

The background of the entire page is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, distant stars. A single, exceptionally bright star with a multi-pointed, starburst-like glow is positioned in the upper center. Below this star, the words "Rejoice!" and "OUR SAVIOR IS BORN!" are written in white. The lower portion of the image shows the silhouettes of three figures riding camels across a dark, hilly landscape. They are moving from left to right, following a path that leads towards a bright, glowing horizon in the distance. The overall mood is serene and celebratory.

# *Rejoice!*

OUR SAVIOR  
IS BORN!

**Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic Parish**

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1975 Daytona Dr. - Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403





## *Gospel Theme for Christmas Day December 25, 2020*

*God has spoken to us through his Son, the Word made flesh. Thus has salvation been revealed to all the nations.*

Dear Parish Family,

Baby Jesus has come to you. He had you in mind when he created the world and when he made a promise to Abraham, Jacob, Moses and David. He was born for you and carried his cross for you. He prepared a way for you on the day of his resurrection and on the day of his ascension. He prepared a place for you on the day he entrusted the keys of the kingdom of heaven to Peter and the Apostles, and also on the day of Pentecost, the birthday of his Church. All of this from the beginning of time until today is for you. Jesus is born for you.

This is an important truth that can be easily lost. While Jesus surely came to save the whole human family, he also came for your own family. In our own human limitations, we often find ourselves anonymous in a large crowd, and we can get used to this kind of thinking. But, none of us is anonymous to God. He knows you intimately and completely as if you were the only family in the world. God's attention is not distracted away from us by other people. He sees and knows and loves us for who we are, and he came to love us into the family that he intended from the beginning.

My prayer for your family this Christmas is that Jesus, who is born for you, will live in your home, talk with you, eat with you, work with you, and rest with you. I pray that you let him be born into your hearts without hesitation. I pray that he truly dwells in your home so that you may one day dwell in his home forever.

Merry Christmas,  
Father Chauncey



### Church Events:

#### January

- 1<sup>st</sup>-Solemnity of Mary
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Adult Formation—Fulfilled— 9:30am weekly
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Adult Formation—Share the Word—9:00am weekly
- 6<sup>th</sup>- Adult Formation— Acts of the Apostles  
9:30am weekly
- 7<sup>th</sup>-Adult Formation— Acts of the Apostles  
6:30pm weekly

#### February

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Blessing of the Candles
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-Feast of St. Blaze—Blessing of the Throats
- 17<sup>th</sup>-Ash Wednesday—Masses 8:30 am & 5:30 pm  
Ashes only Services—6:30 am, 12:15 pm, & 7:30 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup>-Daily 5:30 pm Lenten Masses are added to the  
Mass schedule until Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup>

#### March

- 31<sup>st</sup>-Tenebrae Service-Burning of the Oils (7:00pm)  
Confession (after Service)

#### April

- 1<sup>st</sup>-Holy Thursday, Supper of the Lord Mass (7:00 pm  
with Adoration until Midnight)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Good Friday-Confession (10am-Noon)  
Catholic Daughters Rosary for World Peace (2:00 pm)  
Divine Mercy Chaplet (2:30 pm)  
Veneration of the Cross (3:00 pm)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Blessing of the Easter Food (Noon)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-Easter Vigil (8:00 pm)
- 4<sup>th</sup>-Easter Masses (7:00, 8:45 & 10:30 am)
- 11<sup>th</sup>-Divine Mercy Holy Hour (3:00 pm)

#### May

- 2<sup>nd</sup>-May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary (after  
all Masses in the Prayer Garden)
- 16<sup>th</sup>-Special Blessing for 2021 Graduates at the  
10:30 am Mass
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- Pentecost Multicultural Mass ( 10:30 am Mass)



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO OUR BELOVED PARISHIONERS

At Christmas we celebrate the mystery of the incarnation that God came down to be one of us in flesh and blood, to live among us and be one with us. This means that he shares in our joys, sorrows, disappointments and challenges we go through in life. As we celebrate this mystery of God dwelling among us, let us share with one another the joy, the peace and the light that Christ brought to the world. This light at the dawn of darkness is a sign of life and hope, this light has come to shine to lead us to the truth. May this light of Christ be a source of hope for you this season of joy.

