

# December 25, 2011

# Nativity of Our Lord

## ❖ Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Parishioners and Families  
8:00 p.m. Parishioners and Families  
Midnight Parishioners and Families



## ❖ Sunday, December 25

**9:00** a.m. Parishioners and Families  
**11:00** a.m. Parishioners and Families

## ❖ Monday, December 26 St. Stephen

**5 p.m.** Parishioners and Families

## ❖ Tuesday, December 27 St. John

8:45 a.m. Parishioners and Families

## ❖ Wednesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents

**5 p.m.** Parishioners and Families (Blessings for Little Children)

## ❖ Thursday, December 29 St. Thomas Becket

8:45 a.m. Parishioners and Families

## ❖ Friday, December 30 NO MASS

## ❖ Saturday, December 31 St. Sylvester I

5:00 p.m. **Norman Baines**  
by Catherine and John Kappus

## ❖ Sunday, January 1 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

8:00 a.m. **Patrick and Anna Kane**  
by Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. **New Year Blessings for the Banas Family**



being turned away, Joseph mentioned his wife was with child and close to birth. The inn keeper took pity on them and told them of some caves in the nearby hills that shepherds would stay with their cows and sheep. So Joseph and Mary went up into the hills and found the caves. In one cave was a stable room. Joseph cleaned it and made beds of fresh hay. He found a feeding trough which he cleaned and filled with hay to use as a crib. The next night Mary gave birth to a son and they named him Jesus, as the angel had said. When the child was born a great star appeared over Bethlehem that could be seen for miles around. In the fields nearby shepherds were tending their flocks. An angel appeared to them surrounded by bright light. The shepherds were frightened and tried to run.

*"Fear Not," said the angel, "For I bring you tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day in Bethlehem - a Saviour who is Christ the Lord."*  
*"And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."*

Suddenly the sky was filled with angels, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."

After the angels departed the shepherds set out for Bethlehem. When they reached the cave they found the stable and inside was the child wrapped in swaddling clothes.

As the star shined over Bethlehem, in the east three kings would see it. They knew it was a sign and they set off to follow the star. There was Caspar - the young King of Tarsus, Melchior - a long bearded old man and leader of Arabia, and Balthazar - the king from Ethiopia. They traveled on camels for many days over the mountains, and through the deserts, and plains. Always following the bright star.

When they finally arrived in Bethlehem they found the child in the manger. The 3 kings bowed to their knees and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They would stay the night in the cave and the next day returned to their lands to spread the news.



When Rome was a great Empire ruled by Caesar Augustus and Israel was governed by King Herod, in the village of Nazareth lived Joseph and Mary. Joseph was a carpenter and Mary was a young virgin who would become his wife. Mary told Joseph of a dream in which she was visited by an angel who told her she had been chosen to bear the Son of God and his name was to be Jesus.

One day the emperor sent notice that all persons were to register for a new tax. They were instructed to return to the towns of their birth. Joseph and Mary left Nazareth for Bethlehem. Mary who was with child, and close to the birth, rode on a donkey while Joseph walked beside her. They traveled for many days and only rested at night.

When they reached Bethlehem it was night. They looked for a place to rest but there were no empty rooms when they reached the inn. As they were

**Please pray for:** Chris, Keira, Anna & John Saksa, Theresa, Stephen, Bobby Gross, Lillian Shaffer, Bridget, Erin Stanton, Katlyn Faulkner, Barbara Zack, Bobby Greco, Frances Fiumefreddo, Stanislaw Rogulski, Jay Mildrum, Enrico Staiano, Emir Kane, Gracie Witte, Billy, Carol A, Kim Paine.



Dear Parishioners!  
The Son of God, who is coeternal with the Father, became man. As a citizen of the earth, his birth was registered right at the beginning of his life. In the history of the earth, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, received his citizenship as the Son of Mary, wife of Joseph. The gospel reading for today's liturgy reminds us of this.

Today, in an age when God is denied a place on earth, it should not be forgotten that he was listed among its inhabitants and assumed the nationality that would for the centuries to come be linked to the name of Jesus Christ.

He was born in the modest village of Bethlehem. Mary, wife of Joseph, had looked for a room in some inn where she could give birth, but in vain. God would be born in a nearby cave which was used as a stable, so that the Son of God would assume his human citizenship in a stable! In a few moments I shall take into my hands bread. This bread and the wine that I shall take from your hands will be transformed, through the power of the words of consecration, into the Body and Blood of the Son of God. May he be born again at midnight from our bread and wine; from our love, faith, and

community; from the good wishes we exchange; from our aspirations; and from the undeniably just request finally to be permitted to build a house for God here.

It is from all of this, under the form of bread and wine, that Jesus Christ will be born. We shall welcome him, as always, with faith and veneration, with hymns on our lips and with love in our hearts. We shall welcome him into our souls in order to live the life that he brings us. Even though he was born in a poor cave, he did not come empty-handed. He brought us, as he always will, the greatest gift of all - that of sharing his divinity, his condition as Son of God, with us. He makes us children of God, raising us up above ourselves and filling us with the gifts that God alone can give us. Christ will be born to become our bread and to nourish us. Let us say to him today: "Welcome! Come to us, be our nourishment, and teach us to love."

This is our prayer, my dear brothers and sisters, and this our cry on this Christmas in the year of Our Lord 2011. Together with the Holy Father and the whole Church, let us place it at the feet of Christ, who is about to be born of the Virgin Mother in this our Bethlehem.

May Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, bring to your Families happiness and peace.

Fr Zenek, SDS



## 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal

Thank you to the parish families who made a pledge to the 2011 Bishop's Annual Appeal. To date, the Development Department has received pledges totaling \$ 8,027.35 and payments totaling \$ 6,071.10 from 67 parishioners. This represents 79.5% of your \$ 10,100.00 goal.

*It is never too late to remember your Parish in your giving now  
and throughout the New Year.  
Christmas Mass Remembrance  
(8 Masses)*



Second Collection 12/31/Jan 1: Fuel



### Sanctuary Candles:

in Loving Memory of **Souls in Purgatory** by Nadia Lamas Mateus;  
for Birthday Blessings for **William "Billy" Supple**  
by a Friend

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Father Zenon Boczek, SDS, Pastor ext. 4



**Christmas trees** in memory of **Rita Shaffer** by Kathleen Farley; in memory of **Everette Dellinger** by The Dellinger Family