

**Before I Forget**

A harried executive was running late for an important business meeting. The traffic was not helping either his schedule or his mood. He pulled to a stop at a light at one of the busiest intersections of the city and thought to himself, "If I can beat the next light, if I can just get ahead of this crowd." So, he took his foot off the brake and put it on the accelerator, ready to floor it when the light turned green. Then he saw something that made him hold his breath: a young couple, both of them blind, were making their way across the street. The young woman was holding a child and the man was using his white cane, tapping it on the pavement, as he directed his family across the intersection. To the executive's horror, he realized that the family was veering diagonally out of the crosswalk and into the center of the intersection and the traffic. Unaware of the danger that surrounded them, this young family was moving directly into the on-coming cars. Then it happened: in a moment the executive's annoyance and fear changed to wonder as he saw what unfolded before his eyes. Each car, in every direction, came to a simultaneous stop. There was no beeping or honking of horns, no screeching of brakes, no scream or shout of "Get out of the way! Are you crazy?" All the cars just stopped and waited as this young family made their way safely across the intersection.

What happened in that intersection was a miracle. Not a miracle that defies the laws of nature, not a miracle that restored sight to that blind couple, not a miracle by which patience and understanding become real in the hearts of many harried and distracted motorists. A miracle by which a sense of unity and common concerns emerged from so many vehicles, separated and isolated from one another. A miracle by which compassion and respect for human life manifested itself in the midst of city traffic.

Now that miracle points to the miracle of Christmas, because what happened on that Christmas was not that Christ came and changed the world, but that Christ entered our broken and divided world. Christ did not come and destroy all evil, but came to become one of us. Christ is now able to stand with us as we face the evil that remains. This is why we should not become discouraged when we see how much is wrong with the world and troublesome in our own life. The troubles of life are not a distraction from Christmas. They are the necessary human context in which the meaning of Christmas becomes clear.

We are the people who believe that despite a pandemic and all the turmoil in the world and issues in our own life, God-is-with-us, Emmanuel. And if God has become human and is with us, then there is always reason for courage, always reason for hope, even reason for joy. We are the people who believe that compassion and peace and love can suddenly emerge even in the presence of trouble, even in the presence of grief, even in the midst of a busy intersection.

Yes, life in 2020 goes on much as it did before, but what we celebrate on Christmas is the truth that the world has indeed changed. It is changed because God has become human. God has become part of the world, the real world, the world in which we live. This explains why even in a broken world, we can sing "Joy to the World" and our favorite Christmas hymns. This justifies why even where there is so much that is wrong, even in the midst of a pandemic, we still can, without fear, wish each other a Merry Christmas.

God-is-with-us!

Forward together and no left behind,

# BE THE CHURCH

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION



**CHRISTMAS EVE: 3:00 - 4:00 PM**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY: 10:30 –11:15 AM**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE: 3:00—4:00 PM**

We are distributing Eucharist to people within their car in our parking lot on **Sundays, 10:30 am 11:15 am**. Please view our virtual Mass either on Saturday evening or Sunday morning prior to coming over for Eucharist.

Fr. Bill, Deacon Jim, often both, will distribute Holy Communion to people in their car. There will be no reason to leave your car, just pull up in front of the doors, open the windows.

We plan to continue this practice until we are able to come back together in our worship space, weather permitting.

If for any reason you can't make this work for you and your family, please call Dcn. Jim at the parish office and we will find a solution that works for you.

**Celebrate December 24, 2020 on the Church of Christ the King YouTube Channel for:**

### CAROLS AT THE CRÈCHE

**A special Christmas Eve celebration for all ages. A singalong guide will be provided for this 25-minute word and music presentation of the story of the birth of our Savior.**



#### Carols at the Crèche

The concept for this video production was a collaboration between Moya McGinn Mathews and Steve & Naomi Staruch

a 2020 production at Christ the King Church

Character Placement: **Phillip Sellner**  
Narrators: **Emma Sellner, Franklin Sellner**  
Vocalist: **Naomi Staruch**  
Belvidere Oasis: **Steve Staruch - Viola;**  
**Luke Taylor - Guitar; Dave Michel - Bass**  
Video by: **Laura DeShane & Michael Yu**

## OUR MINISTRY CONTINUES

### REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Continue to mark the days of Advent until Christmas by designating a box or basket in your home where you will collect gifts for people in need.