My dear friends of Our Lady of the Lake parish, this year has been a very turbulent year especially with the pandemic but the feast of Christmas assures us that God is with us. Let this assurance of Immanuel in our midst be a source of strong faith for us to rely on his promises that He would never abandon us. My prayer is that the light Christ brought to the world by his birth may penetrate every concern of our lives, to drive away our fears, anxieties, depression and the darkness that obscure us from experiencing the love of Christ. I pray that the peace that heralds his coming be the gift of your individual families this Christmas and may the hope his birth brought to the world keep you going even when the going seems difficult

Happy Christmas to you all and may the new year come with many Blessings from the Lord.

Fr. Tony

Most blessed greetings of this Sacred Season of Christmas. It has been a wonderful gift serving here at Our Lady of the Lake for nearly a year now. I have enjoyed many things about Lake Havasu City, the beautiful lake, and scenic drives, sunsets, and picnic lunches on the lakeshore. I have also been blessed in getting to know our parishioners all the more, and appreciate the lovely hospitality extended to me.

2020 has been a most challenging year for us all, and our Church, but the one thing that shines through the storm clouds is just how much God truly does love us.

So many people have been lost due to Covid, and we cannot forget them. This Christmas, we are called to step outside of ourselves, as the Christ-child comes in the quiet of the night for all to receive him.

One of the difficult struggles has been the lack of connections we have been able to make due to Covid.

It has been this struggle that has encouraged me to seek more the things of God and not of the world, and to discover the steadfast hope we do have in realizing that no matter what happens to us in this world, we can never lose hope.

My hope for 2021 is that we as a culture become more sensitive to humanity around us, more directly to the family we have, the poor, the vulnerable who need the gift of our presence now more than ever.

My hope is that we respond by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, by putting our faith more profoundly into practice not so much by our words, but by our actions.

In 2021 let us better live the attributes of Jesus. Let us be clothed with humility, charity, and kindness, in a world that longs to know these things and can bear witness through our response.

Jesus pierced the dark of night when he radiantly came into the world. We too are called to be radiant in truth, love, faith, and hope to be Christ and welcome all as Christ.

Be the Light in the Darkness

Blessings of Hope,  
Fr. Michael



*During this Christmas season,  
may you be  
Blessed with the Spirit of Peace,  
The Joy and Beauty of Hope,  
The Heart of the season, Love,  
And the Comfort of Faith.  
May all these Gifts bring cherished Memories this  
Christmas season and throughout the new year to you and your families.  
Let us Rejoice in the Glory of the birth of Christ and celebrate all of the Miracles  
and Blessings of the Holy Spirit.  
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.*

*Pastoral Council Members  
Felis Ramirez, Rick Allsup, Israel Amaro, Bill Meehan,  
Wally Moore, Maria Oyas, Margie Snyder, and Cathy Wilson.*

### **St. Vincent de Paul**

*At St. Vincent de Paul, we are committed to  
providing assistance to needy families and  
individuals. We have more people seeking assistance with St. Vincent de Paul than ever before. We are a Catholic ministry that  
sees the face of Christ in the faces of those who are suffering.*

*In John 15:12, the Lord tells us  
"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

*At St. Vincent de Paul, our mission is to  
show the love of Christ in all we do.*

*The generous support of all the parishioners of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church allows St. Vincent de Paul the ability to  
continue helping the needy families in Lake Havasu.*

*We are able to provide nearly 400 families with all the ingredients for a Christmas dinner. In addition to the Christmas meal,  
with your generosity of Christmas gifts, St. Vincent de Paul is able to provide multiple Christmas gifts for hundreds of children  
on our food program. We would like to thank you for your contributions and support of our organization.*

*Your financial support, along with donations of gifts and canned goods, helps us continue in our mission of charity.*

*God loves a Cheerful Giver  
(2 Corinthians 9:7)*



### **Oremus Rosary Maker**

**Our Rosary Makers Ministry was started by six parishioners in 1979. We now have 25 members.**

**Over the years we have made and delivered thousands of rosaries to missions both here in the United States and all over the world. Our members make and send approximately 1000 to 1500 rosaries per month.**

**During our monthly meetings (September to June, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) we bring in the rosaries we have made and pick up our supplies. We take them home and work in our own time and at our own pace.**

**Some people make 30, others 300.**

**If you would like to keep your hands busy and your mind in tune with "Our Blessed Mother" please come join us.**



## Mary's Prayer Garden



*Mary's Prayer Garden is located on the left side of the church as you enter the front of the church. It is a place to pay homage to our Blessed Mother. It is also a peaceful place to pray and give thanks for our many blessings. It is also a place to sit and reflect about our loved ones whose names are engraved on the bricks.*

