

**St. Peter, Holy Guardian Angels and St. John the Baptist Parishes
(902) 535-2053**

Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

Bulletin email: bulletinsjbsp@gmail.com

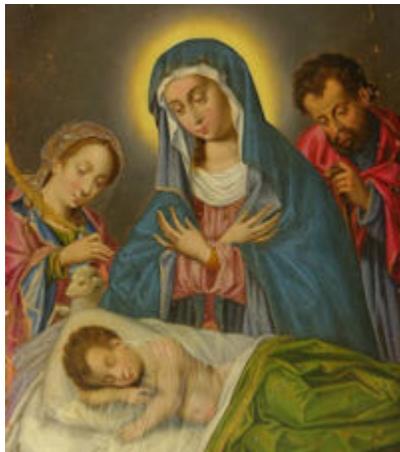
December 25, 2022

Nativity of the Lord & Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Meditation: Christmas: The Lord's Birth

Today is the great solemnity that shows the world that the Word incarnate, the Savior of mankind, is finally born. God becoming truly man is an enormous event [...]. Something truly happens that goes beyond any evolutionary process: the fusion of man and God, the creature and the Creator. It is not the progression of another step in the evolutionary process, but the eruption of a personal action, founded on love, that from this point forward reveals to men new space and possibilities. (Joseph Ratzinger in *God and the World: A Conversation with Peter Seewald*, 2001, p. 197).

Christmas says to us: alone we can't profoundly change the world to remedy it. Alone, we can make the world better or worse, but we can't save it. Christ came therefore, because left to ourselves; we couldn't escape the 'mortal disease' that has enveloped us from the first moment of conception in our mother's womb. This gives us hope, true hope, and true Christian optimism: I can't do it but He is there! This is the mystery of grace synthesized in the human figure of God incarnate.



Christmas Eve and Christmas day are moments of contemplation. We consider, in many dimensions, the mystery of love that was incarnated for us. First of all, we contemplate the light and joy, without forgetting Jesus and Mary's sorrows and sufferings, and the many difficulties that had surrounded them: the cold, the uncomfortable place, the dangers..... It would be good to accompany these thoughts by reciting and meditating slowly on the Holy Rosary, preferably in front of a crib. 'Blessed grotto of Bethlehem that testified to the wonders! Who, in this hour would not turn our hearts?

Who would not prefer the opulent palace of the King?' (P. Guéranger, *L'Anno Liturgico*, Alba 1959 [orig. franc. 1841], I, p122).

Listen to the way that St Bonaventure, the seraphic doctor, invites us to contemplate this scene in his 'Meditation on the life of Jesus Christ': 'You have also lingered, bent your knee, adored the Lord God, venerated His Mother and greeted Joseph, the holy old man, with reverence. Therefore, kiss the feet of the baby Jesus, who lies in the manger, and pray that the Holy Virgin will allow you to hold Him. Take Him between your arms, hold Him and see His lovable face, kiss it with reverence and rejoice with Him. You can do this because He has come to bring salvation to sinners and He has humbly conversed with them, finally giving Himself as food' (cit. in Guéranger, pp 136-137).

Christmas also reminds us of the great mystery of God's people, of the Church acquired through Christ's blood, animated by the life-giving Spirit, governed by the legitimate shepherds in communion with the successor of Peter. On this day in which the Word came to earth, assuming human nature, body, and soul, how can we not think about His Mystical Body that is animated by the Holy Spirit? 'For this reason, by no weak analogy, [the Church] is compared to the mystery of the incarnate Word. As the assumed nature inseparably united to Him, serves the divine Word as a living organ of salvation, so, in a similar way, does the visible social structure of the Church serve the Spirit of Christ, who vivifies it, in the building up of the body' (Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, n.8).

Holy Christmas also reminds us of the mystery of Mary as Mother of God, mother of the Incarnated Word, and mother of His mystical body, the Church. Christmas encourages us to contemplate Jesus together with Mary, reflecting on Jesus with 'His mother', as recounted many times in the Gospels. If our faith must be fully evangelical, it cannot neglect a sane and profound devotion to the Mother of God, as she shows us the easiest way to reach Jesus.

—From the [Dicastery for the Clergy](#)

Readings for the Octave Day of Christmas: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Numbers 6:22-27*. After the Exodus (or coming out of Egypt) and after God had made a covenant on Mount Sinai with the Chosen People, Moses, on God's instructions, set the tribe of Levi apart so that they would offer the sacrifices and carry out the liturgy in the name of, and for, the rest of the tribes. The direct line of Aaron, head of the tribe of Levi, were to be the priests who would have the principal part in the offering of the sacrifices and in the other liturgical acts. One of the liturgical acts of the priests was to bless the people after the daily sacrifices and on other solemn occasions. The blessing was a reward for the keeping of the covenant by the people, and a guarantee that the blessing promised to all nations through Abraham would be fulfilled one day. The words of the blessing given by God to Moses are recorded in these verses of the book of Number read at today's Mass.

The **Second Reading** is taken from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians 4:4-7*. The Galatians—pagans recently converted to Christianity by Paul—were being disturbed in their faith by Judaizers, that is, by Jews who pretended to be Christians but were not. These were telling the new converts that Christianity was not something really new, but only a new form of Judaism, and therefore the converts must accept circumcision and other practices of the old law. Paul in his letter reacts strongly to this falsehood. Christianity is not a reform of Judaism, he states, but is its replacement. Judaism was only a preparation, Christianity is the fulfillment; the old law was but a shadow of things to come, Christianity is the reality.

The "fullness of time has come," the period of permeation and promise has ended. Men are no longer slaves of the law or slaves of their past pagan polytheism and its practices. They are now free men and new men, sons of God. They can now truly call God "Abba Father" "for God sent his Son born of a woman." The Incarnation has taken place, men are no longer mere human beings, they have a new life given them in Baptism. They now share in the divine life because Christ has shared their human life with them.

