

St. Peter's Church



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018**

47 Central Avenue, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901

Rectory Phone: 570-724-3371 ~ Fax: 570-724-6322

Religious Education Office: 570-724-9789

Website: www.stpeterswellsboro.org ~ Email: stpch@ptd.net

Rectory Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9:00–2:00pm

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Bechtel – Dbechtel00@yahoo.com

Secretary: Connie Spang – stpch@ptd.net

Business Manager: Patti Mitchell – stpadm@ptd.net

Directors of Religious Ed.: Maureen Poirier & Melissa Mann
stpored@ptd.net

Maintenance Staff: Connie Spang, Francis Kennedy

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm ~ Sunday: 8:30am

Reconciliation

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 11:45am -12:00noon;

Saturday 4:15 – 4:45pm; By appointment by calling the Rectory.

Mission Statement

We, the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, are called to holiness by God as present day disciples of Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are united in service to God to share our faith with one another and our community. May our participation in the Holy Sacraments, our ministries and our devotion to Mary bring glory to God and His Kingdom.

Emergency Contact

In the event of an emergency, please call the rectory at 570-724-3371. If no answer, please call 570-329-5762. This is a pager. You will be instructed to enter your phone number and Fr. Bechtel will return your call.

Pregnancy Support

Catholic Social Services (800) 982-4310

Crisis Pregnancy Help line (888) 4-OPTIONS

Endless Mountains Pregnancy Care Center (570) 673-4476

Religious Education and Formation

Religious Education classes are held for Pre-K – 12th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Pre-K (ages 3-5) is held during the 8:30am Mass. K-12th begins at 9:30am and concludes at 10:40am. To register, please contact the Religious Education Office at 570-724-9789 or the Rectory at 570-724-3371. Children's Liturgy (grades K-4th) is held during the 8:30am Mass when Religious Education classes are in session.

Welcome to St. Peter's Church!

If you are visiting Tioga County this weekend, welcome and thank you for worshipping with us! If you are searching for a Spiritual home, we welcome you to join us and invite you to become part of our church family. Please complete this form and return it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

Request for Parishioner Registration Form

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Advent Prayer

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Parish Contact Listing

Women's Bible Study – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

St. John Neumann's Prayer Group – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085

Contemplative Spirituality Group – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Cards & Games – Patty Kramer 570-948-9023

Knights of Columbus – George Gamble 570-724-5216

Social Concerns – Karen Plumley 570-439-0175

Parish Rummage Sale – Mary Lasko 570-439-7706

Pat Gorda 570-724-3035

Church Linens & Decorations – Sue Singer 570-724-2360

Buildings & Grounds – Rick Joachim 570-439-2591

Cemetery Committee – Howard Rutledge 570-724-4529

Fundraising Dinners – Paul Urner 570-723-9970

Music Ministry – Christina Simonis 570-724-2085,

Marilyn deGuzman 570-376-5427

Samaritan House – Linda Sampson 570-404-2180

Youth Group – Maureen Poirier/ Melissa Mann 570-724-9789

Eucharistic Adoration – Rhonda Gooch 570-724-3092

Finance Council – Priscilla Walrath 570-724-2056

Parish Council – Rectory 570-724-3371

Worship Committee – Rectory 570- 724-3371

Sunday Nursing Home Communion – Eileen Evert 570-439-4470

Prayer Chain – Kate Black 570-724-3047

Order of Secular Carmelite – Lori Makos 570-724-3371

ChristLife – Norb Josten 570-724-9095

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Jan Bernethy 307-267-0677

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

Date	Time	Confession Time and Mass Intention
Monday 12/24	4:00pm 6:00pm	Our Christmas Mass Intentions Our Christmas Mass Intentions
Tuesday 12/25	10:00am	Our Christmas Mass Intentions
Wednesday 12/26	No Mass	
Thursday 12/27	No Mass	
Friday 12/28	No Mass	
Saturday 12/29	4:00-4:45pm 5:00pm	Confessions In Memory of Scott Waclawik (Family)
Sunday 12/30	8:30am	In Memory of Dolores Scuderi (Kathy)