*Forms are available in the church office for anyone interested in purchasing an engraved brick.*

*For more information, please contact Rosalie Smith at (928)854-8657.*

## Rosary Guild

**"Our Mission is to help support the family during the loss of a family member by saying the Rosary with the priest or deacon before a Mass."**

The Rosary Guild are members of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church who say the Rosary when asked by the family of the departed. We come as a group to the funeral home or church to say the rosary with the priest or deacon. This enables us to be supportive of both the family and whoever is saying the rosary. The priest or deacon leads the rosary and we finish the prayer. When we get a call from the church office that a rosary is being requested, the team leaders are called giving them the date, time, and place. We have about 10-12 who can attend at any given time. This ministry requires no scheduled time commitment. We have no meetings or dues. Safe Environment Training is a must. If you feel that this is something you would like to be part of, please call Charlotte Van Nierop at 855-1358

## Soup Kitchen



Three times a week the Soup Kitchen continues to provide hot, healthy and nutritious meals to anyone in need, There are no criteria and no one is turned away. Our method of

distribution has changed to take out meals only. Serving days are still Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm and Saturdays from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

The new procedure takes a bit longer but our guests are still very grateful that we are open and able to provide them with food. Extra items such as bakery, breads, produce are still available.

Thank you to the volunteers who give endless hours of their time and energy for this ministry. The Soup Kitchen currently averages 800-1200 meals per month. Our annual Bake Sale and Ministry Fair may or may not happen in February 2021 due to current conditions. Please feel free to donate to the Soup Kitchen if you are able.

Merry Christmas and God Bless you  
and your families



## Thank You...

We are growing in numbers and in virtues! Your prayers and re-directed taxes are making a difference. Our students are living the virtues of obedience, sincerity and gratitude.

We will be adding a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class next year and know that every day our students are praying for our parish family as we visit the Blessed Sacrament for adoration.

We will especially remember you during this Christmas season as the Christ-child will be adored in our midst.

Merry Christmas!



## Knights of Columbus, St. Thomas More Council 6442

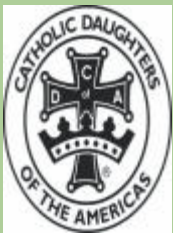


Our Council provides many services to Our Lady of the Lake Parish and the Lake Havasu City community. Our Service Programs are organized in six categories: Church, Community, Council, Family, Culture of Life and Youth. During the past year, we contributed more than 25 thousand hours of service in these areas. We serve the Church with thousands of hours of personal time in such areas as music, altar serving, lecturing, youth activities, homebound ministry, soup kitchen, parish council and committees. Our fundraising efforts contribute to many Church and Community Charities. Our facility on London Bridge Rd is used for charitable activities including church ministries, community blood drives, charitable fund raising events, veteran stand downs and educational seminars, and intellectually handicapped bingo. Of course there is a lot of hard work that goes into maintaining such a facility and that is where Knights stand up to spend thousands of hours a year in conducting bingo events that provide funds to sustain its operating costs.

Founded by a parish priest, the Knights of Columbus has always worked hard to encourage young men and women to consider God's call to service in the priesthood or religious life. Under the motto "Keep the Faith Alive," the Order's vocations initiative has a number of programs based on prayer and designed to reach the hearts and minds of young people, as well as to provide financial support during their years of seminary training or religious formation.

Our goal is to build a stronger sense of unity within the parish and increase our personal connection to the parish. In that regard, our goals include creating a welcoming and nurturing environment for all cultures within the parish; and uniting our diverse communities (including Hispanic, Filipino, African American & Anglo) in furthering the four core principles of the Knights of Columbus which are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Please consider helping us in our goals.



### CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS – COURT 2213 MOTTO: IN UNITY AND CHARITY

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *The purposes of the organization are to participate in the religious, charitable and educational Apostolate of the Church. Catholic Daughters of the Americas engage in creative and spiritual programs which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents in meaningful ways that positively influence the welfare of the Church and all people throughout the world. Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith, working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.*

Officers: Sherry Ketner - Regent  
Patricia Bangasser - Vice Regent  
Linda Ladner - Recording Secretary

Jo Ann Ferguson - Financial Secretary  
Rosemary Shannahan - Treasurer  
Rev. Chauncey Winkler - Chaplin

The Catholic Daughters welcome you to come to our meetings, the second Thursday of the month, at the Columbian Hall: Social is at 10:00 AM and meetings starts at 10:30 AM. Come join us for a spiritual and rewarding experience. We welcome winter visitors to join the Catholic Daughters as our meetings are from September through May.

