

# SAINT MICHAEL PARISH

ONE PARISH. ONE SCHOOL. ONE FAITH COMMUNITY.

DECEMBER 27, 2020

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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 1:3-4

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### *Our Mission*

*Rooted in our sacramental celebrations of the Eucharist, we seek to shape our future in a positive way through our parish school, religious education, youth ministry programs and numerous Christian services. While maintaining a strong sense of Catholic tradition, we look for ways to revitalize our Christian values through more openness to God's word and our gospel call to love God and neighbor. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we seek new ways of being a church for members, active or not, as well as reaching out to the wider community.*

### **Mass Schedule**

**Monday-Saturday at 7am. Weekends: Saturday at 4pm, Sunday at 7am, 9am & 11:15am**

**12:30pm Mass in Swahili every Sunday.**

**Holy Days: 7am & 7pm.**

**Rectory:** 543 Bridge Street, Lowell, MA 01850 Phone: 978-459-0713 Fax: 978-453-1123

Religious Education Phone: 978-459-0713 Saint Vincent de Paul Society: 978-459-1770

Email: [saintmichaels@comcast.net](mailto:saintmichaels@comcast.net) Website: [www.saint-michael.com](http://www.saint-michael.com) Facebook: Saint Michael Parish

Rectory Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm

**School:** 21 Sixth Street, Lowell, MA 01850 Phone: 978-453-9511 Fax: 978-454-4104

Email: [sms@saint-michael.com](mailto:sms@saint-michael.com) Website: [www.school.saint-michael.com](http://www.school.saint-michael.com) Facebook: St. Michael School Lowell

**Below is useful information about our parish.  
You can contact the Rectory at 978-459-0713  
or saintmichaels@comcast.net.**



Baptisms are usually held at 2pm on the fourth Saturday of each month. Parents must attend one class prior to baptism date. Godparents must be Catholics who have received the sacraments of baptism, first communion & confirmation. Please contact one month in advance to schedule.



If you'd like to be married at Saint Michael's, please contact us one year prior to your wedding. Couples must meet with the priest prior to confirming a date.



Religious Ed classes for grades K-8 are held on Saturdays from 9-10:30am, Sept-May. High school students meet Sundays 3:30-5 or 5:30-7pm, Jan-May. First Communion is usually celebrated in May; Confirmation in the fall.



When you are sick or have scheduled surgery, please contact us. This is the Sacrament formerly known as Last Rites.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation, formerly known as Confession, is available every Saturday from 3pm-3:30pm in the church. If you would like to meet face-to-face with a priest, please contact the rectory.

Are you homebound and would like to receive communion on a temporary or permanent basis? Let us know so we can send an Extraordinary Minister to you.



If you are attending Mass & require a low gluten (0.02%) host, we're happy to help. Please speak with the priest or sacristan to make arrangements prior to Mass.



Are you an adult and would like to become a member of the Catholic faith? Contact the rectory about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

Saint Michael is home to a vibrant, faith-filled Kenyan community, with Mass in Swahili every Sunday at 12:30pm. The contact for the **Kenyan Catholic Community & Friends (KCCF)** is Chairman Robert Ndirangu, [rondimbu@gmail.com](mailto:rondimbu@gmail.com) or 260-804-9444 via text or WhatsApp.



### Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Saint Michael Parish is blessed to have a Saint Vincent de Paul Society conference, complete with dedicated volunteers who participate in community outreach, helping to supply relief to our neighbors in need. To help support these efforts, please remember to deposit your donation in one of the boxes at the entrance of the church. Thank you!



Welcome! We'd love to have you share in our faith and community. Welcome packets are at the entrance of the church. To become a registered parishioner, please contact the rectory.



