

Christmas Blessings

When you read the Christmas story in the gospels, you have just got to be struck, by how both Matthew and Luke recount the story in such a way. Matthew says, "Joseph took Mary into his home ... She bore a son, and he named him Jesus." Luke says, "While they were there (in Bethlehem), the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son." The birth of the child is without fuss. Jesus comes into the world without fanfare, without apparently disturbing the world.



But what happens next is important. Matthew tells the story of the Magi. Luke tells the story of the Shepherds. The Magi saw his star in the East and came to do him homage. They inquired, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising ..." The Shepherds were in the fields and an angel appeared to them and announced the birth of a savior. They said, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see for ourselves." We are told that after the Magi came and worshipped, they returned to their homes. After the Shepherds "came and saw" they returned, presumably to the fields and their flocks. But, the world was beginning to take notice.

The Christmas story is about the discovery of this Child who has been born. Jesus is in the world without fanfare. Despite all the Christmas Carols, and the frenzy in the stores, and our gift exchanging, and our coming to visit family and share in Christmas Dinner, and all our expressions of peace and good will, Christ can be lost at Christmas. He is in our world, but we have to discover him. We have to leave our affairs in the 'East', or our 'occupations in the fields', and come and see for ourselves. Above all at this Christmas time, we need to pause to reflect, and do homage, and discover him. If we do, we will never be the same again. That is why we come to Church at Christmas. We come "to see for ourselves;" we come "to pay him homage." We come to make Christ part of our lives.

St. Luke describes the Child Jesus lying in the manger. The manger is the 'banquet table' of the stable. It is the center of gathering and of sustenance and of fellowship. Our stable is the Church, and our manger is the Table of the Eucharist. As the child was discovered by the Magi "in the house" and discovered by the Shepherds lying in a manger, so too we discover him present on our altar, and we gather around in fellowship and draw sustenance and life as we receive Him in Holy Communion.



The Magi and the Shepherds after their worship of the Child returned to their daily lives. After Christmas, we will do the same. But unlike the Magi and the Shepherds, we can come again and again to draw life and sustenance from this Child who has been born for us. In that sense, we can celebrate the profound meaning of this feast every time we come to Church. We encourage you to come regularly. Our worshipping community of St. John the Evangelist as a welcoming one. We pray, that the Angels of Christmas 2018, will announce to you "tidings of great joy", which will be for your whole life.



May the peace and joy of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas and throughout the year

- Fr Kevin Casey, SJ & Parish Staff



Christmas Mass Intentions

In Memory of

Segunda Pastores	Evelyn Orr
Maximo Pastores	Maxine Schneider
Eleanor Varona	June Hurst
Roel Varona	Harve Hurst
Estrellita Adan	Amy Grosskupf
Phyllis Smith	Anthony B.
Margaret Japik	Grosskupf
John Moore	Harve Hurst
Rose B.DeSantis	Paul Odszewski
Romualdo Diaz	Jolina J. Odszewski
Daryl Lu	Crester Koulouwski
Daniel Davis	Camille A. Borillas
Rita T. Jones	Norma Hirle
Louis Johnson	Bill Tuggey
Sue Ledoux	Luicille Stone
Kathleen Hill	Walter Stone
John Hill	Soledad Salnas
Mary Sullivan	Helen Stone
Andy Veseliny	Peggy Humphrey
Laura Metz	Eduardo Aguilar
Cesar L. Hernandez	Maria Balestrieri
Clarence Cooper	Kennedy family
Maria Hernandez	Lee Thornton
Richard L Mabrey	Jean Thornton
Donna L. Callaway	Antoniette Dalton
Shirley Langseth	Jim Mannschreck
Antoinette S Padilla	Arturo Samaul
Leo Proulx	Wayne Holland
Eva Proulx	Carle McEnaz
Eyne Laciox	Rolond Laciox
Eilex Laciox	Kelly Anne
Lucy Caravantes	Maro Hernandez
LaRie De Palo	Michael Kelly
Patrick Gill	Frank Caravantes
	France Balrege

In Honor of

Adela Diaz
Calvin Jones
Winifred Huntor
Remy Ochon