You may contact Sherry Ketner, Regent at 928-855-4445 if you have any questions.

### GRIEF MINISTRY

Grief is a normal and natural response to loss. Many times grief is misunderstood because of cultural biases that are based in misinformation and myths surrounding grief. Time heals all wounds is one such myth, as well as time limits placed on grief, or attempts at replacing the loss. Fr. Michael brings his many years of experience to Our Lady of the Lake within end of life ministry as well as pastoral support to the bereaved to assist those struggling through grief to overcome and move through their unique grief journey. Fr. Michael holds various Master's level degrees in theology, and mental health and wellness with an emphasis in grief. Grief Recovery Method is a seven to eight session series that assists grieves with graphing their life loss history and various relationships as they pertain to loss. Fr. Michael is a certified grief recovery specialist with Grief Recovery and offers the series in intervals. Grief Collage is yet another experience in grief management that creatively seeks to foster posture grief through small group discussion, dialogue, and the art of creative collage incorporating the elements of grief into the creation a very unique masterpiece, your grief in pictures and tribute to a deceased loved one. These opportunities of ministry at the parish are meant to move participants from hurting to healing.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry's mission is to lead teens and their families closer to Christ. We seek to empower young people to fully participate in the life and mission of the Church (to continue the work of Jesus Christ, and to make his name known and loved everywhere), so that they may grow holistically into mature Catholic adults who will practice their faith, and ultimately to become saints.

This year we have been using an in-person, virtual hybrid model for our meetings, where we explore the Catholic faith, and how it is to be lived by each individual. We have a leadership team of adults and teens that plan and put together our gatherings. We host annual retreats, and help other ministries and causes such as Pregnancy Care (through Baby Shower Month), and the Giving Tree through St. Vincent De Paul.

If you wish to register a Jr High or High School student, or if you're interested in volunteering at Youth Ministry, please contact the Department of Evangelization and Outreach: [fsantana@ourladylh.org](mailto:fsantana@ourladylh.org) or call 928-855-2685.

### **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**

This is a unique family catechesis program, which promotes parents as the primary educators of their children in the Catholic Faith. Since it's beginning, Family Formation has served thousands of families all over the United States and Canada. Through lessons, games, quizzes, stories, and music, orthodox Catholic teaching is transmitted, and the Faith is brought to life within the family.

### **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

Thinking about becoming Catholic? Do you know someone who is inquiring about being Catholic? Thursday evenings at 6:30pm, we meet online to ask and answer questions to help people learn about the Catholic faith, and make an informed decision.

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

We have many opportunities for adults to learn about the Catholic faith. Whether you are a Convert, or a cradle Catholic, exploring one's faith is a lifelong process. We have online and in-person faith studies and Bible studies on:

**Mondays, 9:00am & Tuesdays, 6:30pm with Dcn. Patrick**

**Thursdays, 9:30am with Francisco**

**Fridays, 9:00am Sharing the Word with Dcn. Mike**

Please contact the Department of Evangelization and Outreach: [fsantana@ourladylh.org](mailto:fsantana@ourladylh.org) or call 928-855-2685.

Follow us on Instagram: [@catholicmhc](https://www.instagram.com/catholicmhc) and Facebook: [@OurLadyLakeEvangelization](https://www.facebook.com/OurLadyLakeEvangelization)

### **JOVENES PARA CRISTO/YOUNG ADULTS FOR CHRIST**

"Our Mission as Jóvenes Para Cristo/Young Adults for Christ is to bring the Good News of God to all people" (Mathew 28, 18-20). By a process of formation that is integral, continuous and systematic; that supports the life in the community that is multicultural in our world. Helping to guide responsible leaders that will fight for justice, peace and charity; always searching for the sincere conversion and example of Christ alive in our world today."

Jóvenes Para Cristo/Young Adults for Christ community began here at Our Lady of the Lake in September of 2006. Many thanks to Rafael and Lourdes Ibarra who responded to God's call to evangelize here at Our Lady of the Lake.

