

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 19th

8:30 am - St. John – Bobette Jassee by Amy Marcinko
 9:00 am - 9:30 am – Confessions at St. John
 3:15 pm - 3:55 pm – Confessions at St. John
 4:00 pm - St. John – Sherry Boivin by Isabelle Handy

Sunday, December 20th

7:30 am - 7:55 am – Confessions at St. John
 8:00 am - St. John – Virginia Fortin by St. Anne Mortuary Fund
 9:35 am - St. Elizabeth – Dot Fay & Ken Weymouth by Joanne
 11:30 am - Queen of Peace – Mass for the people
 Confessions at QP before Mass (time permitting) or following Mass as needed

Monday, December 21st St. Peter Cabsuis

8:30 am - St. Elizabeth – Lucy Fortin by her family

Tuesday, December 22nd

8:30am – St. John – Spiritual welfare of our children by M/M Scott Schoppe

Wednesday, December 23rd

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm – Holy Hour of Adoration with Confessions at St. John
 5:15pm - St. John – Keith Millie by Gary, Ciana, Samantha, Casey & Lucia

Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve

4:00pm - St. John -- Randy MacKay by Gram
 7:00pm - Queen of Peace – Germain & Claire Maurice by Sue

Friday, December 25th Christmas

12:00am MIDNIGHT MASS – St John – For the Parishioners
 8:00am - St. John – For the Parishioners
 10:00am - St. Elizabeth – For the Parishioners

Saturday, December 26th

8:30 am - St. John – Rita Clough by the Pelletier family
 9:00 am - 9:30 am – Confessions at St. John
 3:15 pm - 3:55 pm – Confessions at St. John
 4:00 pm - St. John – Bob & Sibby Dumas by Joanne Dumas

Sunday, December 27th

7:30 am - 7:55 am – Confessions at St. John
 8:00 am - St. John – Heinrick Boehm & Marie Cheon Hasselton by the Hasseltons
 9:35 am - St. Elizabeth – Mass for the people
 11:30 am - Queen of Peace – Hap Hutchins by his children
 Confessions at QP before Mass (time permitting) or following Mass as needed

Please keep our parishioners in mind who are ill & in need of your prayers, especially: Pam Austin, Charlene Chase, Connie Lapage, Martin Fortin, Charlie Weis, & Randy Thomas, Dick and Anita Bedor

Dec. 27 2020	St. John	St. Elizabeth	Queen of Peace
LECTORS:	4pm Michelle Noyes 8:00am Helen Robertson	9:35am Susan Mason	11:30am Dan Rooker

The **FORMED** program is available to everyone in our parish. To start enjoying this free gift, please visit the FORMED website:

1. Go to: nekatholic.formed.org
2. Click on REGISTER to create a personal account

If anyone is able to help decorate St. John's church, we'll begin work at 9:00am on Wednesday December 23rd.

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly donations. Visit our website at: nekatholic.com and click "Give Online" to sign up!

DECEMBER 20, 2020

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: 7/1/20-6/30/21 Budgeted Regular Collection: \$243,650
 Reg. Collection Year-to-date: \$61,882.74+ On-Line: \$34,554.55
 Collections & Receipts: December, 2020 Reg .Offeratory:\$3246.00

Christmas Mass Schedule & Numbers Signed Up

December 24th – Christmas Eve

4pm St. John – 109 people
 7pm Queen of Peace – 73 people

December 25th – Christmas

12am Midnight St. John – 20 people
 8am St. John – 25 people
 10am St. Elizabeth – 37 people

Please Note: Figuring 4 people per pew the 4pm & 7pm Masses are already at or beyond capacity for social distancing (big families sitting together may change that number) but the overflow will need to be in the church halls. Ushers will help direct people. Those who are able may want to consider attending a Christmas Day Mass instead.

