

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

25 December 2016

Greetings,

*We are so glad that you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
We hope that you will enjoy the service and be encouraged by your worship experience.*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:14)



The date: December 1223. The place: Greccio, Italy. The problem: a man living in poverty lamenting that his town's observance of Christmas had become overshadowed by materialism. Distraught, the man did something extreme. He gathered some friends together, along with some livestock, and re-created the scene at the manger. It was a moving experience for many people, and over the years, the practice spread across the world.

The man was St. Francis of Assisi, and the practice – which every parish around the world has since adopted – was the traditional nativity scene.

About six hundred years later, a priest in France was so full of joy at the sight of a nativity scene that he found his heart melting. "Who can describe the joy of the feast of Christmas?" he asked. Then, moved by the Holy Spirit, he wrote a homily that described three acts of humility that were at the heart of this great feast.

The first act of humility was God's plan for his Son to take on our human nature and become a man like us in all things but sin. The second act of humility was Jesus coming to us as a helpless baby entrusted to the care of two human beings. The third act of humility was God's decision to have his Son born into poverty. That priest was St. John Vianney, known as the Curé of Ars and the patron of all priests.

As Christians celebrate Jesus' birth today, let's follow the example of these two great saints. Let's fix our eyes on the baby Jesus and make him the first priority of our day. Let's carve out some private time with him in prayer before all the celebrations begin. Maybe you can even gather the family and pray together.

And let's contemplate God's humility and his magnificent plan for us – a plan that was grounded in what is unquestionably the most dramatic act of humility ever.

"O come, let us adore him!"

Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Saturday	Is 62:1-5, Mt 1:1-25
Midnight	Is 9:1-6, Lk 2:1-14
Sunday	Is 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Jn 1:1-18
Monday	Acts 6:8-10, Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday	1 Jn 1:1-4, Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday	1 Jn 1:5-2:2, Mt 2:13-18
Thursday	1 Jn 2:3-11, Lk 2:22-35
Friday	Sir 3:2-14, Mt 2:13-23
Saturday	1 Jn 2:18-21, Jn 1:1-18
Sunday	Nm 6:22-27, Ps 67:2-8, Lk 2:16-21

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	December 24
5:15 PM	Soul of Angula Bates
12 Midnight	Intention of all Parishioners
Sunday	December 25
8:00 AM	Soul of Lillian White
10:00 AM	Souls of Yvonne, Jackeline, Dilcia, & Wilfred Morgan, Jr.
Friday	December 30
8:00 AM	Soul of Bernard Brule
Saturday	December 31
5:15 PM	Intention of all Parishioners
Sunday	January 1
8:00 AM	Soul of Gwen Harmon
10:00 AM	Soul of Slade Campbell
12:15 PM	Intention of Mary Jené

WEEKLY OFFERING for DECEMBER 18, 2016

\$5,792.00	Tithe and Offering
97.00	Building Fund
37.00	We Care

2017 Calendars are available in the church sacristy for a donation of \$2. Thank you for your support.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Virgie Aguilar, LaVern Agnew, Brian Argusta, Joyce Barnett, Rose Ball, Percenia Beasley, Veronica Bearce, Fr. Emile Belletty, Sister Juliet Berber, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Mary Captain, Alberto Casanova, Jeannie Chapron, Katherine Clark, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Agnes Cooper, Rita Cormire, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Benjie Delille, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Betty Eason, Ferdinand Foye, Betty Flowers, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Judy Felton-Gardner, Mavis Gibbs, Refugio Godinez, Nancy Goosby, Barbara Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Mary Jené, Aaron Jittu, Robert Jordan, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vylfred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Martina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Andrea Raggette, Michelle Raines, Basil Raymond, Dottie Rodriguez, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, George Simon, Sr., Jeremiah Skyes, Darnell Stang, Michele Starks, Annie Starks, Alice Tenette, Leila Thomas, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Frank Vidrio, and Peggy Wright.

Christmas Flower Offering

We are asking that you be as generous as possible with your giving. Envelopes are at the church exit. We will place the envelopes on the altar for prayer in Memory of, or in Honor of, your love ones.

Men, Mark Your Calendars

Transfiguration Annual Retreat for men will be held at Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center on the weekend of January 20, 21 and 22, 2017. Join your fellow parishioners for this weekend of spiritual enrichment and growth. The Passionist retreat team offer inspirational talks on the theme, as well as time for quiet prayer, Mass, and Confession and Stations of the Cross. You may arrive as early as 3:00 PM. Friday. Our retreat opens at 6:15 PM with a buffet supper and closes Sunday after lunch about 1:30 PM. **A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your weekend Retreat, this is reserved for you.** This year's Retreat theme: **"The Crucified One Is No Stranger"**. For more information or to make your reservation please call Greg Warner your parish retreat Captain at 323.974.7405 or 310.538.2214 or Maurice Simon at 323.296.1501.

Transfiguration's Ushers Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM in the hall. If you are an Usher here at Transfiguration you are asked to please attend this meeting.

Bus Trip's from Transfiguration

Please join us for a fundraiser to **San Manuel Casino** on Saturday, January 7, 2017. Bus loads at 7:30AM and leaves Transfiguration Roxton Side at 8AM. \$23.00 per person... Proceeds benefit the Knights of Peter Claver Council #220. Please contact Helen Argusta at 323.295.9024.

The Ladies Auxiliary invites you to **Barona Casino** on Saturday, January 7, 2017. Departing at 8:30AM and returning at 5:30PM from Transfiguration Roxton Side. \$25.00 per person... Call Geraldine Buffett 310.323.9491, Gerry Richardson 310.671.2569 or Lois Chargois 323.296.7451.

NO PARKING ON LOT...

**NO COFFEE & DONUTS
Hall Closed
for Christmas Break...
RETURN
Sunday, January 8, 2017**