We also pray and help with the needs of our parish and community.



## *Liturgical Ministries*

**ALTAR GUILD** - Members of the Altar Guild are rotated on a weekly bases to wash and clean the linens used during the Mass.

**ALTAR SERVERS** - Boys and girls from 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school are invited to join. Servers assist the priest at the altar and help the assembly pray. You must attend training meetings and rehearsals for special celebrations.

**BREAK OPEN THE WORD LEADERS & ASSISTANTS** - Leaders and Assistants break open (share) the Sunday readings for children Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade during the 10:30 am Mass.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EM)** - Extraordinary Ministers assist the priest at Mass by helping distribute the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to the faithful. This ministry is open to fully participating Catholics who have a reverence, respect and love for the Eucharist and strive to live out the call to be Eucharist (Christ) to those we meet and serve.

**SICK & HOMEBOUND MINISTERS** - These ministers take Holy Communion to those who are not able to come to Mass, whether they are at home, nursing home or hospital. Visits are usually made on a weekly basis.

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD (LECTORS)** - The lector proclaims the Word of God at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word. This ministry is open to fully participating Catholics who have a love for Sacred Scripture and desire to learn more about the Word of God as they proclaim his Word to the listening assembly.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** - The role of the cantor, choir, and musician is to lead the assembly in prayer through singing and music to enhance the prayer experience during the Liturgy. The cantors, choir, bell choir and musicians meet once a week. This ministry is open to musicians and all who love to sing praises to our Lord and lead the assembly in prayer and song. No experience is necessary to join.

**SACRISTAN** - A sacristan is a person who sets up everything for the Celebration of the Mass. The sacristan arrives early and begins to set up vestments for the priest and deacon, chalices, sacred vessels, makes sure the books are set among other things. It is the role of the sacristan to make sure everything is ready for the Mass.

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY (GREETERS & USHERS)** - Ushers/Greeters welcome those who come to worship, tend to their needs, help them find a place to sit, if needed, gather their gifts during the collection, and bid them farewell when the Mass is over.

**VIDEO PROJECTION MINISTRY**— Our Video Projection Ministry helps with projection of song lyrics and video during our weekend Mass celebrations.

We are always looking for volunteers to help in these ministries. If you felt a calling in your heart while reading the different ministry descriptions or have any questions please contact Deacon Patrick or Gaby Santana by calling the Parish Office at 928-855-2685 or by email: [gsantana@ourladylhc.org](mailto:gsantana@ourladylhc.org)

## **Funeral Reception Ministry**

The funeral reception ministry provides a reception after funeral services upon request of the grieving family. When we are able to resume receptions safely in the HFPC, we will be in need of additional volunteers. If you would like to help by providing prepared food, laundering table linens, or helping with set-up, serve, or clean up, please sign up with Renee Brindis, Volunteer Coordinator at 855-2685 or call Diane Cichinsky at 453-5941 for more details.



# **Song Sheet for the Children's Mass and All Masses**

## **ENTRANCE SONG**

### **O Come, All ye Faithful**

John F. Wade

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and  
behold him, born the King of angels; O come, let  
us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come,  
let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Adéste fidèles, laéti, triumpnantes, veníte,  
veníte in Béthlehem. Natum vidéte, Regem  
angelórum. Veníte adorémus, veníte adorémus,  
veníte adorémus Dóminum.

Sing, Choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above! Glory to  
God, all glory in highest; O come, let us adore  
him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us  
adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Cantet nunc aula caeléstium. Gloria, glória, in  
excélsis Deo. Veníte adorémus, veníte  
adorémus, veníte adorémus Dóminum.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy  
morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n; Word  
of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come,  
let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O  
come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

### **Glory to God**

Steve Janco

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace to people of good will. We praise you, we  
bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give  
you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,  
heavenly King, O God almighty Father

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord  
God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take  
away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world receive our  
prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are  
the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.

### **Psalm 89\***

**Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

### **Psalm 96**

**Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

### **Psalm 98**

**All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.**

## **OFFERTORY SONG**

### **Silent Night**

Joseph Mohr

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright,  
round yon Virgin Mother and child, holy infant, so  
tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in  
heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the  
sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly  
hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure  
light. Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the  
dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy  
birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

### **Away in a Manger\***

John T. McFarland

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little  
Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in  
the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little  
Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but  
little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you,  
Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by  
my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all  
the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for  
heaven to live with you there.