**Saint Michael School**, founded in 1889 by the Dominican Sisters, is a private Catholic School dedicated to academic excellence from Pre-School (ages 3-4) through Grade 8 and is a fully accredited Catholic elementary school by the Archdiocese of Boston Department of Education and the NEASC (New England Association of Schools / Colleges). 21 Sixth St, Lowell 978-453-9511

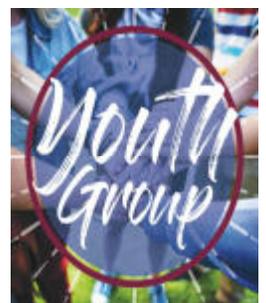


If you are a **Saint Michael School Alumni** please keep in touch by making sure we have your updated information. Please visit [www.school.saintmichael.com](http://www.school.saintmichael.com) and click on the ALUMNI tab on the homepage. Don't have online access? Call the school at 978-453-9511!

We invite parishioners to give an offering for the **Bread** at all Masses on a given weekend. The offering for this memorial is \$75.00. Please contact the rectory for more information.



**SMYLE (Saint Michael Youth Leadership)**, our Youth Group, is open to young people ages 15-25 and meets at least twice a month for unique and fun faith-based activities. If you or someone you know is interested in joining SMYLE or would like more information, please contact Ashley Melanchook at [SMYLE@saint-michael.com](mailto:SMYLE@saint-michael.com).



**Deadline for Bulletin Submissions: Mondays at Noon, except during Advent, Lent, or the week of a holiday.**  
Email submissions to [pminch@saint-michael.com](mailto:pminch@saint-michael.com)

## Saint Michael Parish

Administrator: Rev. Christopher Lowe  
Deacon: Gerry Hardy  
School Principal: Mary E. Elias  
Religious Education Director: Nicole Walsh  
Music Director: Jackie Thurrott  
Development Director: Pauline A. Minch  
Parish Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Terry Georgopoulos  
Facilities Manager: Charlie Nutt  
School Bookkeeper: Liz Homem  
Organist: Ernie Houle  
Parish/Religious Ed Secretary: Mary Brooks  
Parish Receptionists: Ann Anderson, Holly Ferreira



## The Lowe Down



*On behalf of the entire staff of Saint Michael's Parish and School, may you have a merry and Holy Christmas this year.*

I imagine that your Christmas celebrations are not quite like they have been in the past. Mine certainly was not. With only 30 hours free between the last Christmas Mass and the first Holy Family Mass, I was unable to get away while following all the paperwork and testing rules set out by Governor Baker. So, my family and I celebrated together virtually this year.

The Christmas season begins in the Church on December 25<sup>th</sup>. The 12 days of Christmas are after Christmas day and take us to Epiphany, which is celebrated on January 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. For those who are counting, that is only 9 days after Christmas this year. We will conclude our Christmas celebration on January 10<sup>th</sup> with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

The rectory Christmas Trees will be lit up until January 10<sup>th</sup>. Our interior decorations will not be coming down until then either. I encourage you to celebrate the entire Christmas Season. It takes time to fully appreciate and celebrate the Incarnation of the Christ Child into our lives.

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:5*

**Fr. Chris**

*Thank you to the Coates Family of Christian Hill for donating the beautiful Christmas trees that decorate the exterior of the rectory!*



**The Gift of Bread is given in Memory of Beverly DiMauro. Please remember her in your prayers.**

### Saturday, December 26

4:00pm: Beverly DiMauro, Justin Chicklis

### Sunday, December 27

9:00am: John Cox

11:15am: Chester Matyka

### Tuesday, December 29

7:00am: Ray Stowell, Sr.

