



The Jesus Stories of Christmastime

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

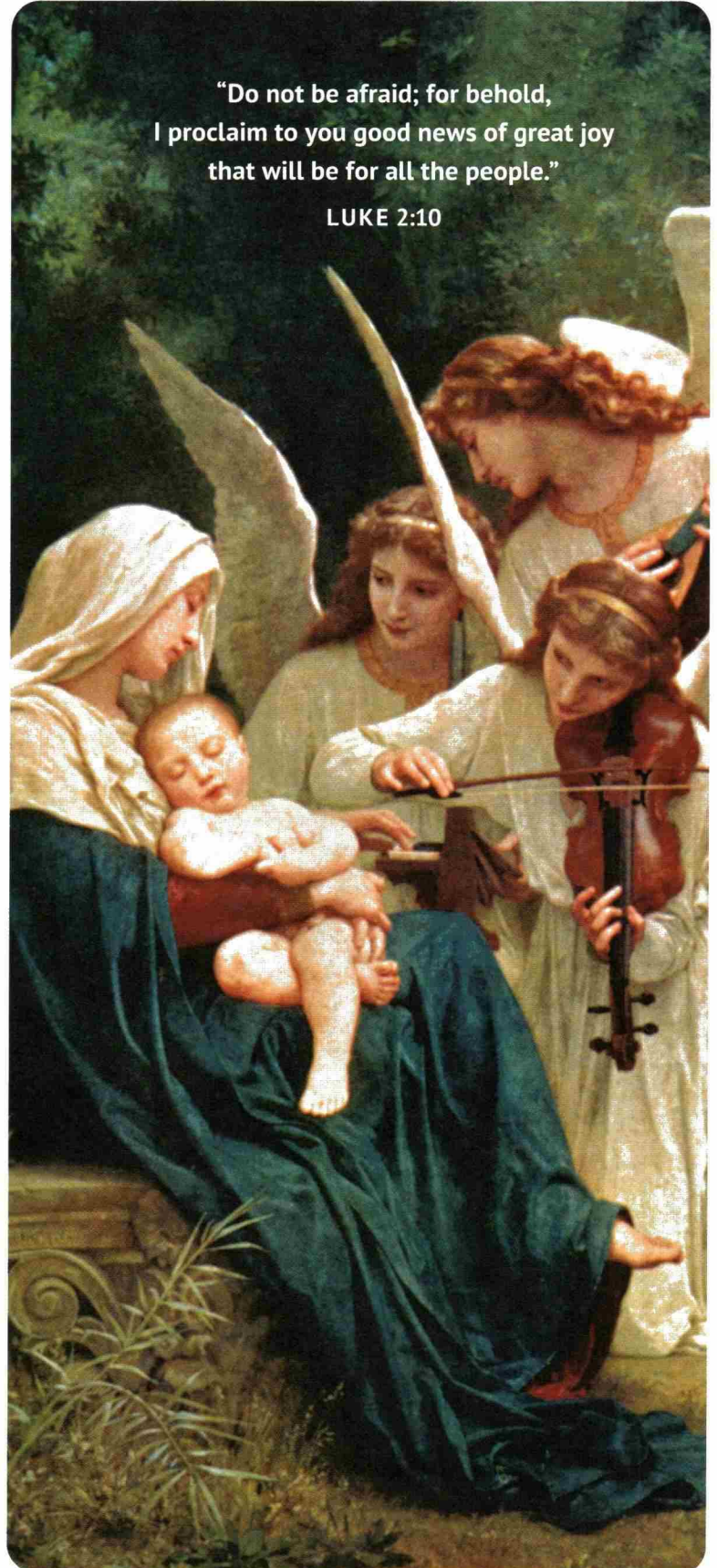
Every year, pundits lament the glitter of our commercialized Christmases. Beneath all such trappings, however, our cultural Christmases are really disguised and unrecognized celebrations of God-made-flesh.

“Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse” is really the story of a Santa-type God who slips into our lives with great generosity, though we seldom notice as we go through life half asleep. “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” is about a misfit reindeer with a “wrong-colored” nose who is rejected by the other reindeer and not welcomed into their games. But then he becomes the means of saving a foggy Christmas Eve with his shining light of a nose. Rudolph is like the stone rejected by the builders that becomes the cornerstone—Jesus, who saves us not only at Christmas but all year long. Frosty the Snowman brings happiness to boys and girls for a time, but then he begins to melt, only to promise he’ll come again another day—all a hint of the hope offered by Jesus, who continues to come in resurrection and life. And Ebenezer Scrooge, whose withered and crusty spirit is transformed into generosity and love in *A Christmas Carol*, all without his ever realizing what is taking place until, of course, it happens. Then he proclaims he will honor Christmas in his heart the whole year long—a transformation that God brings about in each of us.

