



CHURCH OF
CHRIST
THE KING

THE HERALD

CHRISTMAS 2020

The Nativity OF THE LORD



He was in the beginning with God.
All things came to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.

What came to be through
him was life,
and this life was the light
of the human race.

- Jn 1:2-4

CHRISTMAS 2020



If you have ever visited a fine museum or art gallery, or even just a beautifully decorated home, you will notice something that they all have in common. In any of these places, you will not find clutter; too many distracting things would take your attention away from the beautiful objects and paintings you would find in such a place. If a wonderful piece of pottery is sitting in the corner of the room surrounded by old flowerpots and discarded newspaper, we hardly notice that piece of pottery.

On this feast of Christmas, we need to focus on the birth of Christ – for a moment we need to clear a space in our hearts and leave all the distractions of Christmas aside, at least for a while. These moments of prayer are the “jewel” of Christmas – allow these prayerful moments to spread their light on the rest of the day so that the gifts, the food, the relationships you share, will take on the meaning they are meant to have. Allow these things to be the expression of what Christmas really means.

And, what does Christmas mean? It is all extremely mysterious and extremely simple – Christmas means that you and I are dearly and deeply loved. Our God loves us so much that it was unbearable that we should not know it. But how was God to be certain that we would have the assurance that we were loved from all eternity and would be loved into eternity? God’s love would have to be shown in a way in which we could clearly and easily recognize such love.

A good story can help us understand what Christmas means. Long ago, there ruled in Persia a wise and good king. He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. He wanted to know about their hardships. Often he dressed in the clothes of a worker or a beggar, and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their king. One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful kind words to him. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, “I am your king.” The king thought that the poor man would surely ask for some gift or favor, but he didn’t. Instead he said, “You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me you have given yourself.”

This is the gift we are given by God – God himself. Jesus is the ultimate gift, the most exquisite gift that could be given – and you and I to whom the gift is given. In Jesus Christ, God became a human being, someone the human race could see, listen to, touch, observe, learn from, wonder at. We could experience God’s unending love through the love of Jesus. And that, simply, is why we stop today for prayer. We are a people who are loved, have been loved, and will be loved. There is nothing that could be a greater cause for rejoicing than this. When another human person tells us sincerely and with feeling that they love us, our personal world is transported to another level. Everything changes. Life is different. It makes it all worthwhile.

Our response to love shown, is love given. When we experience the genuine love of another person, we are moved to return that love. People are bound together in marriage by genuine love, given and received. Christian communities, which are alive and well, are communities in which love is the bond between members. Genuine and lasting friendships endure because of the love between friends. Our response to God’s love shown in the birth of Jesus is to love God in return. Jesus himself showed us that the way we do this is by loving one another.

We do not celebrate Christmas by looking backwards. We do look back at the time Jesus was born, but this looking back is to help us look forward. We look forward to a world where the love which Jesus showed us has taken root in our own hearts and spread to the rest of the world. Christmas is calling us to look forward to a world filled with love – God’s love, and our love for God and for one another.

May Jesus, ever new, be among us as we celebrate his birth. May his love carry us into the future until he comes again in glory.

May your heart and home be filled with Christ’s peace and gentle love.

Merry Christmas.

Forward together and no one left behind... Fr. Bill.

CHRISTMAS 2020

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.

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 Rita McHugo on the passing of her sister, Mary McHugo Burgess, "the leader of the McHugo pack."

May she enjoy the eternal embrace of God's Love.

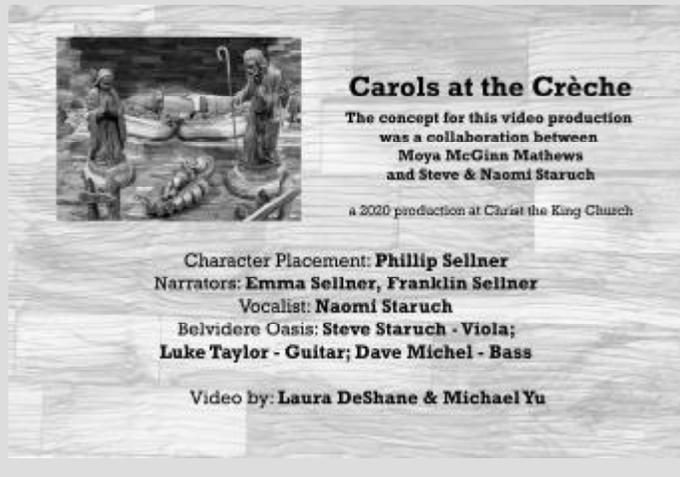
If you would like someone remembered in prayer on this list, please call Jim DeShane, .612-920-5030, ext.19



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.



Stewardship Update from Paul Zdechlik Parish Business Administrator

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

For those who haven't turned in their pledges, please remember you can simply email me and let me know what you would like your pledge to be for 2021, as long as we have your financial information on file. If we don't have your information on file, please call me. If you have additional questions, please contact Paul Zdechlik at 612-920-5030, x15, 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.

Please contact me at 612-920-5030, ext 15, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Washburn - McReavy

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