

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2022

THANK YOU

The 2023 calendars have arrived at St. John's and Holy Family Churches, compliments of Courtney Funeral Home in Walton. When you see Cal, please remember to thank him.

FAITH FORMATION

The next Family Faith Formation class will be Sunday, January 8th at 8:30 am at St Peter's and 10:00 am at St John's. The topic: Eucharist, Real Presence

MARRIAGE MOMENTS by Susan Vogt

The wait is over. Presumably the family has gathered, gifts shared, food eaten together. What remains? To carry the Spirit of Christmas beyond one day, ponder what new might be born into your marriage. If your nerves have been frazzled during the run up to Christmas, relax, slow down, forgive any hurts that may linger.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SOULS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PASSING

Dec 26 - Father John Burns, Joseph Richards, Mary Simms, Richard Parsons
Dec 27 - Rosemarie Flannery
Dec 28 - Eugene Maritato, Andrew Kuppens
Dec 29 - Elsie Logwin, Savino Nardone, Gregory Perry, Eleanor Stewart
Dec 30- Eileen Holm, Joseph Never, Margaret Robson, Matthew Culligan
Dec 31 - Angelina Belmont, Joseph Carpenter
Jan 1 - Wilfred Segarra, James Cirillo, Amanda Krzyston

COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Communion to the sick, hospital and shut-in visits. If you have a family member who needs Communion taken to them, please call St. Peter's parish office at 607-746-2503

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Agnes, Joan Nerney, Jerry Hanley, Robert Fasanaro, John Sterchak, Adam Billek, Stephen Ball, Vernon Wildenstein, Greg Froehlich, Burneda Ford, Mary Jane Mehegen, Claire Hanley, Maryann Stanczyk, Thomas O'Leary, George Ostrowski, Roberta Lacey,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
"Today is born for you a Savior; He is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). These are the words spoken by a host of angels to shepherds keeping watch by night over their flocks. They are spoken to us today in the liturgy of the Church. We chant them as the Alleluia verse, prior to hearing the Gospel. The use of "today" is deliberate. In our feast day liturgies, such as Christmas, the particular mystery being announced in this case, the birth of Christ, is not just a sacred moment of the past being celebrated or an event of history being remembered. The mystery announced in the liturgy of the Church is being experienced in the present, today.

"The Lord said to me: Your are my son. Today I have begotten you" (Psalm 2:7) is the antiphon that belongs to the Christmas liturgy. Today the Word made Man is begotten. He is eternally begotten by the Father and made flesh in time. He was first sent in the flesh some 2022 years ago. But He is made flesh TODAY in us if we bring Him to birth in the world like Our Lady did, by consenting to His word as it is spoken to us, not necessarily by an angel, but by the true heavenly messenger, Christ's Body on earth, the Church.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas.
Father Edward J. Golding

ST. PETER'S OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office at St. Peter's is temporarily closed. For all bulletin announcements, to schedule a Mass, for prayer chain requests and any other questions or services kindly contact Teresa O'Leary, the administrative assistant at St. John the Baptist in Walton. Teresa can be reached at 607-865-7394 ext 1, or email at stjohnthebaptistwalton@gmail.com

GRIEF MINISTRY

Mission Statement: To provide a listening ear, compassion and possible recommendations and/or direction for a positive life journey moving forward with the help of our Faith! For more information contact Kathy Scribani at 607-376-1633

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Since this Holy Day falls on Sunday this year, Masses will follow the usual weekend schedule:

Saturday, 4:00 pm at St. John's and 5:30 pm at St. Peter's.

Sunday: 8:00 am at Holy Family, 9:30am at St. Peter's and 11:15 am at St. John's.

MONEY MATTERS

The general collection amounts for December 17 & 18 are: Holy Family, \$347.00, St. John's \$3,077.00 and St. Peter's Church, \$1,478.00.

The contributions to date for our beautiful Christmas flowers are: Holy Family, \$10.00, St. John's, \$605.00, St. Peter's. \$420.00. Thank you.

USCCB WORD OF LIFE

"The infant Christ 'came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph' (PC 5). The humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah in a stable, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son in the years to come... Joseph's devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us." *Excerpts from *Patris corde*, © 2020, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: St. Joseph, Defender of Life

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Merry Christmas from The Knights of Columbus Council # 11422. St John's, St. Peters, and Holy Family! We look forward to continuing to serve our local parishes in 2023.

Men of our parishes, why not consider becoming a Knight, it only requires a small commitment of time and effort? We are currently trying to identify ways to further aid in the Mission of the Catholic Church locally. God Bless! 607 267-8336

THIS WEEK'S DAILY SCRIPTURES

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Tuesday: 1John 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

Wednesday 1John 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Thursday: 1John 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday: 1John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

The Holy Mother of God

CHRISTMAS MEDITATIONS

- "We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmastime, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." - St. Teresa of Calcutta

- Why was Jesus born into such humble circumstances? The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs 525- 526) says, Jesus was born in a humble stable, into a poor family. Simple shepherds were the first witnesses to this event. In this poverty, heaven's glory was made manifest. To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become "children of God" we must be "born from above" or "born of God." Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us.

- Why was Jesus laid in a manger? In his apostolic letter Admirabile Signum (On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene), Pope Francis said, Coming into this world, the Son of God was laid in the place where animals feed. Hay became the first bed of the One who would reveal himself as "the bread come down from heaven" (Jn 6:41). Saint Augustine, with other Church Fathers, was impressed by this symbolism: "Laid in a manger, he became our food" (Sermon 189, 4). Indeed, the nativity scene evokes a number of the mysteries of Jesus' life and brings them close to our own daily lives.