Christmas celebrates God-made-flesh in Jesus, something that took place then and echoes now for all of time and in all of life. ●

Reflect

How do you experience God-made-flesh during these Christmas days?



“Do not be afraid; for behold,
I proclaim to you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.”

LUKE 2:10

Our Lady of the Rosary ~ Our Lady Queen of Peace

Our Lady of the Rosary and Queen of Peace Catholic Churches

Office Phone (850)740-1003

Office email – office@olr.ptdiocese.org

OLR website - <https://olr.ptdiocese.org>

Pastor ~ Fr. Kurian Manikuttiyil

Rosary PCL ~ Kevin Hall-(850)276-2621

Rosary Lector Coordinator – Alice Haynes

Rosary Choir ~ Arlene Hall – (850)276-8739

Peace Contact ~ Larry Fern – (850)527-0813

Mass Schedule ~ Our Lady of the Rosary

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Sunday 8:30am

Communion Service

Monday – Wednesday 8:30am

Friday 5:00pm

Mass Schedule ~ Queen of Peace, Fountain

Sunday 10:30am

Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday 8:00am – Noon

Friday 1:00pm – 4:45pm

Baptisms

Contact the PCL

Reconciliation

Upon Request

Sacraments for younger Children

Contact PCL

The Sanctuary Lamp for the week of December 24 – 30, 2022 is in loving memory of Jan Garner.



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022 in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of New Year's.

Poinsettias placed on the Altar this Christmas season in honor and loving memory of

Carinhas family

Pieroni family

Breckenridge family

Hunt family

Carol Hall

Robert Terry

Olga Terry

Morrison family

Helbling family

Mastropietro family

Sowden family

Dupuis family

Thomas Dickie

Buck Rogers

Gioan Nguyen Khoan

Britt family

James & Ruby Batchelor

Gordon & Aurela Dickie

James Fowler

O'Keefe family

Nguyen family

Wells family

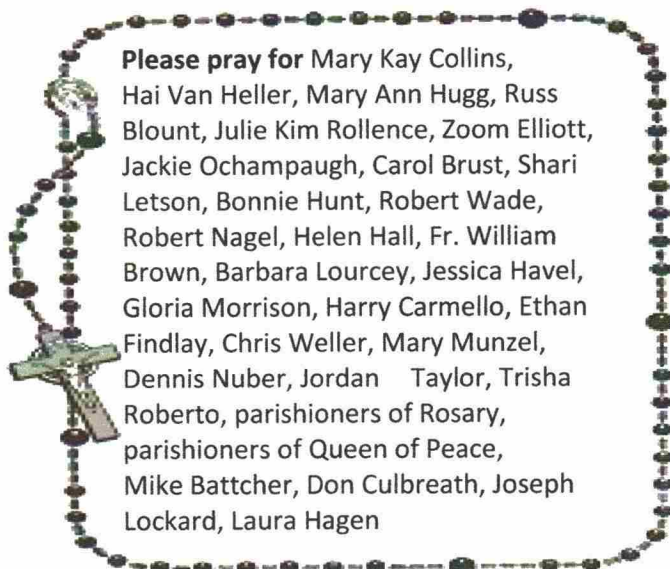
Wuest family

Wally Elliott

Joseph Dickie

Cynthia Dickie Shryock

Maria Nguyen Dau



Please pray for Mary Kay Collins, Hai Van Heller, Mary Ann Hugg, Russ Blount, Julie Kim Rollence, Zoom Elliott, Jackie Ochampaugh, Carol Brust, Shari Letson, Bonnie Hunt, Robert Wade, Robert Nagel, Helen Hall, Fr. William Brown, Barbara Lourcey, Jessica Havel, Gloria Morrison, Harry Carmello, Ethan Findlay, Chris Weller, Mary Munzel, Dennis Nuber, Jordan Taylor, Trisha Roberto, parishioners of Rosary, parishioners of Queen of Peace, Mike Battcher, Don Culbreath, Joseph Lockard, Laura Hagen

Last Week's Collection

~ Offertory - \$7,410

~ Building Fund - \$60

~ Christmas Flowers - \$20

~ Poor Box - \$5

~ Retired Religious - \$60

2023 Offertory Envelopes now available.

Envelopes are not mailed out. See Arlene to pick up your envelopes.