The Sanctuary Candle is offered in Memory of
Parishioners of St. Peter's

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 23, 2018

No Religious Education Classes

MONDAY, December 24, 2018

Rectory Closed

TUESDAY, December 25, 2018

Rectory Closed

No Adoration

WEDNESDAY, December 26, 2018

Rectory Closed

THURSDAY, December 27, 2018

Cards & Games – 12:00pm, Parish Center

FRIDAY, December 28, 2018

Rectory Closed

SUNDAY, December 30, 2018

No Religious Education Classes

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

This month's food pantry items are:

chicken noodle or tomato soup (10-11oz). A donation box can be found at the entrance of the church.

GOODIES FOR OUR TROOPS

This month's Goodies for our Troops items are: *foot aids (insoles, powder, cream), eye drops, lip balms,*

1# coffee, coffee singles, candy bars, M&M's & Reece's, microwave popcorn & personal notes (cards, letters, drawings from children.) A donation box can be found at the entrance of

ST. THOMAS/ST. CATHERINE MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening – 7:00pm, St. Catherine, Westfield

Sunday Morning – 11:30am, St. Thomas, Elkland

Ministers of the Altar Schedule

December 24th/25th

4:00pm - Servers: E.Poirier, W.Poirier, E.Benjamin, A.Tokarz
Lectors: D.Gordon, L.Gordon

E. Min.: G.Poirier, B.Butler, M.Osborn, D.Sherman

6:00pm – Servers: J.Grab, J.Lubera, S.Zimmerman

Lectors: N.Bickham, M.Stirnaman

E. Min.: N.Ostapowicz, D.deGuzman, V.Anthony, M.Stirnaman

10:00am - Servers: L.Singer, Z.Singer, L.Germino

Lectors: R.Kramer, P.Kramer

E. Min.: A.Singer, T.Gamble, M.Bialas, T.Straniere

December 29th/30th

5:00pm – Servers: E.Hazelton, I.Hazelton

Lectors: T.Sampson, L.Sampson

E. Min.: B.Butler, V.Anthony, B.Chiamonte, D.Sherman

8:30am - Servers: M.Mann, J.Lubera, W.Feil

Lectors: M.Sampson, H.Sampson

E. Min.: M.Stirnaman, N.Ostapowicz, D.Stager, L.Stager

Sacramental Information

Baptisms - Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are asked to attend baptismal instructions classes before the birth of their child, if possible. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed. Contact the Rectory to schedule.

Confirmation - Confirmation is administered every year to all 8th grade students in our Parish Religious Education program. Children wishing to receive Confirmation must be enrolled and participating in the program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages- In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Rectory at least one full year in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick - Please contact the Rectory if a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized.

Monthly Visitations - Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Rectory to schedule a visit.

Rite of Christian Initiation in Adults (R.C.I.A.) - The R.C.I.A. prepares unbaptized adults for reception into the Catholic Church. The program is adapted to the needs of each person and prepares them for full initiation into the faith. Contact the Rectory for more information.



Liturgical Reflection

Fourth Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING: Micah 5:1-4

Bethlehem was a small village overshadowed by the larger and more significant Jerusalem. Yet it is from her that God will bring Israel's greatest blessing, the ideal king who will be Israel's eternal ruler. God promises through the prophet that insignificance will turn to glory because the one who will spring from her womb will bring peace to the ends of the earth.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 80

The Responsorial Psalm expresses the anxious expectation for the day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. We call upon God to visit us and protect us. He is the only one who can truly save us. With his strength we can change our ways and walk in God's love.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews reminds us that God values obedience far more than sacrifices. In the Gospel, Jesus often equates love with keeping the commandments. Rituals are important, but only if they reflect the true sacrifice of our lives in obedience to God's will. Christ's exemplary obedience was manifest when he willingly offered his body "once for all."

