

DECEMBER 25, 2020

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 manager 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?

Calendars of Prizes 2021

Calendars of Prizes 2020 are being sold at the Cathedral Square door after all Masses. Each calendar costs \$20.00. There is a \$20.00 daily prize; an additional \$1,500.00 in special monthly prizes awarded throughout the year; and a grand prize of \$1,000.00. If you have a favorite three digit number, call the Parish Office (944-4603) weekdays between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to check on availability or stop at the Cathedral Square door after Mass. These make great Christmas gifts that last all year!

Gifting the Cathedral Parish

As wills and insurance policies are established with your attorney, or financial advisor, remember the Cathedral Parish as a beneficiary of your estate. Perhaps you would like to direct your gift to a particular ministry or project at the Parish. Please realize that Mass Stipends go directly to fulfilling that canonical wish and do not aid the financial life of the Parish.

Christmas Creche

Take time and kneel before the nativity scene in the Cathedral. Reflect on the miracle of the new born infant who is the Eternal Word of God. See Mary's loving watch over her baby. Notice Joseph's protective presence. See how the shepherds focus on the Christ Child. And observe the precious gifts the Three Wise Men present to the Child. Reflect and pray on the wonder of Christmas.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Our Bishop, priests and staff are most appreciative of your cards, gifts, baked goods, fruits and assortments. Your taking the time to be especially kind is affirmative to our ministry here at Cathedral Parish. Your generosity to us has added to the delight of the holy season. Thank you for taking the time to remember.

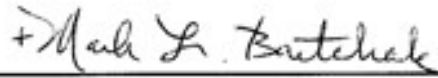
MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
ONE CATHEDRAL SQUARE, ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA



CHRISTMAS

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, as we are bathed in the new radiance
of your Incarnate Word,
the light of faith may shine through our deeds.
(Roman Missal, The Nativity of the Lord, Mass at Dawn)


Most Reverend Mark L. Bartchak
Bishop


Reverend Monsignor Stanley B. Carson
Administrator


Reverend Father Dennis M. Kurdziel
Parochial Vicar

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Joseph & Sophie Adamczyk, Ed & Mary Yetsko/
Clair & Barbara Duffy, Paul & Joanna Tetanich
John Duffy
James J. Adams Family
Mr & Mrs Joseph Anthony
David Axinn, Msgr. Paul Panza
Bartchak and Beck Families
David A. Baronner
Anthony and Christine Bartkowiak
Deceased Bauer & Fedeli Family
Bob Beck, Joseph & Frances Pagliaro
Jack & Kitty Bell, Msgr. Paul Panza,
and Steve Hiner
Denise McGraw Benny
William & Eleanor Bettwy, Daniel Gioiosa,
John Bettwy
M/M Clair Boslet, M/M Roy Krieger
Catherine Watson Brandt
Robert & Ethel Brandt, George, John Jr.,
Robert Vaughn Sr., Robert A Brandt
Members of the Caldwell and Hoefler Families
Carles and Robuck Families
Joseph & Helen Carson
Rita Chverchko, Beasom Family
The Conway & Farabaugh Families
Vincent, Elizabeth Ann, & Patrick Consalvo
Craig/Farabaugh Families/ Deceased & Alive
Deacon Bill, Laura, Jeffrey Cronin,
Angela Cronin Chadwick, Chalmer & Mary
Helble, and Mary Cronin
Mom & Dad Cuomo,Brothers John, Joe & Gene
Dambeck and Moyer Families
John & Dorothy DeHaas, Carl Fischer
Ben Delozier
Carrie Kibler Detwiler,Maurice & John McNulty
Michael and Chad Dionis
Deceased of Dishast, Helfrich, Hammond
Families
Kathleen Duffy
Carl Fischer
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Forziat, Betty Potaris/
Sr. Clare Marie Conrad RSM
Max Friedenberger
Paul and Rosemary Gebhardt
Robert A. Grove, Leo & Alice Winkler
Mike Kling, Kitty Sullivan, Weaver-Seidel
Families

