



For

unto us

a Child is Born

and his name

Shall be called

Wonderful Counselor

THE MIGHTY GOD

The everlasting father

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

ISAIAH 9:6



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

Our Lady Help of Christians:

<i>John, Zofia & Henry Fraczyk</i>	<i>Chris & Sien Van Loon</i>	<i>TJ Minten</i>
<i>Frank & Maria Vander Vloet</i>	<i>Bert & Hendrika Veens</i>	<i>Stephen Joris</i>
<i>Vanden Ouweland & Vanden Corput Families</i>	<i>Fred & Tina Joris</i>	<i>Bud St. Peter</i>
<i>Straatman, Couwenberg & Peters Families</i>	<i>Wilma Prawdzik</i>	<i>Joe & Frances Lucan</i>
<i>Deceased Members of the Minten Family</i>	<i>Van Damme Family</i>	<i>Hans Cornelissen</i>
<i>Albert C. Vandenberg</i>	<i>Martin & Arnolda Minten</i>	<i>Lucy Holman</i>
<i>Albert & Maria Van Massenhoven</i>	<i>Riley Van Loon</i>	<i>Dave Podolinsky</i>
<i>Adrian & Mary Kustermans</i>	<i>Fr. Mark's Mother & Father</i>	
<i>Antone & Regina Cornelissen</i>		



St. Christopher's:

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.*



<i>Laurie Van Riel</i>	<i>William & Baby Angel Katie Boere</i>
<i>Joey Van Riel</i>	<i>Pete Rombouts</i>
<i>Jesse Devet</i>	<i>Max Rombouts</i>
<i>Marg Lucas</i>	<i>Jack & Wilma Smeekens</i>
<i>Joey Prisciak</i>	<i>Bart Leenders</i>
<i>Candace Etienne</i>	<i>Johanna Smeekens</i>
<i>Anthony Beernink</i>	<i>Alois Ruettimann</i>

New Year's Day Mass January 1, 2021

9:00 am - Our Lady Help of Christians,

11:00 am - St. Christopher's

Weekday Masses:

All weekday masses are cancelled until January 13th.

Wednesday, January 13, 2020 - 9:00 am - OLHC, Watford

- 11:00 am - St. Christopher's, Forest

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, let us celebrate.

Together, we celebrate the Incarnation of our Saviour in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the birth of the Infant Jesus, our Saviour.

We celebrate with shepherds and angels and kings. We celebrate with all of Christianity, and we pray for the conversion and salvation of all of humanity.

We celebrate our Almighty Creator, the wisdom and justice of the Author of the Commandments, the Love of Our Father, who is the God of all Mercy and Consolation.

We celebrate the "Yes!" of the Virgin Mother of Our Lord, the selfless loyalty and protection given by St. Joseph to the Holy Family, and the compassionate self-giving of Our Saviour on the Cross. These mysteries should not cause us to look away from our faith. These mysteries are meant to sow in us a desire to look deeper, a desire to search for and to understand the Almighty love of our God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who yearns for us to join him in Eternity.

-Deacon Tony Hogervorst

Well, the reason for the season is born on this night. With everything going on in our lives, especially as we enter another lock-down, it may not be so easy to enjoy this Christmas. Not unlike the time when Jesus was born into the world, these times are equally troublesome. I came across the mediation below a number of years ago. Each time I read and pray over it, the Holy Spirit draws my attention to something that I need to do or work on.

As you prepare to read the mediation, written by an author unknown, may I suggest that you find a quiet place to do so. Yes, I am aware that these next two days are going to be hectic, but pausing briefly may well help us find peace in all the mayhem.

Have you read the news today - the "good news" of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and son of Mary who was born for us and for our salvation. The word gospel literally means good news! Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would descend from David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-2; Micah 5:2-4).

The first to hear the good news of the saviour's birth were not the rulers and religious leaders of Israel who were robed in riches and power. The angels first came to those who were humble and ready to receive the newborn king who was born in poverty and was now lying in a manger made for animals. Just as God had chosen and anointed David, a lowly shepherd of Bethlehem to become the shepherd king of Israel, so Jesus, likewise chose the path of humility and lowliness in coming to Israel as the good shepherd king who would lay down his life for their sake and salvation. After the angels had sung their hymn of glory in the presence of the shepherds, the shepherds made haste to adore the newborn king and sing their hymn of glory as well.

Heaven and earth are united today, for Christ is born! Today God has come upon earth, and humankind gone up to heaven. Today, for the sake of humankind, the invisible one is seen in the flesh. Therefore let us glorify him and cry aloud: glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace bestowed by your coming, Savior: glory to you! Today in Bethlehem, I hear the angels: glory to God in the highest! Glory to him whose good pleasure it was that there be peace on earth! The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens. Light has shone on those in darkness, exalting the lowly who sing like the angels: Glory to God in the highest! Beholding him [Adam] who was in God's image and likeness fallen through transgression, Jesus bowed the heavens and came down, without change taking up his dwelling in a virgin womb, that he might refashion Adam fallen in corruption, and crying out: glory to your epiphany, my Savior and my God! [Stichera (hymn) of the Nativity of the Lord]

Why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh? We needed a savior who could reconcile us with God. Throughout the ages Christians have professed the ancient Nicene Creed: "He became man for our sake and for the sake of our salvation." The eternal Word became flesh for us so he could offer his life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world through the shedding of his blood on the cross. The Word became flesh to show us the infinite love and tender mercy of God for us sinners.

In the feast of Christmas we celebrate present realities - Jesus Christ our redeemer who reigns in heaven and who also lives and reigns in our hearts through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit. And we commemorate past events - the birth of the newborn Messiah King and his manifestation to Israel and to the gentile nations. We thank and bless God for the way in which he has saved us from the power of sin and the curse of death and destruction by sending his son to ransom us and give us pardon and abundant life through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit.

Today we celebrate the birthday of our King and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Merry Christmas to you all!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fr. Mark'.

Fr. Mark