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45



Mary rushes to the side of Elizabeth, who, like her, is the recipient of divine favor. But Elizabeth immediately recognizes in Mary one more blessed than she, and she also understands that what makes Mary special is her ability to trust that God's words to

her would be fulfilled. Both women will suffer greatly for the privilege they've been granted – as will their sons – but for now the linked destinies of John and Jesus can't detract from the sheer joy of reaching out to touch a cousin who is also the recipient of God's surprising grace. On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth and recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

Parish News and Activities

RECTORY CLOSED



The Rectory will be closed on December 24th through 26th. In the event of an emergency, please call the emergency numbers found on the front of the bulletin. Fr. Bechtel will return your call as soon as possible

CHRISTMAS DINNER AT ST. PETER'S

You are invited to share a meal and spend time with others on Christmas Day. Dinner will be served at 12:00noon in the Parish Center.

Meat and beverage will be provided.

Kindly bring a dish to share. If you do not cook, bring an item that can be served cold. For more information, call Betsy and Dan Gordon at 570-439-5790 or email danbg77@gmail.com.



YEAR END DONATIONS

2018 financial statements will be prepared upon request. All donations must be received by December 31st to be included on your 2018 statement. If you would like a 2018 statement, please call the rectory or write "send statement" on your weekly offering envelope.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL



Each Christmas, the flowers in the church during the season, memorialize deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to this year's Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope found in your monthly packet and place in the collection basket.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

Special Christmas Mass Intention envelopes can be found in your monthly packets to remember both living and deceased family members and friends. The envelopes will be placed on the altar during all of the Christmas Masses to remember your intentions. Please place your Christmas Mass intentions envelopes in the collection basket.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry creates beautiful shawls to help comfort those who are sick, bereaved, shut-in, nursing home resident, or those experiencing loneliness or stress. The shawls are like being wrapped in prayers and love. Our hope is that those who receive them will feel the hands of God around them, giving them healing and comfort. If you know of someone in need of a shawl, please contact Jan Bernethy at 307-267-0677.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve ~ 4:00pm & 6:00pm

Christmas Day ~ 10:00am

Solemnity of Mary ~ 5:00pm (Vigil) & 10:00am

SANCTUARY CANDLES



A candle is kept burning day and night whenever the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in Catholic churches. It is an emblem of Christ's abiding love and a reminder to the faithful to respond with loving adoration in

return. Sanctuary candles are available to remember or honor your loved ones. Please call the rectory to reserve a week.

News From the Vatican



WISDOM OF GOOD PARENTS

The Holy Father said the day's Gospel reading (Mt 1:18-25) presents Joseph as "a righteous man, who observed the Law, worked hard, was humble, and loved Mary." When first faced with something he did not understand, "he preferred to step back" but "God revealed to him his mission." So St. Joseph took up his new role wholeheartedly, and helped raise the Son of God, "in silence, without judging, without speaking poorly of others, and without gossiping."

"He helped him grow and develop. So he looked for a place for the child to be born. He looked after him, helped him grow, and taught him to work: many things... in silence. He never took possession of the child for himself. He silently let him grow. He let him grow: This idea could help us immensely; we who by nature always want to stick our noses in everything, especially in the lives of others... And we start gossiping, talking... But he let him grow, silently watching over him and helping him."

Pope Francis said many parents have the wise attitude of caring for their children without being overbearing. He said they have the capacity to wait, without immediately yelling if the child makes a mistake. It's important to know how to wait, he said, before saying something to help them grow.

God, the Pope said, has the same patient attitude with His children, since He waits in silence.

"Joy, prayer and gratitude are three ways that prepare us to experience Christmas in an authentic way." Pope Francis

Pro Life News

PRIESTS FOR LIFE

Reflection on today's readings - In today's readings, we see that Christmas is linked to Easter. Christmas is the Feast of the Incarnation (not only of the event of his birth), and Christ takes on a human body precisely so as to offer the sacrifice of that body that saves the world. In fact, his sacrifice is not limited to Calvary. It begins even in the womb. "A body you have prepared for me ... I come to do your will." Even as an embryo, Jesus was offering himself to the Father, in obedience to his will and for our salvation. "A Savior is born for you." He is a savior precisely because he bears our human nature, and has a human body like we do - a body offered on the cross and in the Eucharist.

