

The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2016



Christmas Eve Masses: 4 pm at St. John
6 pm at St. Peter

Christmas Masses: 8 am at Holy Family
9:30 am at St. Peter
11:15 am at St. John

O Lord Jesus Christ,
make me worthy to understand
the profound mystery
of Your holy incarnation,
which you have worked
for our sake and salvation.
Truly there is nothing so great
and wonderful as this,
that You, my God,
should become a creature
so that we could become like God.
You have humbled Yourself
and made Yourself small,
that we might be made mighty.
Blessed are You, O Lord,
who came to earth as one of us.

Amen

CHRISTMAS

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim
to you good news of great joy that will be
for all the people. For today in the city of
David a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a
sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped
in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."*

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Try to put yourself in the shoes of the shepherds: little excitement would have regularly come their way, they were poor, simple shepherds who spent their days and nights tending the sheep. An angel of God appeared to them announcing that the Savior of the World had been born and then, they witnessed the whole host of heavenly angels singing praises.

These humble shepherds were the first to be called by God to go and greet the newborn King. What is amazing is that God did not first call the "important" of the age to come worship. He called these poor shepherds.

One thing this tells us is that, in the eyes of God, all are equal. God does not pick favorites from among those who are seen as important in the eyes of the world. No, He sees the great value and dignity of each and every person and desires all of us, rich or poor, powerful or weak, to come to Him in adoration and love.

Christmas is a time filled with gifts and gatherings, food and good times, but more than anything else, Christmas must be seen as a time for us to step back and take in the deep and rich meaning of this sacred event. We must see, first, that God entered our human condition and, in doing so, is able to identify with all that we experience in life. God understands human life -- He lived it! Second, we must understand that the birth of the Savior of the world and His appearance to shepherds reveals that each and every one of us is invited to come and meet Him. God humbled Himself in the most profound way so that we could come to know Him & His perfect love for us. John Paul Thomas

Disaster Mental Health Committee

The first committee meeting is December 28 from 1:30 to 2 pm in the Annex. Please attend if you would like to be a part of the committee. The meeting will cover the response protocol for an emergency and assessing future disaster mental health trainings. For information call Emily Taggart, 746.0344.

Parenting Pointers Susan Voigt

Thus the total number of generations was ...
Matthew 1:17

How many generations of your family will be present during your holidays? Listen to each other's stories. Learn about the past & future.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

We must remember our task as parents is the same as Mary's: our loving acceptance of our children.

Marriage Moments Susan Voigt

In the beginning was the Word. John 1:1

And the Word was made flesh. Words count. They structure our relationship with each other. They are a promise, a sign of love. What is the first (or best) word you will say to your beloved?

Retreat

The Priory Retreat, Chestertown 518.494.3733

Directed Silent Retreat.... January 13-15

Spend a day, afternoon, or the whole weekend in silence, freed from obligations and social pressures ~ what a wonderful way to begin 2017! \$225

Quiet Weekend.... January 27-29

Disconnect from the distractions of the world and spend time in solitude and contemplation enjoying God's beauty. \$65

January 1

Mary, Holy Mother of God

8 am at Holy Family

9:30 am St. Peter

11:15 am St. John

Egg Cartons

The Franciscans have been blessed with an overwhelming response to their request for egg cartons; and due to this tremendous response for empty egg cartons, they do not have enough storage space for further donations. God bless you for your kindness.

Therefore the Lord Himself

will give you a sign:

Behold, a virgin will be

with child & bear a son,

and

she will call His name Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