### **Angels We Have Heard on High\***

Crown of Jesus Music

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing  
o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo  
back their joyous strains.

Refrain: **Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in  
excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous  
strains prolong? Say what the tidings may be,  
which inspire your heav'nly song.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth  
the angels sing; come adore, on bended knee,  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

**\*Children's Mass Only**



## COMMUNION SONGS

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### O Holy Night

John P. Kee

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Savior's birth, long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt his worth. A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; fall on our knees, oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night O holy night O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another, His law is love and his gospel peace; chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name; Christ is the Lord, Oh, praise his name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

### The Angels Sang

Margaret Pleasant Douroux

How precious is the gift God gave to all mankind, there is no greater gift I know you'll ever find.

Refrain: **The angels sang hallelujah, glory hallelujah! Peace on earth good will to men; Jesus Christ is born.**

God, let this child be born in a manger filled with hay. A bright and shining star showed wise men where he lay.

When that great child was born, his parents loved him so, but when the time had come, they knew that he would go.

God let this child be born to save this world from sin. It was the greatest gift that God could give to men.

## CLOSING SONG

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### Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

Joy to the world! The Lord has come: let earth receive her King: let every heart prepare him room. And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ: while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace: and makes the nations prove, the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and

wonders of his love, and wonders and wonders of his love.

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

(For those who are not able to receive Communion at this time)

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

### ORACIÓN PARA HACER UNA COMUNIÓN ESPIRITUAL

(Para aquellos que no pueden recibir la comunión en este momento)

Creo Señor mío que éstas realmente presente en el Santísimo Sacramento del altar. Te amo sobre todas las cosas y deseo ardientemente recibirte dentro de mi alma; pero, no pudiendo hacerlo ahora sacramentalmente, ven al menos espiritualmente a mi corazón. Y como si te hubiese recibido, me abrazo y me uno todo a Ti; Oh Señor, no permitas que me separe de Ti. Amen.

## Prayer for Volunteers

*Eternal and Gracious God, we come to you on behalf of volunteers who give of their time, talents and gifts. The world is a better place because of their dedication. We thank you for the lives that have been transformed through your faithfulness to answer when they call. We pray that as our caring volunteers pour out of themselves for others that you would sustain them with your mighty power and strong hand so that their giving to others is refreshing for them as well. We pray for their families and everything that concerns them. We ask you to lead and guide them to do your will as they reach out and lift each prayer by name and need. Believing with our volunteers that you hear and answer prayer, we ask in Jesus' name and thank you in advance. Amen.*

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## GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

**December 25, 2020**

### **The Nativity of the Lord**

If the salutation, “Merry Christmas,” is more than just the expected greeting we use today, then what is the “more” really all about? Today is a sacred day and the birth of Christ has changed not only history but how human beings perceive and relate with God. God has become one with humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. All of these truths remain just pious sentiments unless they take flesh in the heart and soul of each one of us. We need to absorb and immerse ourselves in what is meant by these truths so that we can be changed by them. Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord!

A woman once recounted her journey with poverty and how she went from “doing” for the poor to “being with” the poor. It’s transforming and life changing. It’s easy to simply give alms to those in need, and yet another thing to be with them in their poverty and become poor ourselves. A change of the axis from vertical to horizon puts a whole new twist on things. Our souls understand the experience in ways that our minds simply cannot. Christmas requires this same change of axis.

It is one thing to sing out the words, “Joy to the World,” and quite another to experience that joy ourselves. Many have not experienced the full impact of that first Holy Night because they choose to keep the manger at a distance rather than make a home with the Holy One who resides there. The birth of Christ levels the playing field of life and we have to allow ourselves to be leveled. There is no way to truly be human unless we understand that God is with us and blesses every fiber of the human experience. We cannot be truly human unless we listen to the words of the Word Made Flesh and work so that justice and peace can be realized by all, and God’s sacred earth cared for and nurtured.

The axis of Christmas begins to shift when we realize it’s not about, “I and me,” but, “we and us,” and there’s an order and purpose to how God fashions and sustains things. The world hasn’t really given Christ a full shot yet to understand that Truth has been born in our midst. We pick and choose what suits us in the message and leave the rest behind.

What needs to change about you so that Christ can truly be born in you?

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