Then donate the contents at our monthly food collection during the Christmas season on Saturday, January 2, 10 am—noon.

Any questions about these ministries, contact Deacon Jim at 612-920-5030, x19 or [jdeshane@ctkmpls.org](mailto:jdeshane@ctkmpls.org)

### Please remember in your prayers:

Mike Coogan, Fr. Doug Dandurand, Kelley Deshler, Joanne Dick, Walter Dick, Chuck Gorman, Mary Ellen Halverson, Mary Ann Hansen, Eileen Hoy, Dan Ivory, Steve Kean, Tomi Kean, Joan Kelly, Anna Kinney, Mary Koby, Jozef Lazar, Mary Lee, Stefan Skorich, Lydia Spanier, Angie Tucker, Pat Urick, Diane Wielinski



***We extend our prayers and sympathy to Ralph Mitchell on the passing of his brother, Louis.***

***May he enjoy the eternal embrace of God's Love.***

*If you would like someone remembered in prayer on this list, please call Jim DeShane, .612-920-5030, ext.19*

Visit: [www.ctkmpls.org](http://www.ctkmpls.org)

5029 Zenith Avenue South, MN 55410 612.920.5030

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## THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated to our annual "Christmas Giving Tree" this year! Even though it was a little different this year, because of your generosity this past week we were able to send over **\$4,500.00 in a combination of gift cards and cash** to help make Christmas a little brighter for the kids at Holy Rosary.



A big shout out to Mary Beth Hachiya for all her help in organizing the sock/warm clothing drive to help the homeless that are served by St. Stephen Shelter. People in this parish gave so wonderfully that we literally filled Linda Weber's SUV full of useful clothing to help for the upcoming winter. A special thanks, not only to Mary Beth, but to Linda, as well, for letting us commandeer not only her car but her time to help.

**Linda Weber's SUV stuffed full of goods for St. Stephens's**



Also a thank you to D'Ann Brosnahan for her idea of "Cards for Community" as an example of how we are working to think outside the box and stay connected during this challenging time. So far we have been able to send out Christmas cards, many handmade, to a little over 125 seniors to let them know how important community is for all of us.



If you have more cards for us to send just drop them in the box outside the front door on Zenith and we will happily send them during the next week.

Deacon Jim DeShane  
jdesbane@ctkmpls.org  
612-950-5030, ext 19

## Stewardship 2021

Thank you to all the households that have returned their stewardship pledges for 2021! We appreciate your generosity and commitment to CTK.

Now may be the perfect time to give the gift of appreciated stock to CTK. You may be able to claim a charitable contribution in the amount of the current value of stock and avoid paying taxes on the appreciated value of the donated stock.

You can also make a direct transfer from your IRA-RMD to CTK and count that money toward your required minimum distribution.

When you make a gift, please check with your financial advisor. With additional questions, please contact Paul Zdechlik at 612-920-5030, x15, [pjzdechlik@ctkmpls.org](mailto:pjzdechlik@ctkmpls.org)

**A reminder that all year end contributions must be dated, postmarked December 31 or earlier to be part of the 2020 record.**

## BE THE CHANGE



Stimulating Zoom discussions continued last Sunday on the topic of reparations for the past 401 years of racial injustices.

If you were unable to join us at that session, but would like to be included in the CTK antiracism newsletter,

please email [anngrael@gmail.com](mailto:anngrael@gmail.com).

Actions by the four different teams are planned to continue over the holidays. One action by the Adult Ed team is a book club to learn more about systemic racism. The first book of the new year will be *Caste* by Isabella Wilkerson. Contact [maryjanemitchell@msn.com](mailto:maryjanemitchell@msn.com) if you are interested in participating in this book club.

Here is prayer from the Liturgy Team:

Gracious God, We pray for our Church: That all may acknowledge the truth of the injustice of racism that is a part of our history and work toward a true reconciliation with our past. As Jesus says, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." May the Church lead all in our world to a new sense of freedom. Amen.

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