### Saturday, January 2

4:00pm: Ann Marie Laforge

### Sunday, January 3

9:00am: Stanley Szufnarowski

11:15am: Peter Loudon

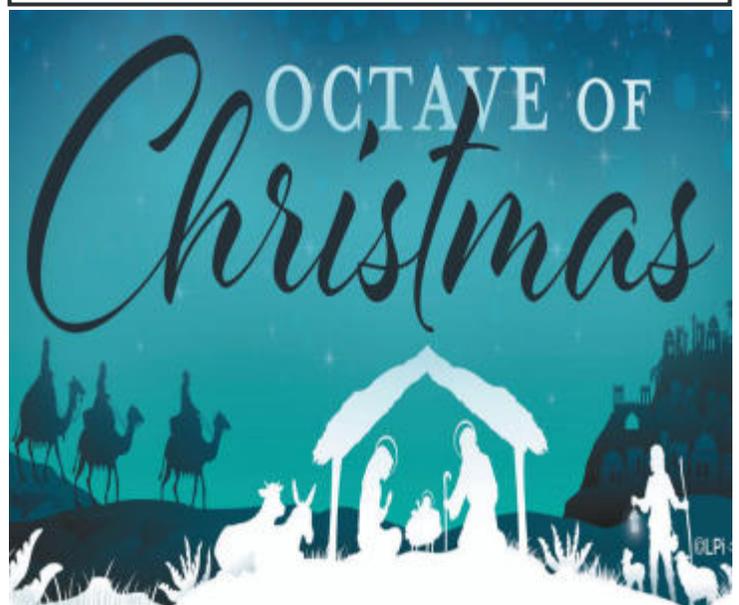


*Please be advised that you can drop off your offertory envelopes/donations at the rectory by placing them in the drop box on the rectory's back door that faces the parking lot. Checks can also be mailed to 543 Bridge St., Lowell, MA 01850. You can sign up for Online Giving, which can be found on our website, [www.saint-michael.com](http://www.saint-michael.com). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Online Giving" icon. Detailed instructions will follow. Online giving may be cancelled at any time.*

*For the weekend of Dec. 12-13: The Offertory amount was \$6,486; Online Giving was \$1,354, totaling \$7,840. Our weekly Offertory goal is \$9,000, leaving us with a goal shortage of \$1,160. The second collection was for Saint Michael School; \$671 was collected.*

*Due to an early publishing deadline, the Offertory amounts for the weekend of Dec. 19-20 are not available. They will be published in the January 3 edition of the bulletin.*

*Thanks for your continued support and generosity!*



## GRAND ANNUAL UPDATE

*The latest total of the 2020-2021 Grand Annual prior to publication is....*

# 61%

**Thank you so very much for your generosity and financial support of our \$100,000 goal!**

## CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST



The Christmas collections will benefit the Clergy Health & Retirement Trust, which cares for the health and well-being of our 536 active and senior priests in good standing, including those who have served at Saint Michael: Reverend Joseph Gaudet, Reverend Robert Nee and Reverend Edward Sullivan. By supporting this collection, you are helping to ensure that our active priests receive the care they need to continue their important work and our senior priests can live in community with access to quality care. This collection is a primary source of funding for the Trust and your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## Year of the EUCHARIST

*The real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist will be celebrated across the world from June 14 (the 2020 Feast of Corpus Christi) to June 2022, uniting all Catholics as one body of Christ. Join with family and friends in prayer, promotion & participation.*

**Prayer:** Each day commit to praying an additional 15 minutes, including Mass, Adoration, grace before meals and bedtime prayer.

**Promotion:** Share your faith in the true presence of the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist by giving witness by talking to others about your beliefs.

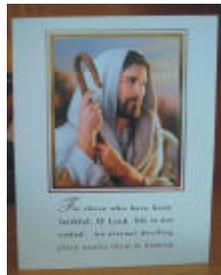
**Participation:** If you would like to participate in the next event, please send your email address to our Parish Coordinator Mary Regan, skeedood1@aol.com and details will be sent to you.



## LIMITED AMOUNT OF MISSALS FOR SALE

The missals that we use in the pew each year have come in for next year. We reduced our order to the minimum allowed, so we have 50 available for sale. Our cost is about \$6.50 each delivered, so we are offering them to you at \$7.00. These missals are available at the rectory Monday - Friday from 9-4.

## MASS CARDS & SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS



A Mass Card is a remembrance by which we offer a Mass for the repose of the soul of a deceased person or for the intention of the living. A Spiritual Bouquet is an enrollment by which we remember the person at one Mass per week for the year. Mass Cards are \$10 and Spiritual Bouquets are \$15; both are available at the rectory.