The **Gospel of today's feast** is from the *Gospel of Luke 2:21*. This story of the humble shepherds of Bethlehem coming to find Jesus "in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothe" already read at the Dawn Mass on Christmas Day, is repeated today because of the feast we are celebrating, the Divine Motherhood of Mary. It is the feast of Christmas again, the feast of the Incarnation and birth of our Savior, but it is Mary's part in this wonderful mystery of God's love for men that the Church is stressing today.

—Adapted from *The Sunday Readings* by Keven O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Please call the office:

902-535-2053

Rev. John Yake, I.V. Dei

Instructors for Baptism:

Mary Fougere, SJB (902) 535-2699

Rose Pâté, SP (902) 302-7011

Vera Doucette, HGA. (902) 785-4018

New Year's Masses

Saturday, December 31, 2022

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+ Dorothy Sampson

Requested by Kallie & Jace

Sunday, January 1, 2023

SJB 9:00 AM

+ Donnie Richard

SP 10:30 AM

Saturday, January 7, 2023

SH 4:00 PM

HGA 5:30 PM

+Deceased members of the Martell, Logan & Peters families

Sunday, January 8, 2023

SJB 9:00 AM

+Goyetche & Fitzgerald Families

SP 10:30 PM

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Masses between December 26 and December 30, 2022 inclusive and January 2, 2023 to January 6, 2023 inclusive.

Rescheduled Mass intentions:

Dec. 30, 2022 (+Serena Clannon) will be celebrated on Friday, February 3, 2023.

January 6, 2023 (+Charles Leo Sampson) will be celebrated on Friday, February 17, 2023.

Receipts

Holy Guardian Angels

December 17, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 872.00
Candles	26.15
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 898.15</u>

St. John the Baptist

December 18, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 660.00
Memory Tree	273.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 933.00</u>

St. Peter's

December 18, 2022

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 834.00
Candles	6.00
Missals	10.00
Memory Tree	110.00
Truth & Reconciliation	20.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 980.00</u>

COMMUNITY NEWS

Some items needed for family moving to St. Peter's: beds for 4 people and 4 kitchen chairs. If you have anything to donate please call Alfred Sampson at (902) 535-2309 or any Lions Club member Thank You

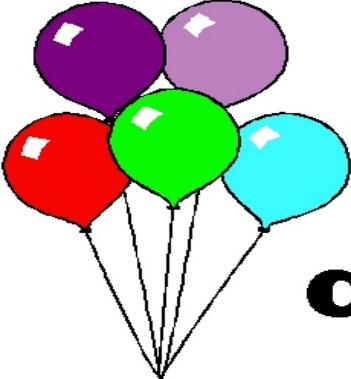
Congratulations to Roxanne Richards who won the electronic piano that was the prize of the Knights of Columbus' fundraiser.

SP: Please note: Basket will be placed in church next to collection box for food bank donations. Thank You

SJB Memory Tree: Donations may be made in memory of a loved one. We will have the name placed on a dove, angel, or star, which will be placed on the tree during the Christmas season. Donations and names can be given to Marie Fougere or Mimi Fougere, or simply place the name and donation in the collection. Proceeds will help with purchases of heating oil for the church this winter. Thank you.

SP: A Christmas tree will be erected in St. Peter's Church again this year, from Nov. 27 throughout the Advent season. Each name received represents a donation. The names will be announced each week until Christmas. Charitable donation

receipts will be issued. All funds raised go directly to St Peter's Parish. Donations may be dropped in the collection plate at Sunday Mass, emailed to memorytreestpeters@gmail.com, or dropped off at the glebe between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm Monday to Thursday. Security answer is memorytree. In the message space please add the name(s) that you wish to remember.



200th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**Holy Guardian Angels Parish
Sunday, January 8, 2023**

**Unveiling of Theme Banner
Over 60 Family Banners
on display.**

**Mass of Thanksgiving - 3 PM
Reception to follow at the
L'Ardoise Community Centre
"Everyone Welcome!"**

** Church will be open at
1:00 PM for viewing of
Family Banners.*



HGA: Parishioners of Holy Guardian Angels Parish in L'Ardoise invite friends and families to join us as we commence celebrations for our 200th birthday on Sunday, January 8th. Beginning at 3:00 P.M we will celebrate eucharist followed by a reception at the L'Ardoise Community Centre. Our theme banner will be unveiled along with a display of over 60 family banners. Everyone is welcome.

Rev. J. Yake and the parish staff: Laureen Burke (bookkeeper) and Mary Sutherland (secretary) wish all our parishes' families a blessed, peace-filled Christmas and good health in the New Year, 2023.

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Born on April 6, 1901, in Turin, Italy, Frassati dedicated his short existence to social-justice issues and was a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic as well as Catholic Action and various charitable organizations such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He drew from the Gospel his particular concern for the least of this world and spared no effort to assist the poor, the sick and the marginalized of his hometown.

He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in May 1990 in Rome.

As a layman, Blessed Frassati embodied the perfect balance between a life of prayer and a deep commitment to practicing his faith in the world, especially through acts of charity benefiting others. Frassati had numerous areas of interest and attached great value to his friends and the activities they often organized together, including mountain hikes in the nearby city of Pollone.

BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

April 6, 1901- July 4, 1925
Turin

"The Man of the Eight Beatitudes"
- St. Pope John Paul II -

**"To live without faith,
without defending a spiritual good,
without obtaining the truth through
constant battle, is not life, but vegetation"**

**"True happiness, you young ones,
is not in the pleasures of the world
and earthly things, but in peace of
conscience, which we have only if we
are pure in heart and mind."**