Confessions for the week before Christmas

Saturday Dec. 19	5:00-6:00pm	@ St. John
Sunday Dec. 20	12:30-1:30pm 2:30-4:00pm	@ Queen of Peace @ St. John
Monday Dec. 21	5:00-6:00pm	@ St. Elizabeth
Tuesday Dec. 22	9:00-9:30am	@ St. John
Wednesday Dec. 23	9:00-9:30am 4:00-5:00pm 6:00-7:00pm	@ St John @ St. John (w/ Adoration) @ St. John

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is no secret that this past year has been marked with sufferings and setbacks; each of us, in some measure, dealing with changes and losses beyond our control. We search for meaning, even as with difficulty we try to entrust ourselves to the plan of God, which faith assures us is still unfolding. Christmas reminds us that the answers we seek are found only in Jesus Christ, our Incarnate Lord, Who came into the world not to take away our sufferings, but to enter into them, and to bear them in love with us. Though He was rich and in want of nothing, He chose to humble Himself; being born in a stable, He lay shivering in a manger, that in our desire to comfort Him, we ourselves might be comforted. In the midst of all the chaos this good news remains, viz. He is Emmanuel, God with us!

Pope Francis, in dedicating the new year to St. Joseph, draws our eyes to the door of the stable where stands the guardian of the Holy Family, and the foster father of our Lord Jesus. Life became complicated for St. Joseph, more difficult because of Christ, and yet, the joy of ministering personally to Him and His Blessed Mother makes the homelessness, hard journeys, and long vigils seem as nothing. Similarly, life for the Christian continues to be hard, but the presence of Christ fills it with joy, if only we agree to take the burden of His life upon us.

I pray that in this year we might learn from St. Joseph who kept Him safe Whom we receive in the Blessed Sacrament, our Lord Jesus, Emmanuel. May St. Joseph help us to remain vigilant, so that the life of Christ might flourish within us and love for the Blessed Mother grow, not just despite the trials, but because we face them with Him. May the grace of Christmas, which is the true presence of Christ, remain with you and your families throughout the year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas! You will have a special remembrance in my prayers as I celebrate the Masses on Christmas day. ~ Fr. Hahr

December 25th: Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

Christmas, first of all, is a fact of history. In a point of time and at a definable place the God of heaven and earth was born of a woman, and came to live among us as man. It is a fact that the infinite God became, unexplainably, a finite creature. It is a fact to which historians attest but which we know is no mere statistic of history; it is, rather, a fact planned by God from all eternity. This is the fact of Christmas: the Word actually became Flesh. What is the fact of the Eucharist? It is that the same Jesus Who was born on earth not only became man but remains man. He not only came into the world, He is in the world. In a word, He came to stay. *The Eucharist is Christmas prolonged*, because faith tells us that once God became man, He decided to remain man. From all the reaches of past eternity, God had only been God. But having once taken on human flesh, into now the future reaches of eternity, God will always remain man. And this God-Man is here; Bethlehem is wherever there is a Catholic Church or chapel in which Christ is present. These are the two facts that we commemorate on Christmas day ...

What is the mystery of Christmas? The mystery is the humanly incredible reality of why God became man. He did not have to. God did not even have to make the world, and within the world, He did not have to make us. Except for the love of God, we are all empty unoccupied spaces on earth. But, having decided to make the world and to make us, God also decided that once man had sinned, He would redeem man. God might have redeemed man by an act of His divine Will; He chose not to do so. He chose, rather, to become man, so that as man He might not only, by some *fiat* of His human freedom redeem us, but might have a mortal flesh and a soul capable of suffering. In a word, the mystery of Christmas is the mystery of God's love that chose to take on our human form in order to show His love for us by suffering ... That is the mystery of Christmas, the mystery of God's love, in order that loving, He might endure the Cross. What is the mystery of the Eucharist? It is the same. You would think that God's love would have been satisfied with His becoming man and as man living, suffering and dying for our sins. And having once died, rising from the dead and returning as man to the Father from whom He came. But no, the mystery of God's love is that He invented a way of showing His love for us not only by being with us and near us but God even invented a way of being inside of us. All of this tells us a lot about what love means.

