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The Pastoral Team

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The Nativity of the Lord

NEW MASS SCHEDULE**ST. JUSTIN'S - SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

SATURDAY - 4:30 p.m. (11 a.m. Confessions)

SUNDAY - 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY MASS - 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:30 p.m. - Contact: Flora Alambra 860-961-1911

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

WEDNESDAY - 6:30 p.m. (6 p.m. Confessions)

FRIDAY - 8 a.m. (8:30 a.m. Holy Hour - unless school Mass taking place)

ST. FRANCIS—ST. MARTIN'S - SUNDAY MASS TIMES

SATURDAY - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Spanish Mass

SUNDAY - 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Spanish Mass

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES (SPA / ENG rotation)

TUESDAY (2nd & 4th) - 6 p.m. (SPA) 6:30 p.m. Holy Hour

THURSDAY (1st & 3rd) - 6 p.m. (ENG) 6:30 p.m. Holy Hour

ST. LEOPOLD MANDIC'S - SUNDAY MASS TIMES

SUNDAY - 11 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

TUESDAY - FRIDAY - 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, December 28 @ 6:30 p.m.

No Confessions or Mass

FRIDAY, December 30 @ 8:00 a.m.

(+) Nancy Leonne Bourdeau

Fr. Bourdeau

(Int) McIntosh-Fortin Family

Catherine Leach

(Int) McIntosh Family

Catherine Leach

(Int) Leach Family

Catherine Leach

SATURDAY, December 31 @ 4:30 p.m. – New Year's Eve

No Confessions today at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, January 1 @ 10:00 a.m. – New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Readings - Nativity of the Lord

1st Reading: Isaiah 52.7-10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1.1-6

Gospel: John 1.1-18



December Monthly Intention of the Holy Father: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

For Your Information**Offertory Envelopes**

If you didn't receive your Offertory Envelopes for 2023, contact Sherry Rowland at the office 519-685-2795 ext. 241 Please do not use your new envelopes until 2023. Any charitable donations for the Church for 2022 must be received by the office by Friday, December 30, 2022.

Mass for the Unborn

This Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 28, 2022 at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica with the Rosary/Chaplet of Divine Mercy commencing at 7:00 p.m., followed by Mass at 7:30 pm. Bishop Fabbro will preside. Everybody is welcome.

CWL News**CWL Memberships**

CWL Memberships for 2023 are now due. Please submit a \$35 payment (cash or cheque) in an envelope marked **CWL—include your name, address, phone number, and email.** You can place it in the offertory baskets during Mass or drop off at the parish office. Please consider joining this year and discovering what the CWL is all about.

Early Bird Lottery Winner was Mina Wong—\$150. Again, thank you for supporting our CWL Bazaar.

Next General Meeting is
Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Outreach Ministry

If you know someone who is lonely, sick, or you, yourself just need a friendly phone call to say 'hello' or pray with ... *we are here for you!!!* We value you more than words can say. Call Milda at 519-685-2407, leave your name and phone number, and someone from the Outreach Ministry will be happy to get in touch with you. Blessings.

"A sweet friendship refreshes the Soul." Proverbs



December 25, 2022 - Christmas Day - Nativity of the Lord

Merry Christmas to all!

The evangelist Luke is very careful to set all of these saving and wondrous events firmly in history. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So a census has been called basically for taxation, all must go to their ancestral homeland even if they haven't lived there in generations. Joseph is of the House of David and goes with Mary to the City of David – Bethlehem. A cave, a natural rock formation used for the shelter of the flock and the storage of food is provided for the young expectant couple (because the Inn is full – possible a symbol of a world full of itself – not knowing its true poverty) and Mary gives birth to Jesus, the Son of God and the son of Mary. All of the anxiety and privations that this young couple had to endure now melt away in the presence of love incarnate – Jesus – the one who will save his people from their sins.

This saving event is heralded by angels not to Caesar or Quirinius or to any of the great of the world but to shepherds. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

So, it is the shepherds who are the first to receive these tidings of great joy. And who are these shepherds? Shepherds in the Old Testament were often prophets, great leaders like David who was called from tending the flock to tend the people of God. In the New Testament shepherds were poor, unclean who watched over a flock that did not belong to them. A Shepherd would lie in front of the cave or pen where the sheep were so that he himself was the gate. Jesus later in his ministry would associate himself with a shepherd. I am the Good Shepherd... I am the Gate... I give my life willingly. In the Old Testament the sheep offered themselves for the shepherd – they were used as sacrificial offerings in the temple. Now Jesus the Good Shepherd will offer his life for the sheep, for you and for me. So, the daily life of a shepherd was difficult and dangerous. Exposed to the elements and at the mercy of wolves and robbers. It is to these poor that the birth of the messiah is first proclaimed. Later the Magi will represent the rest of the world - us the gentiles - waiting for a messiah when they offer their gifts at the epiphany or the showing forth to the nations.

A light has shone for us, and the darkness shall not overcome it. The birth of this child has changed the course of human history. But he comes, this Jesus daily for us and asks to be born in our hearts. We too are the poor; we too are broken and vulnerable and needy - in need of a savior. All we need to do is recognize our need and invite him in. At this Christmas time we remember the joy of past Christmases when we were children, as we look at our children or grandchildren. Christ wants us to become child-like again, to have that trust and need for him. To acknowledge our need for a savior. Christ came into an imperfect world, to imperfect people to bring a message of salvation for all. May we recognize our poverty so that he may be born again in our souls.

Fr. Christopher

For Your Information

Parish Office Hours During Christmas

The office will close on Friday, December 23rd at noon and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Parish Office News — New Phone Extensions

The phone extensions have changed and the phone extensions listed on the current bulletin cover are not accurate. When you call the parish office, please listen carefully to the message to ensure you get the right extension for the person you are trying to reach. Thank you for your anticipated patience.

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