## FULL OF JOY

Last year we waited much too long to buy our Christmas trees. We usually have one in the living room and then one by the large window in our room that sits at the front of the house. Essentially, there is one for us to see and then one for all the neighbors walking their dogs in the December cold. If you wait too long to buy a fresh tree you might just not find a tree. But last year I found one tree lot I had not bought from in the past. Luckily, they had some great trees. The price was a little higher than I was used to, but a tree would be mine no matter what.

What I found interesting at the lot was a group of about nine young people sitting around a fire, laughing and drinking coffee. I wondered, "All of these people for a tree lot late at night and this late in the season?" What I found out was that these weren't paid workers. These were recovering drug and alcohol addicts. This was their rehab's tree lot, and this was their service and group therapy. I spoke to a couple of them and found they were the nicest people around. They were full of joy for the new life they had found and thankful for the people who helped bring them through the trial of their lives. Suddenly, that tree they sold me seemed more beautiful and majestic than it had when I first drove up.

This Christmas may the Lord that slept in a manger provide for your rest. May the God that gives many gifts to all of us bless you abundantly. And may the Prince of Peace help you to find true gratitude for the gift of life. May you and yours feel the joy of the season, like a group of recovering addicts around a campfire on a cold December night.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Listen to the daily gospel and homily by Fr. Roger Landry, son of parishioners Roger & Midge Landry! Ask Alexa for the "Catholic Preaching Podcast."



**BOOK OF PRAYERS**  
The Book of Prayers is located on the side altar in front of the Blessed Mother statue. You're invited to write your prayers, hopes and needs in this book, and as a parish family, let us remember these written intentions in our daily prayers.



**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**  
This easy and popular fundraiser for Saint Michael School has gone digital! Just download the app on your phone or iPad and scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase. If you cannot download the app, please drop your receipts in the collection boxes located at the church gathering space. Unexpired traditional (clipped) Box Tops can still be submitted as well. Thanks for your support!



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*Shop on Amazon and help support Saint Michael School or Parish with a few simple clicks! AmazonSmile donates 0.05% of the price of your AmazonSmile purchases!*

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3. If you'd like to support the parish, search & select **ST. MICHAELS PARISH**. To support the school, search & select **SAINT MICHAEL SCHOOL**.

