

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

DECEMBER 25, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First; Isaiah 62:1-5 - SOLEMNITY

Second: Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 or Matthew 1:18-25

FOCUS: *Let us rejoice!*

As we come together in celebration of the birth of Christ, we are filled with joy. Our Scriptures today tell us of the great promise of the Messiah. It is a glorious time for the people of God. Even if we have felt pain or anxiety in the past, our joy endures for Christ is present with us. Let us rejoice!

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

The prophet Isaiah proclaims the Lord's promise that the people of God will no longer be called forsaken, but rather lifted up to great things. In the second reading, Paul preaches in the synagogue, giving their ancestral lineage and promise of a savior, which Jesus fulfilled. In the Gospel, Matthew recites the genealogy of Jesus and relates the circumstances of how his birth came about. While Joseph is anxious, an angel allays his fears and assures him of the divine plan.



MASS INTENTIONS

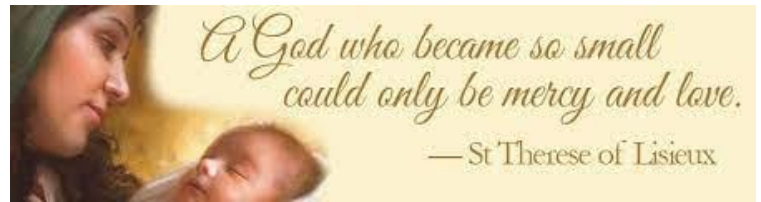
All Christmas Masses are being offered for the Parishioners of St. Paul's past and present, living and deceased.

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 11-18: Totaled \$ 5,425.83

Envelopes: \$ 3,215.00— Online: \$ 2,210.83

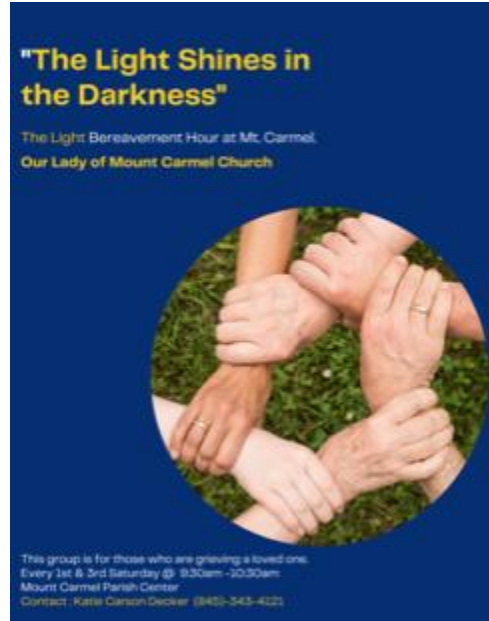
THANK YOU!



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP BEGINS AT OLMC

A new support group for those who have lost a loved one will hold its first meeting in the Parish Center of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on at 9:30 a.m. **Saturday, January 7.** Thereafter, **The Light Bereavement Hour** will continue to meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. every first and third Saturday of the month.

If you are grieving or know someone who needs accompaniment in the loss of a loved one, please contact Katie Carson Decker or Fr. Pablo Richmond, O.Carm. for more information. They can be reached through the OLMC office at (845) 343-4121.



PARISH MEETING SCHEDULED

After the 10 o'clock Mass on **Sunday, January 15,** there will be a Parish Meeting to discuss in detail the Financial Report that will be distributed in next week's bulletin.

GOSPEL DISCUSSION RETURNS

Coinciding with the church's liturgical year, Scripture discussion of the **Gospel of Matthew** will take place on Zoom from 10-11:15 a.m. Mondays, beginning **January 9.**

New participants are welcome! If you would like to join the group, call Gail VanTassel at 845-457-3432 so that the Ignatius Bible Study Guide to accompany this discussion can be ordered.

WREATHS WITH HEART

Thanks to your generosity, \$667 was raised and sent to the American Heart Association from the sale of Christmas wreaths.

Decorating does a heart good!

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday: 76

10 a.m. Sunday: 142

THE CHRISTMAS PROBLEM

Once upon a Christmas Eve, a man sat in reflective silence before the fireplace, pondering the meaning of Christmas. "There is no point to a God who becomes man," he mused. "Why would an all-powerful God want



to share even one of His precious moments with the likes of man? And even if He did, why would He choose to be born in an animal stall? No way! The whole thing is absurd! I'm sure that if God really wanted to come

down to earth, He would have chosen another way."

Suddenly, the man was roused from his reverie by a strange sound outside. He went to the window and saw a small gaggle of blue geese frantically honking and aimlessly flopping about in the snow. They seemed dazed and confused. Apparently, they had dropped out in exhaustion from the flight formations of a larger flock on its way from the Arctic Islands to the warmer climes of the Gulf of Mexico.

Moved to compassion, the man tried to shoo the poor geese into his warm garage, but the more he shooed the more they panicked. "If they only realized I'm only trying to do what's best for them," he thought to himself. "How can I make them understand my concern for their well-being?" Then, this thought came to him: "If for just a minute, I could become one of them, an ordinary goose, and communicate with them in their own language, they would know what I am trying to do."

And then, suddenly, he remembered Christmas and a smile came over his face. Suddenly, the Christmas story no longer seemed absurd. He pictured that ordinary-looking infant lying in the manger in that stable in Bethlehem, and he knew the answer to his Christmas problem: God had become one of us to tell us that He loves us.

- Author Unknown



JESUS vs. SANTA

Santa lives at the North Pole.

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh.

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year.

JESUS is an ever-present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies.

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited.

JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa.

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap.

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is

"Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"

JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.

JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is "HO HO HO."

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry."

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys.

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...

JESUS became our gift and died on a tree ... the cross.

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.