FamiliesHollingshead, Pennabaker, Robbins &
Grassmyer Families
Jones, Doug Egan, Sara Kimmel, Peters and
Makdad Families
Robert M. Jones Family
Peggy and Bernie Joyce, Glenn and Vivian
Bistline/ Deceased Members of Joyce-
Hallinan Families/ Bernie McLucas
Joyce and Plummer Families
Kerr & Wertz Families
Mr & Mrs James Kelly
Kilcoyne/ Scholz- Deceased Family Members
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kimmel
Cindy Kiratzis
Kirkpatrick and Bearer Families
John & Victoria Koeck, Milissa & Brock Hofer
Paul and Evan and Jodie Koegler
Ed Kosut
Theresa Kuny, Barbara Jane Weidley
Herb Kutruff, Thomas & Marie Madigan
Rosemary & Leo Kwolek, Mary June & Charles
Moore & Maureen Moore
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Labriola
Anthony and Helen Lavelle, Audrey Krause
Valentine and Maude Lilly Families
G. Wilson Longwill, Dorothy Longwill,
Herbert Kutruff
Paul and Dora Luke, Ben and Mary Myers,
Pat & Ella Marlett and Stella Faust
Maria & Luigi Martino, Attilio, Arthur, Jane, Lucy
Martino
Fred & Alice Martynuska, Jim & Marge Ansman
Deceased of the Martynuska & Soyka Families,
Maureen Martynuska Wolf
Brian McCaulley
McCloskey and Flanagan Families
Deceased McDonough Family
Bernie McLucas, Edith & Bernard McLucas,
Bernie & Peggy Joyce
Rose & Mary Moryken, Elizabeth & Regis Dixon,
Julia Jarkiewicz, Patricia Buchanan, Mercy
Miller, Jude Wargo, “Gabbie Bruno”
Paul F. & Mary J. O’Leary, Tom Boslet
Samuel and Carole Mento, Hy and Jennie Adelman/
Francesco and Vincenza Mento, Helen Faretta
Gina/Joseph and Virginia White, Tom Capruscio/
Barb Peters, James and Josephine Filoromo/

Laura Schultz,
Misitano/Moloney Families
Kimberly Kokolis Moran
Mr & Mrs Mark Moschella
Moyer, Lesko, Clay, Lidwell, and Pilarz -
Clay Families, Rita, Cathy & Ronna, Members
Moyer Family, and also Bernie
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Murphy
Daniel Nardozza
Charles and Catherine Ann Nelson
Pelligrino, Wolfe, Civiello, McClellan, Families
M/M George Porta, M/M William McCloskey
Frank & Freda Potopa, Bill and David Conrad
Stephen Pyo
Don and Pat Rabine, Sister Jean Malloy and
Sister Catherine Mary Malloy
Mr & Mrs William Robb
James Roland, Jeanette Roland
Danyll & Grace Rougeux/
Frank and Helen Radwanski
Deceased, Sanker, and Altiero, Families
Deceased of the Schnaubelt Family/
Deceased of the Brennan Family
Sheehan and Murphy Family
David and Patricia Shellenberger/
Charles & Mildred Brady
Mr & Mrs Dennis Skorupa
Deceased Members of the E. T. Smith Family
Deceased Harry Smith/ Alfred & Hazel Lysinger
Families
Dolores Snyder
Grandparents of Soyka, Kawtoski,
Martynuska / Creppage Families
Marti, Rose & Atillio Stefanon,
Annika Rose Steinbeiser, Mr and Mrs Joseph
Knott Sr, Joseph Knott Jr., Rick Scott,
Mr and Mrs Steinbeiser,
Earl and Virginia Stroh
Marian and Thomas Swires, John and Louise Ford
Mark Talasky
Thompson and Thibault Families
Don & Jean Truby, Clapper, Kolbensschlag Families,
Charles & Marion Roberts
MembersPrendergast and Winkler Families

Trexler, Strate and Yeager Families
Vogel/ Moloney deceased, Barbara Jorden
M. Genevieve Wagner and William J. Wagner
Leo & Alice Winkler, Deceased
Wood & Wachter and BeegleFamilies
Katy and Lee Young, Bill and Marian Clemens

Joy to the world? Yep
Father Ron Rohlheiser wrote this about
Christmas...” Christmas doesn’t rid the world of
evil...there will still be sickness, senseless hurt,
broken dreams, and cold, lonely seasons when love
is far away. Christmas doesn’t promise heaven on
earth...it promises us...here on earth...God’s
presence in our lives.” One might add that Christmas
won’t rid the world of a pandemic, but as Christians
we are convinced that “God’s presence is still in our
lives.”
There is reason for joy in the world because
God’s abiding presence provides strength to medical
professionals and caregivers. God’s presence has
been experienced through Word and Sacrament.
God’s presence is also a welcomed guest in so many
homes. God’s presence has been felt because favors
have been done, children have been taught, the sick
have been helped, and the dying have been given
the hope of eternal glory. We live in a world where a
good and loving God accompanies us even when we
encounter evil. Jesus, God with us, helps carry our
burdens, shares in our joys, and embraces us with a
deep and faithful love. I pray that the Holy Spirit will
bring you the gift of some joy this Christmas. May
you, and those you love, have a few experiences that
bring relief to your heart and delight to your homes.
God has kept His promise to remain with us always
and that’s reason enough to be glad. Merry
Christmas and Blessings for the New Year.
---Msgr. Stan Carson