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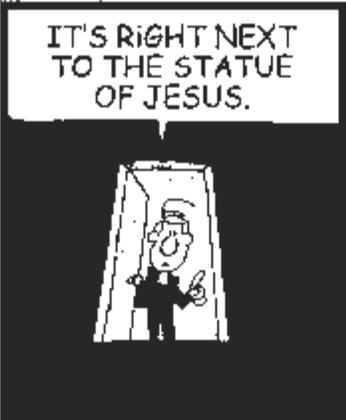
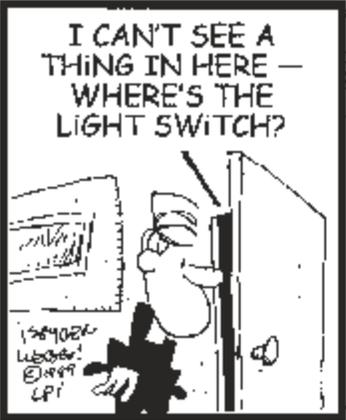
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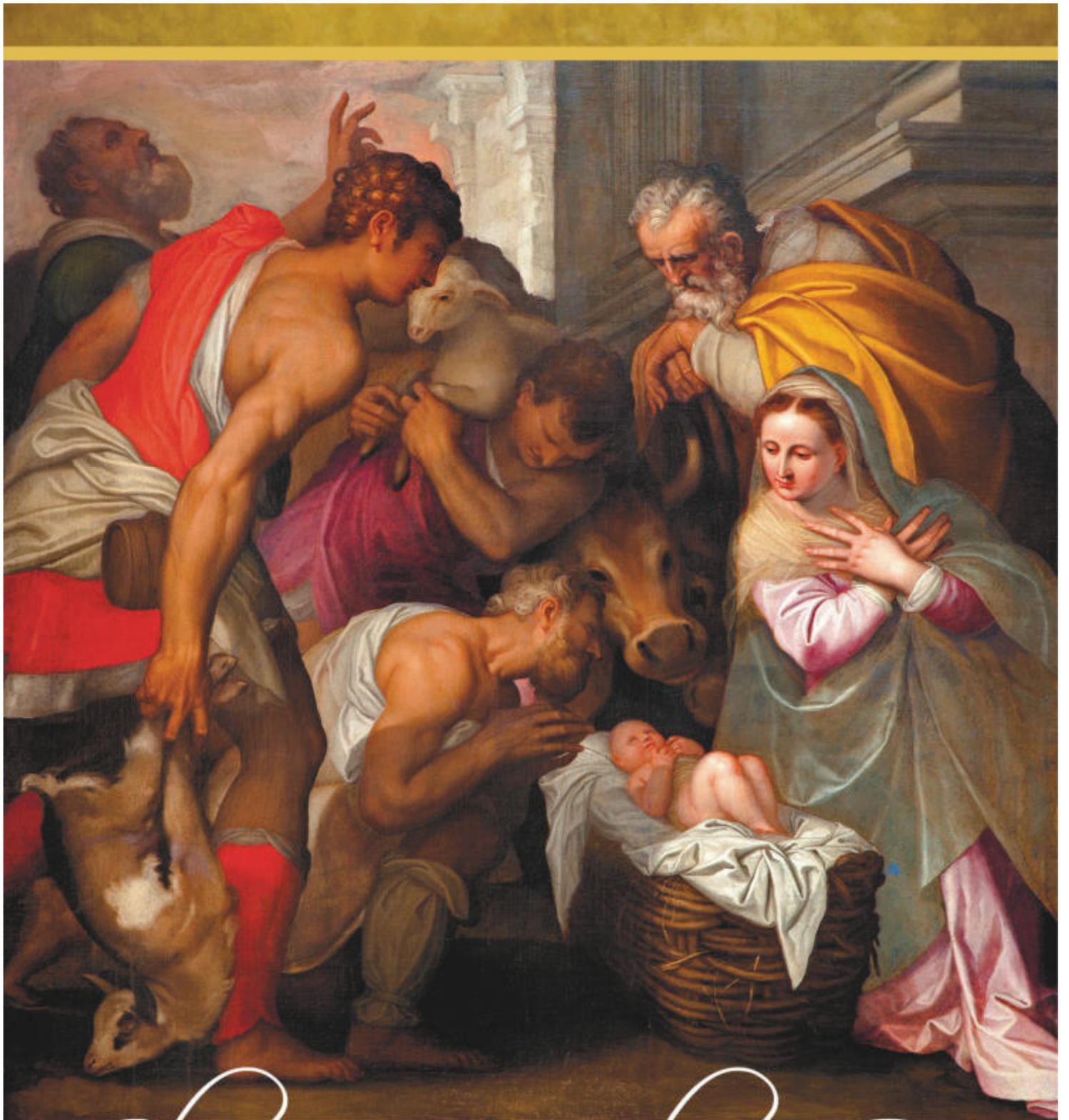
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**CHRISTMAS**





*Gloria in excelsis Deo*

**New! Clip this page and bring it with you to the January 3 Masses; it will assist in readings, prayers and responses. Please do not leave in pews—remember to take it home!**

**First Reading:**

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.*

**Second Reading:**

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

**Gospel Reading:**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

**Gloria:** *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.*

**Nicene Creed:** *I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.*



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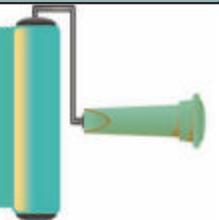
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