



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

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The Nativity of the Lord

*December
25th, 2020*

O Blessed Mary and dearest Joseph, allow me to journey with you to Bethlehem. I am a lowly pilgrim making my way to the center of history, the center of the universe: the birth of Christ the Lord. With unspeakable awe and expectant wonder I long to behold the promised Messiah. Time will stand still, forever divided by the entry of the Creator into His creation. What joy to my eyes to see His adorable face. What joy to my ears to hear His soft cries. My heart is overcome with delight to see the splendor of God now truly alive in human flesh. For by God's infinite humility and kindness we now know Emmanuel, God with us. This dear infant at rest in a feeding trough will become the food for mankind, redeeming the world and nourishing each soul that receives Him. Both shepherd and lamb recognize Him as one of their own. For this Child will lead many into the green pastures of deathless Paradise by becoming the slain Shepherd, the sacrificial Lamb of God.

By the light of a great star above, I see His precious eyes begin to open. He who is Light from Light now sees with eyes of flesh that star's gentle lumen. My heart is prostrate before Him and I have but one sorrow: I am poor, bereft of fitting treasures for the newborn King, and so I lay before Him the gift of my life, though even that be His own gift to me. O sweet Christ, Author of Life, accept my heart as a gift born of gift.

O Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. Amen



Christmas Mass Readings

Dec 24—The Nativity of the Lord-Vigil Mass (2pm, 4pm, 7pm & 10pm Masses)

1st: Is 62:1-5

Ps: *Today our Saviour is born! This is the day,
Christ our Savior is born!*

2nd: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel: MT 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Dec 25-The Nativity of the Lord Mass during the night Midnight Mass

1st: Is 9:1-6

Ps: *Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.*

2nd: Ti 2:10-11

Gospel: Lk 2:1-14

Dec 25-The Nativity of the Lord Mass during the day Christmas Day Masses

1st: Is 52:7-10

Ps: *Today, today a Savior has been born; A
Savior has been born to us, He is Christ the Lord,
Christ the Lord, Jesus Christ the Lord.*

2nd: Heb 1:1-6

Gospel: Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

A Christmas Prayer

O good and gracious God,
in the midst of midnight darkness
your All-powerful Word
once again leaps from heaven
as a beam of light.

In breathless awe
we hear the angels' joyful shout:
Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary
is born and He is to be called "Emmanuel.
God with us." Amen.

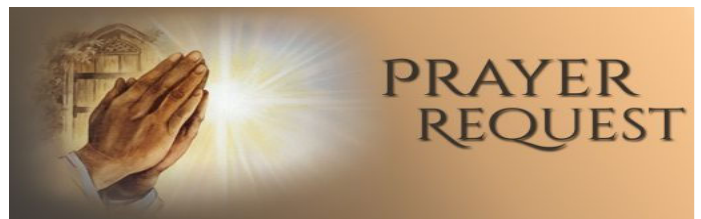


Merry Christmas

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St. Andrew Christmas Novena

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment In which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, [here mention your request] through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.



Donna Cappock, Karl Klein, Novalee Sanchez, Lily Rodriguez, Delores Fox, Albert Wagner, Loretta Wagner, John Weitort, Nanette Franzuela, Bob Pote, Amor Guzman, Glenn Young, Jim Driscoll, Ron Keese



Dear St. John the Baptist Family,

*"There are so many saints next door."
Pope Francis mentioned this quote in one of his addresses concerning the pandemic. Indeed, you all accepted the challenge of becoming a saint in this challenging time.*

You heard me said many times, "we are all saints but under construction." Becoming a saint is the only response we can have in this unique situation; we need the saint's perseverance, the saint's humility, and the saint's full trust in God that we will all survive this pandemic.

Today as we experience Christmas, the coming of Emmanuel, may God give us the strength to imitate him genuinely in our relationship with our neighbors. If God-is-with-us (Emmanuel), may we also be with our brothers and sisters who are in dire need during this pandemic. I genuinely commend all of you for being good samaritans to everyone coming to our church door. Moreso, I want to congratulate you for following all the guidelines that our Diocese impose upon us for our safety and the common good. You inspire me to work hard in reaching out to all those who decided to stay in the safety of their homes. Our online masses and services from March to December of 2020 logged in 1.7 million minutes of viewed interactions.

Looking forward, I want to invite you to be with me as we continue to transform our Parish into a Church of disciples making disciples. Father Mark, our former Pastor, left us this legacy. I inherited a strong parish fiscally speaking and a community whose heart is for the poor. Our vital Emergency Assistance Ministry speaks for itself. Could you help me not to fall into the temptation of having a parish on a maintenance mode? As I said, we are solid not only our church as a facility but also as a church as the people of God - this is the most important one; if we are strong as a Church as the people of God, everything will follow.