As we see in the first reading and the Gospel, the details of his birth are carefully planned by God and foretold by his prophets. His birth is all about hope fulfilled and hope inspired. That hope outlasts his birth, and extends to us today as we work to build a world in harmony with the vision of peace, life, and love that Christmas inspires. www.priestsforlife.org

Diocese of Scranton News

ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to those who have already made a pledge to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

St. Peter's Annual Appeal Parish Goal: \$ 46,500

Current Pledged Amount: \$ 30,728

If you have not yet given your support, please:

- Call the Development Office at 570-207-2250 to make a pledge or give a gift by credit card
- Mail a check to the Diocesan Appeal Office at 300 Wyoming Ave., Scranton, PA 18503, or
- Give online at www.DioceseforScranton.org.

Our parish is reimbursed 75% for any gifts made to the Appeal in excess of our Appeal goal.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS



His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton, and the Office for Parish Life

wish to invite couples celebrating their 25th or 50th wedding anniversary in 2019 to a diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 30th. The event includes a 2:30 pm mass at St. Peter's Cathedral followed by a reception. Requests for an invitation, with a mailing address, should be made through your pastor before April 2nd.

That's The Way It Is!



This Christmas as we do every year we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We celebrate that God became man. People take it for granted that God became a man. They assume that God's choice of becoming a man was incidental to the incarnation. God could have just as easily incarnated as a woman. God

choose to become a man because during the time he walked the earth, a woman would not have been taken seriously.

That God became man, however, is not incidental to the incarnation. That God became man has nothing whatever to do with a woman not being taken seriously. God became man because if God had incarnated as a woman, God would not have been able to save us.

Why does it matter what gender God choose to take? The redemption of humanity is going to parallel the fall of humanity. When humanity fell, both a man and a woman were involved. In the order of redemption, then, a man and a woman must be likewise be involved.

The first man was called "Adam." The first woman was called "Eve." In the order of redemption, the Second Adam is called "Jesus" and the second Eve is called "Mary."

When humanity fell, Eve's disobedience did not bring about the fall of the human race, it paved the way for it. When Adam fell, the human race fell. In the order of redemption, Mary's obedience reverses the disobedience of Eve, thus paving the way for Jesus to reverse the disobedience of Adam.

The fall of humanity happens in tandem—that is with the cooperation of a man and a woman. The redemption of humanity likewise happens in tandem—that is with the cooperation of a man and a woman.

This is why God had to become man. Jesus represents the New Adam. Just as the first Adam was a man, so too, the Second Adam must be a man. Mary represents Eve. Just as the first Eve was a woman, so too the Second Eve must be a woman.

Christmas like all other feasts in the Church is ordered in some way to the cross. When we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany the Cross is already foreshadowed in the gifts that the three wise men give Jesus.

Gold represents the divinity of Jesus and his kingship. Frankincense represents the priestly role of Christ (priests offer sacrifice in atonement for sin. Christ IS the sacrifice.) Myrrh is an anointing spice. This special burial spice would reappear when the women went to anoint the dead body of Christ.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were commanded not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. However, there was another tree that they were permitted to eat from: the Tree of Life. This Tree of Life reappears

in the order of redemption as the Cross of Christ. This is the tree we eat from every time we receive Holy Communion. Remember: Jesus IS the Cross, Jesus IS the sacrifice. Every time we receive communion we make his sacrifice our own and enter into a deeper participation in it.

In the Incarnation, God emptied himself of everything but love. The fullest extent of this love is revealed in the cross. I realize in the Christmas Season we are not accustomed to thinking about the cross, but, the Christmas Season is really a different presentation of the cross in God as an infant. The essence of the cross is Kenosis, that is, the self emptying, God emptying himself in order to quite literally "show us God."

This is the life we must live, a life that does not regard equality with others, but a life of sacrifice and selfless generosity and service. This is the true meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas, it's a boy!

