Each Christmas reminds us that sharing love with others is our Christian privilege and duty, and every time we do that, Jesus is born in our lives. Therefore, let us allow Jesus to be born in our hearts and lives, not only during Christmas, but every day, so that he may radiate the light of his presence from within us as sharing and selfless love, expressed in compassionate words and deeds, unconditional forgiveness, and in humble service and overflowing generosity.

Today is the feast of the Emmanuel: God with us. Because God in through the coming of Jesus, chose and continues to live with us in all the events of our lives as the “Emmanuel” announced by the angel to Mary. As Emmanuel, Jesus lives in the Sacraments (especially in the Holy Eucharist), in the Bible, in the praying community and in each believer and human being. We become through Jesus the dwelling place of God. Christmas reminds us that we are bearers of God with the privilege and duty of conveying Jesus His Son to those around us by loving them as Jesus did, through sacrificial, humble and committed service. Sharing Jesus living in us, with others, is the best Christmas gift we can give, or receive, today.

Today we celebrate the birth of a king. But he is unlike any earthly king. He is someone who spends his time with the poor, he heals the sick, he feeds the hungry, he gives sight to the blind, he cures lepers, he raises the dead and he preaches a Gospel of love, and most of all, he forgives sins. For indeed this is why he came, to forgive the sins of all humankind and to open up for us the way to our loving God. And he invites each one of us to repent, to experience the fullness of God’s love. He is inviting us all to join him in the mission of bring Good News to His people.

This is what we are celebrating today. The most unique and significant birth that there ever was, the beginning of our salvation, the event that changed the world. When we look at the Christmas Crib, it is a simple scene with a mother and father with their new born child surrounded the animals and shepherds. And yet Christmas is one of the most loved and celebrated event in the Church. Even in our ever more secular society it is an event still celebrated by most people. Those with faith and those with none, all find a meaning in it. This is because Christmas and indeed the birth of Jesus, speaks of peace, love forgiveness, hope, and healing. We all feel that it touches us, we fell that belonging, belonging to larger family full of love.

So, on this holy day we celebrate, we pray, we sing, we feast, we rejoice. But above all we thank God that he sent us his Son to be our Savior, to be our Brother and companion in our struggles of life.



Please remember in you prayers

*Bob McMurtrie, Joan Shoemaker, John & Julia Dunn,
the Palagi Twins & Charles Alter*

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BORN TODAY

Today we rejoice. God has become one of us. He is a baby, born so we could be born into and share in God's own life. God's love greets us as equals, so we can, like Mary, freely say "yes" to this mysterious gift. If we accept this gift, we become children of God, members of the divine family, and full of grace like Mary. Baptism and confirmation are the acts of our rebirth; the Eucharist is our nourishment to grow in God's family.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

*To all of our wonderful parishioners who have generously donated to
beautify our altar at Christmas.*

May God Bless you and your loved ones.

Lynne McMurtrie (Jerry McMurtrie)

Steve & Lisa Forte
(Lewis Forte & Kenneth Anderson)

Tom & Sharon Hawksworth
(Marty Hawksworth)

Sal & Lorie Messina
In memory of our loved ones.

Min Tassone (Bruno Tassone)
(Dottie Hines) with love from Allen Hines

Ray & Jean Kostaskey
(Francis Rummings, Michael Kostaskey,
Elizabeth Verblud & Jack Verblud)

Lee & Barbara Hollingsworth
(Vincent Recupido & Carol Hollingsworth)

John & Andrea Moore
(Charles Alter, Buddy & Matthew Moore,
Harold & Cindy Simmons, Julian & Eleanor Alter)

SHALOM

The light of Christ shines on us and on our actions this day. The outcast shepherds became the first evangelists to hear the heavenly hymn: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." We, too, are called to proclaim "Shalom! Pax! Peace!" Do people believe our testimony to the light of Christ?

