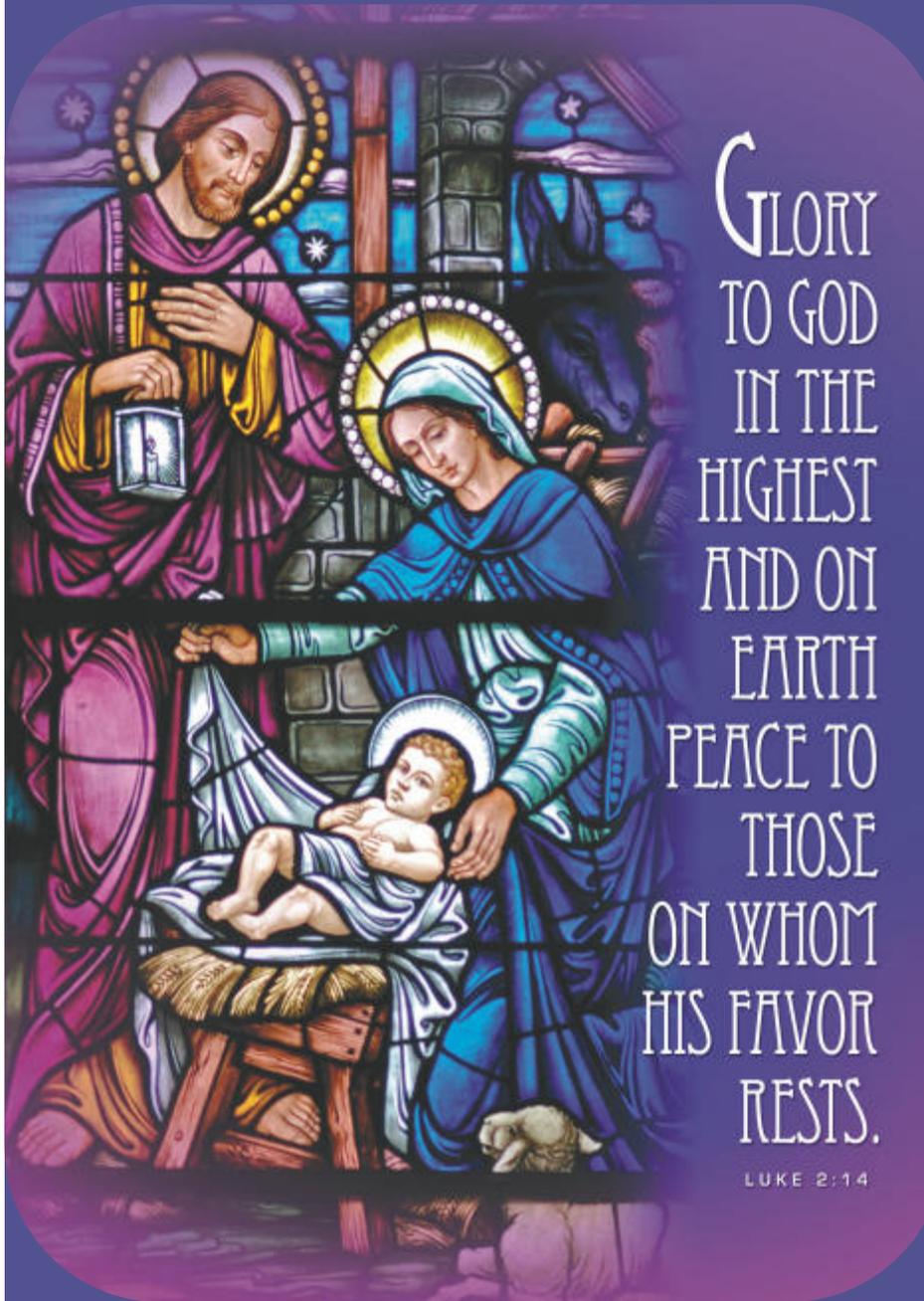




CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2018



GLORY  
TO GOD  
IN THE  
HIGHEST  
AND ON  
EARTH  
PEACE TO  
THOSE  
ON WHOM  
HIS FAVOR  
RESTS.

LUKE 2:14

### *The Nativity of the Lord*

Take a moment to contemplate the symbols of the season. The crèche tells us the Gospel stories: first from Luke, which details the human birth in a lowly stable and the angels' message to shepherds; and later from Matthew, which describes the arrival of Magi who signify that God's salvation extends to all. The angels stand as heralds of the good news, an emblem for each of us on this solemn feast of our own duty to spread the message that Christ is born and saves us from our sins. The tree stands as a symbol of life, its green branches unfading even in the winter cold, just as God's life remains in us even though our human form should die. The wreath made of evergreens reminds us that God is one, without beginning or end. The candles recall the birth of him who is forever the Light of the world. Today, we celebrate the fact that God came to earth as a beautiful, innocent infant who rejects no one. We rejoice this day in the birth of Christ! And tonight, we remember that Jesus Christ came into this world quietly, humbly, and gracefully, an example of how we should live our lives.

**Pastor: Reverend Mark R. Cavagnaro**

**Deacon: Reverend Mr. William Lauth**

**Parish Office**

**5012 Dune Drive, Avalon, NJ 08202 • Phone: 609-967-3746 • Fax: 609-967-8172**

**Open: Monday-Friday 9am to 4:30pm (closed 12-1pm)**

**Lifelong Faith Formation Office**

**Bernadette Krebs, Director Tierney Hall, Ocean Drive, Avalon 609-967-3017**



## *Merry Christmas!*

*The Christmas season is one of the most beautiful times of the year. People in general are in a good mood, cheerful and friendly. The coming of Christ has made a difference for many. Even non-Christians know there is something special about this holiday feast.*

*Greetings to you, the faithful parishioners of Saint Brendan the Navigator Parish! Throughout the year you have made it possible to preach the Word of God in many different ways. Whether you are volunteering for committees, participating in social activities or offering financial support, you are the foundation of faith in our community.*

*We have many visitors at this time of year. Welcome! It is good to have families and friends who renew relationships that nourish our souls. I hope your time with us is joy-filled and memorable.*

*Some are with us who are parishioners we haven't seen for a while. WELCOME BACK! I hope you may be enriched by our services and will be encouraged to worship in our parish, or in your home parish, weekly. When a member of the family is missing at the table of the Lord (the altar), there is sadness that we cannot be all together. Some may feel they have been away TOO long and we would not gladly welcome you back each week. Nothing is further from the truth! Peace is especially experienced in the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) where it comes from knowing God loves each of us in spite of our sins. I invite you to take advantage of God's mercy and forgiveness. Talking to one of the priests will be a non-threatening experience, and can bring you relief and joy!*

*May the words of Jesus encourage us: "That they all may be one as you Father are in me and I am in you, that they may also be in us." (John 17:21)*

*God bless you and your loved ones during this Holy Season and may your New Year be filled with mercy, peace and joy.*

*Peace,  
Father Mark*

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## *New Years Mass Schedule*

### *New Years Eve*

**Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
Saint Paul Church – 4PM  
Maris Stella Church– 5:30PM

### *New Years Day*

**Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
Maris Stella Church – 8:15 and 9:30AM  
Saint Paul Church – 10:30AM