Love wants to show that it loves. It is not satisfied with sentiments or words. Love wants to prove its love in deeds; better, it wants to show its love in pain. Love wants to be near the one it loves, to be united with the one it loves. All of this is hidden behind the mystery of the Eucharist, made possible by the mystery of Christmas, because these two mysteries are really one. The Eucharist is merely an extension, a continuation, of what happened 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Because Mary gave birth to the Son of God, we now have ... the Son of God near us, with us, and when we receive Him in Communion, within us ...

The lesson of Christmas and the Eucharist must be obvious by now. God does nothing in vain. He did not choose to become man nor does He remain man in our midst except that He wants to evoke from us something of the same kind of love that He showed during His life on earth and still shows us in His life in the Eucharist. Jesus Christ gives us His Flesh and Blood to adore, worship and nourish our souls on, so that we might live with His life. What He wants us to do therefore, and this is the lesson, is to love Him as He has been loving us. ~ Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

Donations to the area food shelves from our Thanksgiving Collection:

To Corpus Christi Parish: Thank you for your generous & thoughtful donation to our Food Shelf. It is greatly appreciated! Enjoy the season too!

~ Lyndon Area Food Shelf.

Thank you very much for your generous donation. ~The Open Door & Volunteer

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, Corpus Christi Conference offers assistance in name of Jesus to the needy in our community. To contact us call: Patrick McWilliams: 274-3542 Ann Lovett: 751-8187; or the Rectory: 748-8129 We will arrange a visit to see if we are able to serve you!



THE NATIVITY

When I was at, the crib of Bethlehem, I beheld a most beautiful Virgin with child, in a white mantle and tunic, evidently soon about to be delivered. With her was a most venerable old man, and they had an ox and an ass. When they entered the cave, the old man tied the ox and the ass to the crib, going out he brought the Virgin a lighted torch, and set it in the wall. Then he again withdrew so as not to be personally present at the birth. Then the Virgin loosed her shoes from off her feet, and laid aside her white mantle, and took off her veil from her head, and laid it beside her, remaining in her tunic, her long hair, as beautiful as gold, falling down over her shoulders. Then she drew out two fine, clean linen cloths, and two of wool, which she had brought to wrap the new-born child in, and two smaller linen ones to cover and tie his head. These she laid beside her to use in due time. When all these things were ready, then the Virgin, kneeling with great reverence, placed herself in prayer, with her back to the crib, her face eastward, raised to heaven. She stood with uplifted hands, and eyes fixed on heaven, rapt as it were, in an ecstasy of contemplation, inebriated with the divine sweetness. And while she thus stood in prayer, I beheld her child move in her womb, and at once in a moment, and in the twinkling of an eye, she brought forth her Son, from whom such ineffable light and splendor radiated, that the sun could not be compared to it; nor did the torch which the old man had set, in any manner give light, because that divine splendor had totally annihilated the material splendor of the torch, and so sudden and momentary was that mode of bearing, that I could not perceive or discern how, or in what part she brought forth. Nevertheless, I immediately beheld that glorious babe lying naked and most pure on the ground, his flesh most clean from all filth or impurity I then also heard angelic chants of wonderful suavity and great sweetness When the Virgin perceived that she had been delivered, she immediately bowed her head, and joining her hands, adored her Son with great respect and reverence, saying: "*Welcome, my God, and my Lord, and my Son.*" Then the child crying, and, as it were, shivering with cold and the hard floor where he lay, turned a little, and stretched out his limbs, seeking to find a mother's favor and caress. Then his mother took him in her hands and clasped him to her heart, and with her cheek and breast warmed him with great joy, and a mother's tender compassion. Then sitting on the ground, she laid her son in her lap, and began diligently to wrap him up ... When this was done, the old man entered, and prostrating himself on his knees on the ground, he adored him, weeping for joy. Nor did the Virgin on this occasion lose color or strength, as befalls other women who are delivered, except that her size was diminished. Then she arose with the child in her arms, and both together, that is, she and Joseph, laid him in the manger, and kneeling, adored him with immense joy and gladness. ~ Revelations of Saint Bridget