The Reverend David W. Bechtel, Pastor

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Twenty-fifth Day of December,

when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world;

when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness;

when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace;

in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees;

in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt;

around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;

in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel;

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;

in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome;

in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace,

JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Stewardship

Sunday Collection December 16th: \$ 5,159.43

Weekly Goal to Meet Expenses: \$ 5,800.00

Difference: (\$ 640.57)

Year-to-Date Budget Variance: (\$ 8,230.40)

We are grateful to all those who financially sacrifice every week to support our parish and its ministries.

Christmas Flower Memorial

In Memory of:

Ruth Reindl
Ruth Knapke
Dinsmore Family & Friends
Gerald & Ann Collins
Len & Emily Mitchell
Len & Betty Mitchell
Carolyn Mitchell
Beverly Mitchell
Rev. Leo J. O'Malley
Msgr. John J. O'Brien
Peg O'Leary
Dy Hue Bun
Ang Ye
Chua Pue Tin
William Mitchell Family
Keck Family
Ronald Behers
Frank & Helen Bechtel
Edgar & Marian Wallace
Elizabeth Bechtel
Robert & Connie Brown
Lyman & Ethel Brown
Joseph & Mary Tarszowicz
Brown Family
Tarszowicz Family
Donovan Family
Grab Family
Cindy Dalton
Paige Griffin
Marie Franks
Barbara Kropf
Rudolph & Julia DalPezzo
Phyllis Laky
Bober Family
Kowalski Family
Stager Family
Blackwell Family
Tom & Veronica Stager
John Stager Family
Steven Tinder Family
Campbell & Cimino Family
Watson Reese
Richard Feil
Martha Porter
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Dan & Rita O'Donnell
James & Alice O'Donnell
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Harold Berguson
Austin Seymour
Scott P. Waclawik
Carl M. Waclawik
Robert & Jeannette Dalbey

Matthew & Florence Waclawik
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John & Anna Bialas
Cass Crawford
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Gary Fermeric
Mike & Mary Fermeric
Mike & Mary Demusz
Alfred & Lillian Geiger, Sr.
John & Amanda Captoni, Sr.
Robbie Butler
Charles & Viola Statts
Statts Family
Beaderman Family
Sr. Raphael DuPrey
Alfonse Krol
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. Jyuji Matsuda
Mamora Hewitt
Mr. & Mrs. John Hewitt
Nick & Virginia Basile
Everett & Marjorie Gooch
James, Amelia, & Robert Williams
William & Mary Carlson
Darrin Sherman
Nowak Family
Sampson & Myslinski Family
God's unborn children
Marie Stager
Effie Antonio
Jeffrey Mann
Vincent & Dorothy Arena
Chris & Margaret Arena
J. Arena
S. Arena
Delores Dych
Eliz Cram
Bill & Virginia Wood
Lola Dein
Korenkiewicz & Glasgow Family
Young Family
Schepp Family
Clarke Family
Williams Family
Myers Family
Joseph & Clara Patt Family
John & Marion Redell Family
Josephine Patt
George Patt
Beth Patt
Stanley & Lottie Yastrezemski
Vera Herres
Donald Herres
Jack Koch
Frank & Mary Dziengowski
Henry & Luella Caso


Sr. Martha Day, SP
Marie Green
Robert Shea
Frederick Massing
Margaret Shea
Jim Comes
Howard Hughes
Grace Hughes
Richard & Alice Ripley
Rozmary Nowski
Sticklin Family
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gould
Francis Doane
Mary Ellen Ottem
James Gould
Cynthia Gordon
Thelma Hill
John Gordon
Norman Hill
Deborah Hill
Sophia Campbell
Callie Cavanaugh
Joseph & Mary Kupchak
G. Darby & Cecelia Gamble
Straniere Family
Stanzione Family
Andy & Danny
Callahan Family
Donald Boyce & Family
Rosemary Stutz
Tutak & Ring Family
Lipski Family
Miskovitz Family
Joseph & Barbara Lisowski
Thomas Miller
John & Marie Marks
Frank & Marcella Kramer
Whitney & Kreisler Family
Kohut & Owlett Family
Thomas A. Young
Sally Young West
Banik Family
Ted & Doris Sykora
Teddy Sykora
Lana Bennett
Jake & Gertrude Whitney
Clark Family
Joseph Tarszowicz
Elizabeth Tarszowicz
Richard & Katherine Tobin, Sr.
Frank & Stephanie Daddona
Snyder Family

In Honor of:


Kreisler Family
Robert J. Brown
Brown & Tarszowicz Family

ADVENT SEASON

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas and is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C).



