

St. Paul the Apostle and Immaculate Conception Churches

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4th Sunday of Advent ~ 22 December 2013

Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." — Mt 1:18-24

Reprinted from the homonym by Fr. Glass, 1986, 1999, 2006

First Reading + Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading + Romans 1: 1-7

Gospel + Matthew 1: 18-24

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 23

NO MASS SCHEDULED

Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm+FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
7:30pm+Norman ALLEN, RIP – Megraw Family
12:00am+Bing GIBSON, RIP – Family

Wednesday, December 25

9:00am+Debbie MURRAY, RIP – D/S Murray
10:30am+Kurt/Elizabeth STIEGWARDT, RIP Baumfeld Family

Thursday, December 26

8:00am+Jiacomo GISMONDI, RIP – A Green
10:30am+Mass at Riverwood Home

Friday, December 27

12:10pm+Michael DEMIANIUK, RIP – T/M Walsh

Saturday, December 28

(Sat. daily Mass at Immaculate Conception

9:00am+Doreen POWER, Pers. Int. – J/C Orr
5:00pm+Richard CRONIN, RIP – M Cronin

Sunday, December 29

9:00am+Audrey SEPHTON, RIP – J/R Wallace
10:30am+FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GLASS:

Myth and reality.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exists, and you know that they abound and give to your life the highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. — F. P. Church, *NY Sun*, 1897.

This year many people will be celebrating Christmas — very few will be celebrating the birth of Christ. On the night before Christmas, Santa will come down the chimney “to make glad the heart of childhood.” For most people, that is all the reason they need for to celebrate this winter festival.

Although even the staunchest atheist must admit that Jesus of Nazareth holds a unique place in world history — after all, Christianity is the foundation of Western Civilization — still, for many of our family and friends and coworkers, Jesus is as mythical as Santa Claus.

Not believe in Santa! You might as well not believe in fairies! There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

The original St. Nick was a real person, a Catholic Bishop who defended the divinity of Christ in 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicaea — the council that gave us the Nicene Creed which we still profess every Sunday. Owing to his famous generosity to the poor, Bishop Nicholas was already on his way to becoming a legend, but he had no doubts about the non-legendary reality of Jesus Christ.

In modern times, the theological fashion has been to try to distinguish between “the Christ of faith” and “the Christ of history.” The attempt to do this has failed because when the miraculous (the “myths”) are stripped away there is nothing left. The Christ of faith *is* the Christ of history. As St. Paul wrote in his first surviving letter: “If Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.” When St. Paul proclaimed the Christ of faith, he was proclaiming an historical reality.

Something happened two thousand years ago — something that was more than legend. A child was born in a stable in the Bethlehem who was “destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed.” It was an event that, as St. Ignatius of Antioch said, was hidden from the ruler of this age — accomplished in the silence of God, but later to be loudly proclaimed.

While it is hardly possible to imagine a world without “love and generosity and devotion,” we do not need to believe in fairies or elves to give life “the highest beauty and joy.” The world can get by without Santa Claus. It cannot get by without Jesus Christ. This Christmas many will be celebrating a myth. We will be celebrating a reality.

O magnum mysterium! “O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear our Lord. Alleluia!”



HOLY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS WISHES from the whole pastoral staff at St. Paul’s Parish: Fr. Glass, Fr. Bennett, Deacon Des Carroll, Deacon John Crump; Dave McKendrick and parish secretary Deborah. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of you. God Bless.

Thank You!

We extend a thank you for your initial response to the humanitarian relief needs following *Typhoon Haiyan*. Our parish has donated \$2,270 to this cause and we continue to offer our prayers for the victims of this natural disaster. The Canadian government is matching donations until December 23, 2013. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to help those in crisis.

We wish to congratulate the families of the following children who have entered in to the Roman Catholic Community through the holy sacrament of BAPTISM: Shelby Meghan BRANNAGAN; David Edward HEHN-PUHALSKI; Ciara Joan Clark NOLAN; Gabriel Francis Joseph TAN; Abby Marie THOMPSON and Mary Catherine THOMPSON.



Christmas Smiles Campaign:

In the past we have raised over \$600 to give a healthy meal to children in developing countries. This year we would like to raise enough money to adopt two more children from the Philippines along with Erwin. After each mass until New Year's Day, bring your children to the Crèche on the altar where you will see the Christmas Smiles Container and tell them what alms giving is about. Along with the joyful noise, this special moment teaches the importance of charity and stewardship and helping those in need.

Ring in the New Year at St. Paul's Church!

Sponsored by
The Knights of Columbus
6:15pm – 1:00am
In The FATHER BENNETT HALL

The evenings Menu consists of:

- Kettle Soup & Assorted Salad Bar**
- Pork Loin in Mushroom Sauce**
- Chicken in a Herbed Cream Sauce**
- Roasted Potatoes & Orleans style Veggies**
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or Charles Donnelly 705-435-2577.

PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Confessions:

Every Saturday: 4:00-4:45p.m. (before 5:00p.m. Mass)
There will be No confessions on December 24th.

NOTE: All Sunday Masses for the weekends of December 22nd & 29th will be at regular Mass times.

Christmas Mass Times:

At Saint Paul the Apostle Church
Tues. December 24th: at 5:00p.m. 7:30p.m. & 12midnight
Wednesday, December 25th: at 10:30a.m.
At Immaculate Conception Church, Adjala
Wed. December 25th: at 9:00a.m.

New Year's Eve Mass Times:

At Saint Paul the Apostle Church
Tuesday, December 31: at 5:00p.m.
Wednesday, January 1st: at 10:30a.m.
At Immaculate Conception Church, Adj-Tos
Wednesday, January 1st: at 9:00am



Catholic Ministry to Grades 9 - 12
Friday, December 27th

ROAD TRIP!

Street Patrol, Food & Clothing Handouts
in Toronto

Email: allistonlifeteen@gmail.com
Or Text Dave 647-237-1348

OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS:

CLOSED
12:00noon December 24 – December 30

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 34 Victoria St. E. **705-434-2108**

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