

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of Loving Service***

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**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,  
MARY, AND JOSEPH**  
**December 29, 2019**

**The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream: “Rise, take the child and his mother; flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you.”**

**Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23**

**Cross and Crib**

During World War II, a group of Maryknoll nuns were interned by the Japanese in a camp in the Philippines. The Japanese guards were kind to the sisters, sharing what little food they had and not restricting them within the camp. They were even given a room they could set aside as a chapel. One of the Filipinos carved a fine wooden crucifix for the room. Because the Japanese have a great appreciation for prayer and meditation, the guards were most respectful of the sisters and were careful not to disturb them.

When Christmas came, some Filipinos carved a whole manger scene for the prayer room. The sisters set up the pieces early in Advent – except for the Christ child. On Christmas Eve, they solemnly placed the child in the manger and spent time in prayer. Throughout the Christmas season, the sisters would

gather to pray and meditate before the manger scene.

One of the guards watched all of this with great interest. One day, as the sisters were leaving the room, he stopped one of them. He pointed to the figure of Jesus in the crib, then to the figure of Jesus on the cross and asked, “The same one?” The sister answered softly, “The same one.”

Looking again from the manger to the crucifix, the guard said, “I am sorry.”

(From a story by Mother Mary Coleman, M.M., told by Rev. Eugene LaVerdiere, S.S.S., in Church, Winter 1995.)

**It is easy to welcome Jesus the innocent, beautiful child of the Christmas story; far more difficult is to welcome Jesus, the humble and humiliated Crucified of Holy week. Matthew’s Gospel of the Holy Family’s fleeing the murderous wrath of Herod reminds us that the Christmas crib is overshadowed by the Holy week cross, that this holy birth is the beginning of humanity’s rebirth in the resurrection. In the weeks ahead, may we travel with the child from Egypt to Nazareth; may we follow the rabbi from Nazareth to Jerusalem; may we carry the cross with the Messiah along the road to Calvary; may we then rise with him, body and spirit, on Easter morning.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**For Pregnancy Support**

Birthing 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**Sacrament of Baptism and Marriage**

Call the office for an appointment.

**Prayer Group in the Parish**

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. All Women  
And All Men.

**MASS INTENTIONS December 28 – Jan 3**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. Parishioners**  
**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Martina Dunhan**  
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Parishioners  
**Wednesday 10:00 a.m. Parishioners**  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. Parishioners  
Friday 8:00 a.m. Communion Services

**Stewardship of Treasury**

**December 21 & 22, 2019**

**Total \$1,345.00**

**Thank you and God bless your generosity!**

**We Need Your Support**

The 2020 Collection Envelopes are in the entrance to the CHURCH.

Please pick up your box if you had one for last year. God bless you, Fr. Eugenio

**Our Bishop DANIEL GARCIA will visit us Saturday, January 18 to celebrate the Mass at 5 pm. Please come to be with Him.**

**Check out our Website**

We would like to invite and encourage everyone to take a look at our Parish website at [www.christchild.org](http://www.christchild.org)

**Men’s Club Meeting**

Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30 PM on **Wednesday January 8, 2020**  
**“Together, supporting each other, we can do great things!”**

**Women’s Club/Prayer Group**

We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, **January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020 from 1 to 2:30 pm. Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time!**  
Please contact Ruth McCormick  
[ruthmcc@flash.net](mailto:ruthmcc@flash.net)

**“URBI ET ORBI” Message of the Pope**

**Francis Christmas 2019**

**“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light” (Is 9:1)**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters, Merry Christmas!**

From the womb of the Mother Church, the incarnate Son of God is born anew this night. His name is Jesus, which means: “God saves.” The Father, eternal and infinite Love, has sent him into the world not to condemn the world but to save it (cf. Jn 3:17). The Father has given him to us with great mercy. He has given him to everyone. He has given him forever. The Son is born, like a small light flickering in the cold and darkness of the night.

**The Child, born of the Virgin Mary**, is the Word of God made flesh. The Word who guided Abraham’s heart and steps towards the promised land, and who continues to draw to himself all those who trust in God’s promises. The word who led the Hebrews on the journey from slavery to freedom and who continues to call the enslaved in every age, including our own, to come forth from their prisons. He is the Word brighter than the sun, made incarnate in a tiny son of man: Jesus the light of the world.

**May Christ bring his light** to the many children suffering from war and conflicts in the Middle East and in various countries of the world.

**May the Lord Jesus bring light** to the Holy Land, where he was born as the Saviors of mankind, and where so many people – struggling but not discouraged – still await a time of peace, security and prosperity!

**May he bring consolation** to Iraq with its present social tensions, and to Yemen, suffering from a grave humanitarian crisis.

**May the tiny Babe of Bethlehem bring hope** to the whole American continent, where a number of nations are experiencing a time of social and political upheaval. **May the Redeemer** of the world bring light to Ukraine, to the people of Africa. **May the son of God**, come down to earth from heaven, protect and sustain all those who, due to these and other injustices, are forced to emigrate in the hope of a secure life...