OLR Pastoral Council Members

Mike Smith – Chairperson

Mike Carinhas – Vice-Chairperson

Judy Riera – Secretary

Joe Williams

Brian Dancik

Susan Edwards

Annie Pieroni

Randy Gonsalves

Rob Mastropietro

Elizabeth Rose

Jim Fuller

Lindsey Sowden

~ Thank you to all of our members for volunteering as representatives of our Parish!

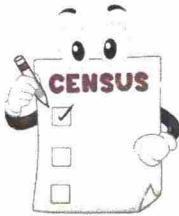
From the desk of our Pastor ~

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Merry Christmas to all of you, and a faith filled New Year.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Kurian



Parish Census for 2023 is complete. Thank you to all who took time to fill in the census. If you have not taken the census, you are strongly encouraged to do so, as the computer deleted a great many of our parishioners from the Data Base

when it was updated. In order to make sure you are listed on our parish roster, please take a moment to talk to Arlene before or after Masses about updating your information. Or, go to <https://olr.ptdiocese.org/2023-parish-census/> and download a copy of the census. Fill it in, return it to Arlene, drop it in the collection basket, scan it and email it to our office, or simply take a photo of the completed form and text it to Arlene.

If you haven't seen Bishop Bill's gingerbread house challenge, it is a lot of fun (and personally, I think he cheated!). You can find his challenge at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GocVGt4z4M>

USHERS NEEDED! If you can help, please contact Joe Williams or Arlene Hall for more information.

Christmas Novena Prayer ~ 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 piercing cold.

In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen



This Week's Calendar

Saturday, December 24

3:15pm ~ Children's Christmas Program (CH)

4:00pm Vigil Mass, Rosary ~ +Donlean Gary; +Maria & Peter Tran; LFr. Joseph Wambach

Sunday, December 25

8:00am ~ Caroling

8:30am Mass, Rosary ~ +Wally Elliott; +Frank Rollence; +Gioan Nguyen Khoan; +Maria Nguyen Dau; +George Dupuis; +/LParishioners of Rosary

NO CCD

10:30am Mass, Peace

Monday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)

8:30am ~ Communion Service (CH)

Tuesday, December 27

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)

8:30am ~ Communion Service (CH)

9:00am ~ Bible Study (RE)

5:00pm ~ NO CHOIR PRACTICE

6:00pm ~ Events Committee Meeting (RE)

Wednesday, December 28

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)

8:30am ~ Communion Service (CH)

Friday, December 30

4:30pm ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)

5:00pm ~ Communion Service (CH)

Saturday, December 31

3:30pm ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)

4:00pm Vigil Mass, Rosary ~ +Peter Think Nguyen; +Peter & Maria Tu Tran

Sunday, January 1, 2023

8:00am ~ Pray the Rosary (CH)

8:30am Mass, Rosary ~ +Gioan Nguyen Khoan; +Maria Nguyen Dau; +George Dupuis; LFr. Joseph Wambach

NO CCD

10:30am Mass, Peace

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Wonderful, Marvelous

Glorious and generous God,
with the angels and saints,
we raise our voices joyfully
for the gift of an infant.
May Christ be born in us

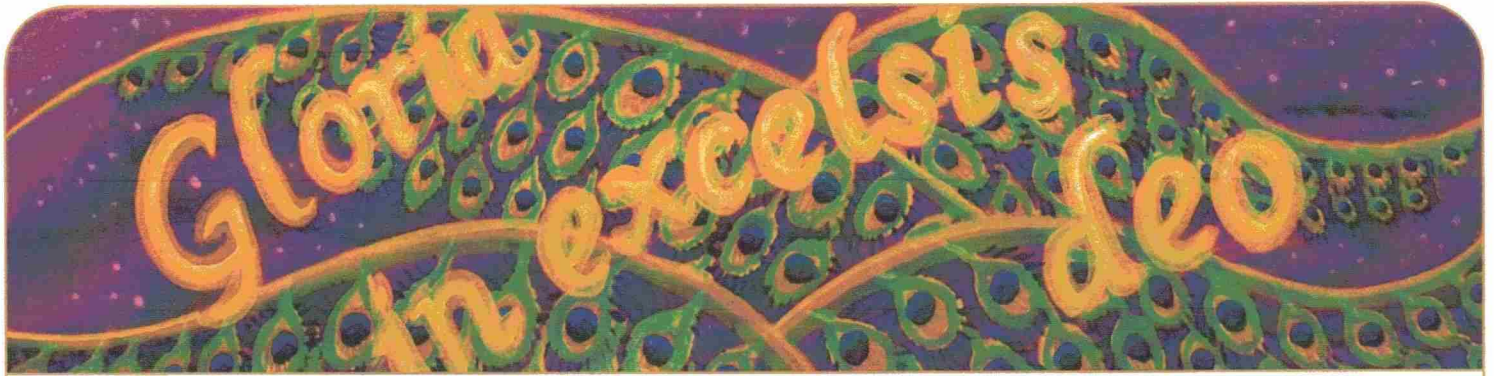
through the Eucharist,
as we acknowledge
that the wood of the cradle
anticipates the wood of the cross.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 25, 2022 Good News, Great Joy, Alleluia

