

*Thank you,*

*To Our Decorating Ministry who have done a wonderful job!*

*Thanks to the members of the choir who provide us with wonderful music throughout the year and especially at Christmas.*

*Thank you to everyone who generously participated at our Masses this Christmas Season.*

We can draw confidence in the truth of our faith from the fact that the coming of our Lord, and some very specific details about His coming, were foretold by various prophets of the Old Testament, in particular, Isaiah. God the Father made a covenant and kept it, but in a very unexpected and unassuming way. He knew what we needed!

-Deacon Tony Hogervorst



*FOR  
unto us  
a child is born.  
unto us  
a Son is given.*

This Christmas season we can bank on the term “Emmanuel” which means “God is with us”. During the Advent season. We prepared for this glorious event, by truly recognizing Jesus the Christ breaking into humanity, in an unexpected way, so we should also try to stay open to how Christ desires to enter our life. Christmas is more than a day, it’s a season, a season to continue with open hearts to truly allow “God with us” to permeate and saturate every aspect of our lives. Have a Blessed Christmas Season.

-Brother in Christ, Deacon John Lammers

**New Year’s Eve Mass December 31, 2019**

4:30 pm - St. Christopher’s, Forest & 7:00 pm - Our Lady Help of Christians, Watford

**New Year’s Day Mass January 1, 2020**

9:00 am - Our Lady Help of Christians, Watford & 11:00 am - St. Christopher’s, Forest

**Weekday Masses:**

**All weekday masses are cancelled until January 2nd.**

Thursday, January 2, 7:00 pm at St. Christopher’s, Forest

Friday, January 3, 9:00 am at St. Christopher’s, Forest - Adoration and Benediction



*Jesus  
is born*

*For unto you is born...a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11*



'So this is Christmas...' some of you may remember this line from John Lennon's song with the same title. A song that still gives me goose bumps...it was one of my mom's favourites. Anyway as this is Christmas, I thought it would be appropriate to hear from Pope Francis. Below is an excerpt from his Christmas message from last year.

"Dear Brothers and Sisters, Happy Christmas!

To you, the faithful of Rome, to you, the pilgrims, and to all who are linked to us from every part of the world, I renew the joyous proclamation of Bethlehem: "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace among those whom he favors" (Luke 2:14). Like the shepherds who first went with haste to the stable, let us halt in wonder before the sign that God has given us: "A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12). In silence, let us fall to our knees and worship.

What does that Child, born for us of the Virgin Mary, have to tell us? What is the universal message of Christmas? It is that God is a good Father and we are all brothers and sisters.

This truth is the basis of the Christian vision of humanity. Without the fraternity that Jesus Christ has bestowed on us, our efforts for a more just world fall short, and even our best plans and projects risk being soulless and empty.

For this reason, my wish for a happy Christmas is a wish for fraternity. Fraternity among individuals of every nation and culture. Fraternity among people with different ideas, yet capable of respecting and listening to one another. Fraternity among persons of different religions. Jesus came to reveal the face of God to all those who seek him.

The face of God has been revealed in a human face. It did not appear in an angel, but in one man, born in a specific time and place. By his incarnation, the Son of God tells us that salvation comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages, and cultures. Yet all of us are brothers and sisters in humanity!

Our differences, then, are not a detriment or a danger; they are a source of richness. As when an artist is about to make a mosaic, it is better to have tiles of many colors available, rather than just a few! The experience of families teaches us this: As brothers and sisters, we are all different from each other. We do not always agree, but there is an unbreakable bond uniting us, and the love of our parents helps us to love one another.

The same is true for the larger human family, but here, God is our "parent," the foundation and strength of our fraternity. May this Christmas help us to rediscover the bonds of fraternity linking us together as individuals and joining all peoples."

On behalf of the staff of our parishes, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas!!!

## Donations for the flowers in the Church this Christmas were made in memory of the following:

### Our Lady Help of Christians:

Stephen Joris

Leyten & Van Massenhoven Families

Joe & Frances Lucan

Vanden Ouweland & Vanden Corput Families

Straatman, Couwenberg, & Peters Families

Shanahan & Strong Families

John, Zofia, & Henry Traczyk

Gidfried & Wilhelmina Joris Albert & Maria Van Massenhoven

Dick Moons

Bud St. Peter

Sue Sweeney

Riley VanLoon

Dana Plumiers

Bert & Hendrika Veens

Geerts & Peters Families

Deceased Moons & Schoonderwoerd Families

Deceased Minten & Vander Vloet Families

Leo Straatman & Julie App

Chris & Sien VanLoon

### St. Christopher's:

Joey & Laurie Van Riel

David Brunette

Zulma & Marshall Lauwers

Adrian & Elizabeth Rombouts

Jesse Devet

Casey Christopher Bongers

William Boere

Jack & Wilma Smeekens

Narry & Trius Schepers

Don & Marianne Eaton

Frank & Maria Vander Vloet

Bastiaansen & Caris Family Members

Martin Schoeley

Rita Carey

Helen & Mike Macko

Alicia Rombouts

Marcel & Donna DeSchutter

Marjory & Chris Maurice

Pete & Max Rombouts

Janice Jordan

Nancy De Groot

Murphy & Norris Family

Rops & Boere Families

Marg Lucas & Joey Prisciak

Frank Macko

Susanne Hamilton

Jack & Elizabeth Van Miltenburg

Adriana Smeekens

Eileen O'Connell

Bart Leenders

Casey & Corrie De Groot

Johanna Smeekens

Louis Hendrickx

Ronald Murray



Peace on Earth