

Christmas Season December 24th 2020 - January 9th 2021

MASSES FOR THE SEASON

Thursday, December 24th

The Nativity of the Lord ~ Christmas Eve

6:30 Vincent Cosentino by the Family

8:00 Deceased Family members of Teresa Mary by T. Doyle

9:30 Pauline and Guy Benoit by a Friend

Friday, December 25th

The Nativity of the Lord

9:30 Deceased English-speaking Priests by Fr. MacEachen

11:00 Agnes MacLellan by Louise MacLellan

Saturday, December 26th

St. Stephen

4:30 All deceased Ascension Parishioners in 2020 by Fr. MacEachen

Sunday, December 27th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

10:30 Pauline and Guy Benoit by a Friend

Monday, December 28th

The Holy Innocents

9:00 Blessings for Rosie and Lenny by T. Doyle

Tuesday, December 29th

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

St. Thomas Becket

9:00 Pauline and Guy Benoit by a Friend

Wednesday, December 30th

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

9:00 Pauline and Guy Benoit by a Friend

Thursday, December 31st

Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas

St. Sylvester I, pope

4:30 In Thanksgiving 70th Birthday by Pat Hermosa

Friday, January 1st

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

World Day of Peace

10:30 Special Blessings for Teresa Mary by T. Doyle

Saturday, January 2nd

St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen

4:30 John & Anne Blizchuk by Ron & Maureen Blizchuk

Sunday, January 3rd

Epiphany of the Lord

10:30 Kate & Ed Sampson by Ann & Louis Mallette

Monday, January 4th

St. Elizabeth Seton

9:00 April Ann Brondo by Mr. & Mrs. Danilo Corpus and Family

Tuesday, January 5th

9:00 Kurt & Linda Krause by the Estate

Wednesday, January 6th

9:00 Pauline and Guy Benoit by a Friend

Thursday, January 7th* *No Mass

St. André Bessette

Friday, January 8th

St. Raymond of Penyafort

9:00 The McCauley and O'Donnell Families by Constance O'Donnell

Saturday, January 9th

4:30 John & Anne Blizchuk by Ron & Maureen Blizchuk

REFLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS

The season of Christmas and particularly Christmas Day is a time of celebration and joy. We celebrate the eternal Word becoming flesh, God becoming one like us and living with us.

We have numerous Christmas parties, decorate the Christmas tree, indulge in giving gifts and so on. This year these celebrations will be dampened on account of the pandemic. Healthcare workers are exhausted, hospitals are overcrowded, jobs and lives have been lost. There is fear and anxiety all around. Public health officials warn against small gatherings. Attending an in-person Eucharist in some places will not be possible. Even the Vatican has cancelled many of its Christmas events.

In the midst of the gloominess brought about by the pandemic, we hear in the reading from Isaiah “upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone.” Pope Francis after his December 6 Angelus reminds us that no pandemic or crisis can extinguish the light of Christmas, the light that is Jesus who reveals to us God’s love and who makes infinite goodness shine on the world. As we grapple with our fears and anxieties, the gospel reading tells us to not be afraid for unto us has been born a savior who is Christ the Lord.

Thus, today we are given much needed hope to help us deal with the difficulties and challenges of this pandemic. But we are also invited to be channels of hope to those who most need it as we strive to overcome the numerous inequalities and injustices that exist in our world and that the pandemic has revealed. Perhaps this pandemic Christmas might be a good time for us to truly allow the meaning of Christmas to enter our hearts and transform our lives.

And behold, God is born anew in and among us. And, a multitude of the heavenly host sing “Glory to God in the highest.”

Nicky Santos, S.J., onlineministries.creighton.edu

Schedule of Masses ~ Christmas Season 2020

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th 6:30pm 8:00pm 9:30 pm

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th 9:30am 11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 26th 4:30pm

Sunday, December 27th 10:30 am

New Year’s Day Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31st 4:30 pm

Friday, January 1st 10:30 am

Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 2nd 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 3rd 10:30 am

Please note that all above listed Masses require reservations via our website (www.ascensionofourlord.ca) and are limited to 25 persons per Mass.

Reservations for the Christmas Masses open December 14th

Reservations for weekend Masses (December 26-27 & January 2-3 will open on Monday December 21st & December 28th respectively.

In the Spirit of Christmas Giving: Thank You

- to all parishioners for your goodwill & kindness in donating to our Advent Mass of Concern which will assist many of our less fortunate neighbours to purchase food and other necessities this Christmas
- to the children and families in our Be My Disciples program who despite pandemic restrictions, donated over 60 gifts and to “mom-elf” Ingrid Liebich and family who delivered the gifts to Share the Warmth which will allow needy parents to select Christmas gifts for their children this year.
- to all of you who continue to bring in the non-perishable foods that we send to St. Willibrord’s Foodbank to feed the needy- especially in this year which has been so difficult for so many

The flowers which decorate our church this Christmas are courtesy of donations offered in loving memory of the following:

John & Edith McCormack

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Meehan

Frances Ezzy-Jorgensen

Deceased members of the Carlin Family

Horacio Limgo & Uy Kin Alex Ang Antonio Ang

Leonardo Umale Ricardo & Teresita Lopa

Edilberto Perez Antonio & Clariza Diokno

Daniel C. Lopez Luciano & Justina Lopez

Aurora Castillo Petronilo & Eugenia Enrile Kristoffer Limgo

Cecilia & Harrison Joseph

George Frédéric Rochon

Additional donations were received from:

Michael Ballantyne

Frances De Verteuil

Pat Hermosa

Judy Jokinen Hollingsworth

Barbara Howard

Louise Maclellan

Angela Magtibay

Patrick McLean

Enrico & Paola Moscatelli

Patricia & Damon Smith

Election of Wardens

At a meeting of parishioners held Sunday, December 13th, two wardens were elected: Pino DiIoia was elected for a second term and Edmund Nash was newly elected to serve a first mandate. Congratulations to both! We thank Bonnie Auger who served on the Board for two terms and who did a wonderful job. The term of office for the two new Wardens begins on January 1st, 2021.

Weekly Donation Envelope Boxes

Parishioners who use the envelope system for their parish contribution will find the 2021 boxes available at the main entrance of the church. Please be sure to pick up only the box that has your name and number on it. Boxes are in alphabetical order. If you are currently not able to attend Mass in person or if you don't have a donation envelope box—but would like to make your weekly donations to the parish using this method, or if you have any questions please contact the parish office. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

Sunday Missals 2021

The Living with Christ Sunday Mass books are still available for sale at the back of the church. The cost is \$5 each. The supply is limited so you are encouraged to purchase your copy as soon as possible & write your name in your book.

If you are currently not able to attend Mass in person, but would like a Missal, please contact the parish to make arrangements to obtain one.

Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St. Joseph”

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” which began December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and extends to the same feast in 2021.