Today's readings (Mass during the Night): Isaiah 9:1–6; Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–14. Christmas breaks into our lives with the hopeful image of light. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,” we hear in the reading from Isaiah. Sickness, death, and much human frailty have been part of our lives in the recent past. More than a promise of better days to come is needed. Isaiah’s prophecy offers abundant hope as we hear, “Upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone.” The light is given to us because “a child is born to us,” a child who will be called “Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.”

This Christmas, as we deal with uncertainty, let us be surprised with Christmas hope! Let us be amazed that God sent his Son to redeem us! Through Jesus, God offers us another path. As St. Athanasius said, “God became human so that humanity might become divine.” How can we be anything but astounded that God has invited us into life with him?

During the Christmas season, seek ways to extend a kindness that is out of the ordinary. After all, God has done that for us, and as St. Paul said in his Letter to Titus, through Christ, God has cleansed us “as a people of his own, eager to do good.” May your kindnesses be a light to others.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 26

St. Stephen

Today is special for permanent deacons as they celebrate the feast of their patron, St. Stephen, the first martyr. Acts recounts how the saint was stoned after he performed “great wonders and signs among the people.” While being stoned, Stephen called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Psalm 31 echoes the suffering of Jesus on the cross and the cry, “Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.” May we allow St. Stephen’s courage to inspire us as we seek to live as disciples of Christ. *Today’s readings: Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59; Psalm 31:3cd–4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17–22.*

Tuesday, December 27

St. John, Apostle

St. John, the apostle, is known as the disciple “whom Jesus loved.” The Gospel text shows this disciple running to the tomb, arriving before Peter. Upon entering the tomb, the disciple “saw and believed.” In the first reading, St. John passes on his belief. “What we have seen and heard, we proclaim now to you,” he states. If there is a funeral at your church this week, try to attend to support the family of the deceased. During the Christmas season, grieving families especially need love and concern from the parish. *Today’s readings: 1 John 1:1–4; Psalm 97:1–2, 5–6, 11–12; John 20:1a, 2–8.*

Wednesday, December 28

Feast of the Holy Innocents

The Gospel today tells of “the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity.” If you are with children today, offer them special love and give thanks to God for the blessing of their lives. With the children, make a simple manger from paper, popsicle sticks, or a cardboard box, as a reminder of Jesus’ cradle. If there is a community pantry nearby, donate and deliver diapers or baby supplies for the needy. *Today’s readings: 1 John 1:5–2:26–4; Psalm 124: 2–3, 4–5, 7b–8; Matthew 2:13–18.*

Thursday, December 29

Octave of Christmas

The days after Christmas are called the *Octave of Christmas*. Similarly, the first eight days of Easter are called an *octave*. In both seasons, the days of the octave invite the faithful to an extended reflection on what we are celebrating. Today, spend time with the Gospel text of Simeon’s prayer and then with his words to Mary. Incorporate Simeon’s prayer, known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, into your nightly prayers. *Today’s readings: 1 John 2:3–11; Psalm 96:1–2a, 2b–3, 5b–6; Luke 2:22–35.*

Friday, December 30

Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is celebrated on a weekday this year, since there is no Sunday between Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Celebrate this feast with your family and include a guest who is a “family of one” to join you. Prepare a special dessert, meet at a favorite restaurant, or volunteer to serve a meal to those who have no family to share the holidays with. Make peace with an estranged family member. *Today’s readings: Sirach 3:2–6, 12–14 or Colossians 3:12–21 or Colossians 3:12–17; Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5; Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23.*