This coming year I'm very excited to introduce programs and activities that will inspire us to become disciples making disciples. Case in point like Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Vocation Promotion to Religious Life, and the Priesthood, strengthening our Young Church Program, growing our Emergency Assistance Ministry, etc.

In this special Christmas bulletin, I highlight some of our activities this past year that I hope will inspire you to participate in this coming year.

May the coming year bring us more blessings and graces. May we truly become disciples making disciples.

Father Rafael Lavilla,
Pastor



St John's News

In 2020 St John's EAM has financially helped:

79 people/families came to us for financial assistance.

39 times we helped with rent rounded out to \$38,000.

61 times we helped with utilities rounded out to \$11,500.

In 2020, EAM spent a bit over \$64,000 giving out food, hygiene and financial assistance for people in the community. \$52,500 was spent on financial support and \$11,500 on food and hygiene support.

We also spent \$11,500 in which we supported the pantry with food purchases and JSO support for our large 3rd Saturday food distribution.

Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.

Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.

For this we pray.
Amen.

From March 1, 2020—Dec 23, 2020 we have had 1,121,974 minutes of Masses and videos that have been viewed on our FaceBook page.

St John's has been keeping the Faith we all hold in our hearts as brightest star in the sky!

USCCB Addresses Ethical Concerns on New COVID-19 Vaccines

On Dec. 14, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the new COVID-19 vaccines. In their statement, the bishops address the moral concerns raised by the fact that the three vaccines that appear to be ready for distribution in the United States all have some connection to cell lines that originated with tissue taken from abortions.

With regard to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, they concluded:

"In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines.

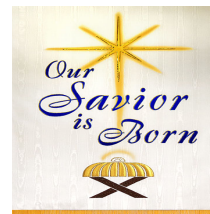
"Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of

charity toward the other members of our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good."

With regard to the AstraZeneca vaccine, the bishops found it to be "more morally compromised" and consequently concluded that this vaccine "should be avoided" if there are alternatives available. "It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one's health and the health of others," the bishop chairmen stated. "In such a case ... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine."

At the same time, the bishops also warned that Catholics "must be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research."

Jesus
is the Reason
for the Season.





Christmas Flowers Prayer List



† Edward, Florence & William McKay
† William, Josephine & Sarah Cothery
† Michael & Margaret McKay
† John & Rita Walsh
† Eleanor & Spencer Neff
† Timothy Lizotte
† Roland & Doris Lizotte
† Charles Irene Cozine
† Mark, Mary & Robert Cozine
† Judy Dwiggin
† George McSwain
† Matt Walston
† Jaci Hazler
† Don Kent
† Gerry Kraft
† Li Kraft
† Bob Knauss
† Maurice Dietrich
† Bob Dietrich
† Joseph & Clara Dietrich
† George & Helen Peters
† Walter & Mary Ellen Knauss

† the Ledzinski & Tremper Families
† The Pachuta Family
† Genoveffa Bunting
Miranda & Novalee Sanchez
† Mary Alice & Bill O'Conor
† Helen & Tom Rooney
The Capurro Family
† The Zebrowski Family
† The Foster Family
† The Blisard Family
† Lee Hope
† Juan & Isabel Castillo
Wedding of Antonio & Tito Agustin
† Felix Santiago
† Virginia Santiago
† Tinie Santiago
† Teresita S. Gabriel
† Regie Gabriel
† Onofre Araza
† Maria Araza
† Teofilo Vincecruz, Sr



Christmas Flowers Prayer List

† Patricia Vincecruz
† Romulo Vincecruz
† The Vasquez Family
† Wanda Lopez
Taya-Silang Family
† Paul Amadio
† Shirley Welsh
† Mildred Hanna
† Anna Stoneking
† Jimmy Hundley, Sr
† Mishael & Loouise Reda
† Owen & Florence Johnson
† Joe & Donna Reda
† Matthew Hicks
† Johns Reda
† Charles Roberts
† Marcelo Magday
† Perla Santos/Bay Rosa
† Rosa V. Reyes
† Jose P. Reyes
† Aurelia Mallari & Artemio Mallari, Sr.
† Kurt Speckman
† Joe & joy Speckman
† Bernard & Dorothy Dougherty

† Joe Walsh
Esperanza Ortiz
The Moran Family
The Mamansag Family
† Kyle S. LaPointe
† Jim & Mae Louise Stewart
† Lyell & Ossie LaPointe
† J. Spencer Stewart, III
† Tony Romero
† Dorothy Heffner
† Gary Heffner
† H. Karl Opfermann
† Helen & John Woods
† Gabriel & Crisianta Flores
† Apolonio & Celestina Bayot
† Gabriel Flores, Jr.
† Efren & Lozimo Bayot
† Gil C. Musngi





*Merry Christmas
From all of us at St John's!!*

*May The New Year bring good health ,
Happy Times and no more face masks!!
(that we will not need them no more)*

