

DECEMBER 27, 2020 – HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted . . . ” Luke 2: 22-40

The Child Jesus at Tautra Mariakloster

On the Norwegian island of Tautra, a community of 13 Cistercian nuns live a life of prayer and service. Our Lady of Safe Island — Tautra Mariakloster in Norwegian — was first established eight centuries ago; in 1999, seven sisters from Our Lady of Mississippi Abbey in Iowa re-established the abbey on the shores of beautiful Trondheim Fjord.

In a new book, Northern Lights, four of the sisters write about their experiences as monastics living close to the land, sky and water of the island, following the rhythms of the liturgical year in the rare light and darkness of the austere Scandinavian landscape.

In a Christmas essay, Sister Maria Rafael Bartlett writes:

“ . . . as I walk from the rectory along the stone-floored cloister to the church, I pass our smooth white statue of a young, seated Mary and the small child Jesus a naked toddler standing close beside her. It reflects the tremendous fact that at the incarnation, God became a real human being. In our statue, Jesus is a normal little boy, his legs bent casually so that he leans informally, with an intimate familiarity, against his mother’s skirts. He is not portrayed as a haloed figure of precocious wisdom but as a real child. His nakedness reveals his vulnerability and his proximity to an innocent babyhood. With the fertile fire of his own Spirit, God ignited a new life within the Virgin’s womb: God himself entered her womb. Who could have imagined that the all-powerful God would accomplish so intimate an entry into human life? With that instant, the world and what it means to be human changed forever.”

In Jesus’ birth as a vulnerable, innocent child, what it means to be human is changed forever: we are not limited by our struggle to survive but can experience a much deeper and fulfilling meaning to our time here; we are more than our race and gender and nationality but possess a dignity of the “sacred” that opens our hearts to care for one another and this gifted earth we share; we embrace God’s call to realize God’s dream of a world re-created in the holy wisdom of justice, mercy and peace. Christmas is both a gift and a challenge: to embrace with gratitude and wonder the sacredness of our humanity and honor the sacred dignity of every human being of every race and people, every culture and nationality, as the beloved of God.

www.connectionsmediaworks.com

December 27, 2020

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ

Parish Information

Pastor: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Administrator: Dianne Russell

Office Hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9am - 1pm.

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Tel: (709) 785-5025

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e-transfers: sacredheartrcparish@gmail.com
Password "**Church**"
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca



Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.

To Register, please call the office Tuesday to Thursday between 9 am and 1 pm.

Reconciliation:

By request

Mass During the Week:

See inside for Christmas schedule.

Holy Hour of Adoration:

Discontinued until further notice.

Marriages:

Six months’ notice required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms:

Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

St. Vincent de Paul:

To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

December 20th, 2020

Regular Sunday	\$1478.55
Building Fund	40.00
Christmas	40.00
Advent	250.00
Flowers	35.00
St. Vincent de Paul	20.00
Christmas	40.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Tue. 7pm	Special Intention
Wed. 7pm	Special Intention
Thu. 4:30pm	New Year's Eve Special Intention
Fri. 11am	New Year's – Parish Community
Sat. 4:30	Alphonsus Quigley
Sun. 11 am	Parish Community

PARISH DUES: Received with thanks from: Mary Gallant and Peggy Young.

OFFICE CLOSED: The office will be closed **December 28th and January 1.**

SUNDAY ENVELOPES FOR 2021: now available for pick up at the church.

PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTIONS: Please note this year's deadline for monies to be included on the 2020 tax receipt is Dec. 29th.

CHRISTMAS WEEK:

Tue. Dec 29th and Wed. Dec 30th at 7pm.

New Years Eve, Dec. 31 at 4:30 pm

New Years Day, Jan. 1 at 11:00 am

Saturday Jan 2 at 4:30 pm

Sunday Jan 3 at 11:00 am

SUNDAY MISSALS: are available at the back of the Church. \$5 each.

LADIES FUNDRAISING: Our Bingo Draw for December will include 3 Bonus draws. The draw will take place on December 27th. Good luck to everyone.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU: We have just celebrated the Mass of Christmas and are continuing with the celebrations of the Christmas season. None of this would be possible without the generosity of so many in our church community. Thank you goes to those who clean the church, the sacristans and servers, the musicians and cantors, readers and communion ministers, ushers and collectors, catechist and children and all who made these celebrations beautiful. A special thank you to the crowds who attended these celebrations and who continue to support our parish. The Christmas spirit is alive and well at Sacred Heart Parish. Thank you, Thank you.



THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY: On January 1, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This, the highest title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was given to her at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. and is the oldest feast of Mary celebrated by the Catholic Church. It is a Holy Day of Obligation in the Canadian Church.



CHRISTMAS THANK YOU FROM FATHER JIM:

Merry Christmas! Its hard to believe it but thank God Christmas is here. It has been a difficult and long year with our own personal issues, COVID-19, and our own health concerns. Now like the Shepherds and the Magi we can finally see the light. This light symbolizing Christ birth and reminds us of Gods love that gives hope to us all. I thank you for your support kindness and your generosity to me. I pray, for you and for us all, this may be a season of great joy, peace and love. As I share with my family and you with yours, may we still be one family of faith. Again, Merry Christmas. Stay safe and may the blessings of the season be with you always.



VOTIVE CANDLES: Candles are now available in the church. \$5 each.

A PRAYER FOR THE HOLY FAMILY:

Holy Family of Nazareth
make our family one with you.
Help us to be instruments of peace.
Grant that love, strengthened by grace,
may prove mightier
than all the weaknesses and trials
through which our families sometimes pass.
May we always have God
at the center of our hearts and homes
until we are all happy and at peace
in our true home with you. Amen.

HUMOUR:

- What did the gingerbread man put on his bed? A cookie sheet!
- Where do Santa's reindeer stop for coffee? Star-bucks!
- What's every elf's favorite type of music? Wrap!
- How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh on the day after Christmas? They use Santa-tizer.
- How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing, it was on the house!

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER:

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame
So that in our time,
many will see the wonders of God
and live forever to praise Your glorious name.
Amen

FACE MASKS: These masks should be worn at all times. They may be removed if you are seated and able to maintain 2m distancing from others.