Saturday, December 31

The Light Shines in Darkness

Today’s Gospel proclaims Jesus as the incarnate Word of God, stating, “In the beginning was the Word, / and the Word was with God, / and the Word was God.” In your Bible, this text is the prologue to the Gospel of John and can be read as a preview of the chapters ahead. The rest of the brief chapter tells of the incarnation. Read this Gospel over meditatively, stopping to ponder phrases such as “the true light, which enlightens everyone.” *Today’s readings: 1 John 2:18–21; Psalm 96:1–2, 11–12, 13; John 1:1–18.*



Dear Padre,

I haven't been to Mass in a long time, but lately I feel drawn to come again. Can you help me better understand the Mass?

Welcome home! To learn more about the Mass, you might consider participating in your parish's program for those who are thinking about joining the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, we can offer five principles that form the foundation for what happens at Mass.

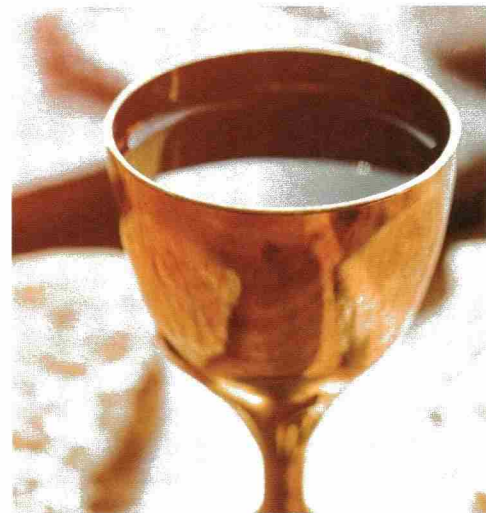
Participation rather than passive attendance: Mass is a time of prayerful activity—listening intently, praying fervently, reflecting quietly, singing and worshipping joyfully.

Gratitude for God's mercy as we acknowledge our sinfulness: There are several occasions during Mass when we are called to acknowledge that we sin, but also that mercy and forgiveness are offered freely to all who acknowledge their imperfections and sinful behavior.

Word and sacrament: The liturgy comprises the Liturgy of the Word (penitential act, Scripture readings, homily, and prayers of the faithful) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (presentation of gifts, eucharistic prayer, and Communion rite). Both are important.

Christ's Real Presence: Under the forms of bread and wine (the Eucharist), the Real Presence of Christ retains a prominent place in the Mass. Christ is also present—in different ways—in the words of Scripture, in the presence of the priest, and in the assembly gathered in his name.

A celebration of family and community: Jesus fostered a sense of family among his disciples. Parish liturgies should be a time when young and old, rich and poor, families and single people join together to experience unity in Christ Jesus. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY

December 26
*St. Stephen,
First Martyr*
Acts 6:8–10;
7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

TUESDAY

December 27
*St. John,
Apostle and
Evangelist*
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

WEDNESDAY

December 28
*Holy Innocents,
Martyrs*
1 Jn 1:5–2:2
Mt 2:13–18

THURSDAY

December 29
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:3–11
Lk 2:22–35

FRIDAY

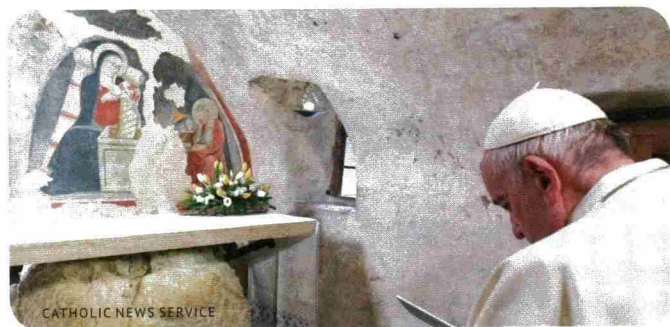
December 30
*Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and
Joseph*
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Col 3:12–21 or
Col 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

SATURDAY

December 31
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:18–21
Jn 1:1–18

SUNDAY

January 1, 2023
*Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God*
Nm 6:22–27
Gal 4:4–7
Lk 2:16–21



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The great mystery of our faith is shown in this simple sign of the Nativity scene....God loves us to the point of sharing our humanity and our lives. He never leaves us alone; he accompanies us with his hidden, but not invisible, presence. In all circumstances, in joy as in pain, he is the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

HOMILY, SHRINE OF GRECCIO, RIETE, ITALY, DECEMBER 1, 2019