**As Elizabeth recognized God's presence
in Mary, we too are invited to discover
the Lord in our midst. May our eyes be open to see
God among us, and may we respond with hearts that
are open to the abundant love
which is our inheritance.**



The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

*The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills,
and life to joy awakes.*

*Not as of old a little child
to bear, and fight, and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.*

*O brighter than the rising morn
when He, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.*


*O brighter than that glorious morn
shall this fair morning be,
when Christ, our King, in beauty comes,
and we His face shall see.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns,
and earth's dark night is past:
O haste the rising of that morn,
the day that aye shall last.*

*And let the endless bliss begin,
by weary saints foretold,
when right shall triumph over wrong,
and truth shall be extolled.*

*The King shall come when morning dawns,
and light and beauty brings;*

*"Hail, Christ the Lord!" Thy people pray,
come quickly, King of kings!*



CHRISTMAS SEASON

December 25 - January 13

Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery. Pope Benedict

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment"). It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.


The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us. The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

A Prayer for Christmas

*O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember
the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of
the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the
worship of the wise men.*

*May Christmas morning make us happy to be our
children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen*

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Parish Prayer List



Nettie Mays, Nan Bowser, Trish Knowlton, Judy Nagel, Sue Evert, Valerie Tobin, Shirley Mekos Broughton, Donna Brennan, Mary Mekos, Antoinette Davis, Jonathan Hardman, Stephen Hurd, Stephanie Hemighaus, Suzie Alexander, Larry Sasani, Wendy Doan-Newcomb, Syler Sullivan, Adrienne Gilbert, Rita Grinnan, Bob Murphy, Sylvia Smith, Tom Mohr, Carol Weatherby, Carol Shine, Teresa Pavlock, Jerry Pierce, Joann Black, Gabriel, Melissa & Daniel Espinoza, Lori Lopaz, Patricia Quattrone, Larry Jackson, Katie Seip, Lisa Jones, Floyd Williammee, Renee Kennedy, Gay Furlong, Elsa DiBernardo, Fran Rose, Christine Palmer, June Sherman, Kathy Smith, Tim Bogaczyk, Beth Valdez, Virginia Shaefer, Charles Barrett, Joe Engel, Darleen Kohler, Victoria Salerno, Bob Snyder, Don Brooks, Paul Beuter, Jerry Eckert, Cole Salerno, Mark Kilmer, Margaret Barnett, Frank Dziengowski, Jr., Stephen Horvatch, Fr. Paul Mullen, Helene Carpenter, Clark Hewitt, Everett Dean Brown, Roberta Mahar, Bud Boyce, Marian Coolidge, Kay Evans, Elizabeth Payne, Cindy Sereno, Denny Young, Cindy Copp, Carolyn Tester, Tom Brown, Richard Stankiewicz, Jim Callahan, Barb Bechtel, Mary Antoniow, Ruth Russell, Edward "Turk" Cruttenden, Agnes Worden, Larry Mommicco, Anne Marie Beuter, Carol Fasick, Skip Warriner, Jim Honeywell, Beverly Willsea, Stephanie Calicchia, Jacoby Aratari, Doris Coumbe, and Michael Bowen.



Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord and
Let the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

Thomas Stager

Lord, this we know, no matter how difficult life may be at this time, we know you will not stop loving us and will always hold us in the palm of your hand. We are reaching to you, Lord, to hold us, comfort us, and heal us. Lord, this we know, you are faithful in your love for us today and forever. You are with us, and we are with you. Amen.