

Saint Aedan's Christmas Mass 2021

REV. MSGR. EMMET R. NEVIN

Pastor

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[Facebook.com/StAedansMedia](https://www.facebook.com/StAedansMedia)

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<https://staedan.flocknote.com>

REGULAR MASSES

Saturdays: 5:30 pm

Sundays: 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm

Weekdays: Monday – Friday 9:00 am, 12:10 pm

(Novena following 9:00 am Mass Monday and Tuesday)

Saturdays: 9:00 am

Holy Days: 5:30 pm Eve of Holy Day

9:00 am & 12:10 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 4:45– 5:15 pm

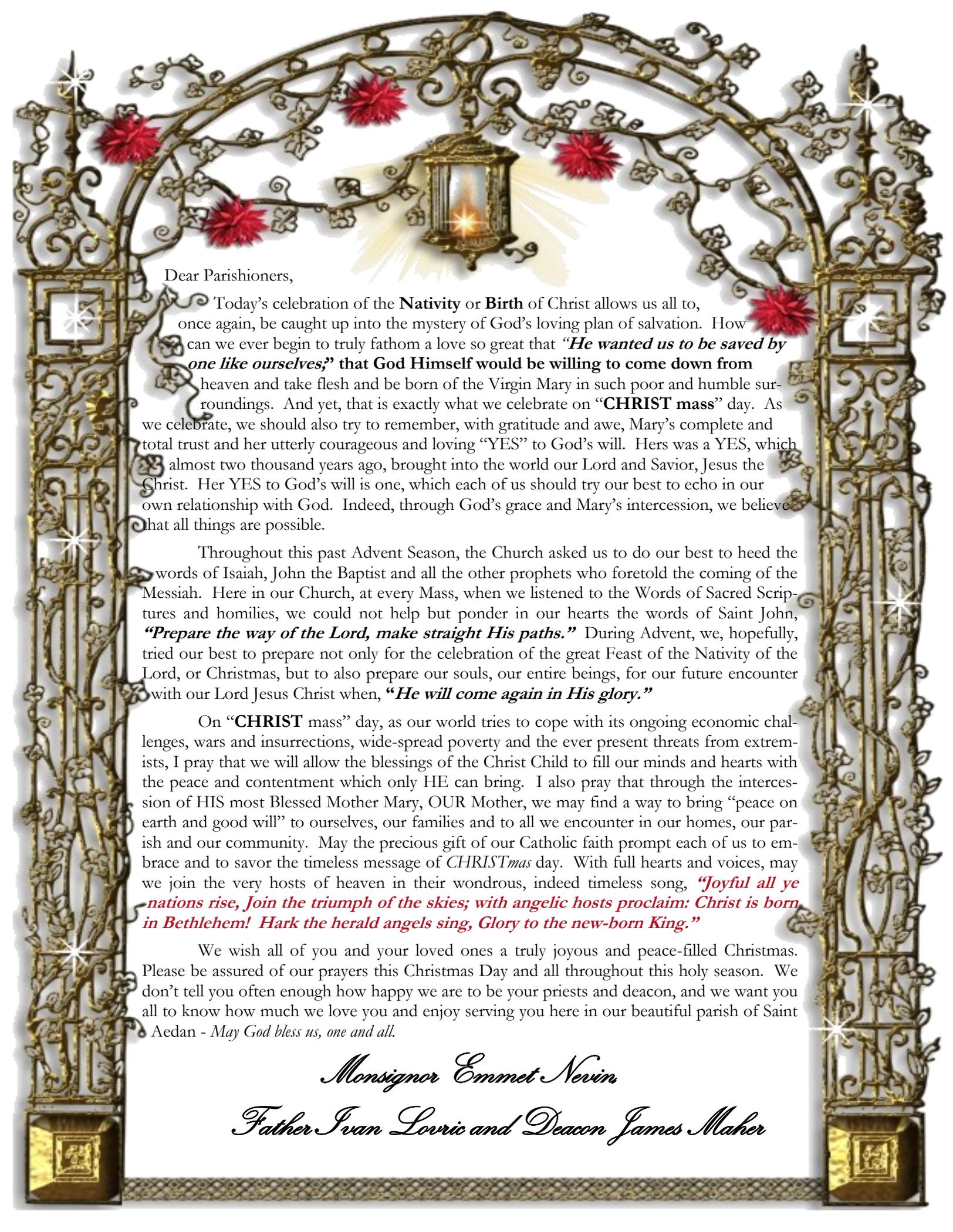
BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sunday at 1:30 pm. Parents, call Rectory to make arrangements.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made at least six months prior to the date selected.





Dear Parishioners,

Today's celebration of the **Nativity** or **Birth** of Christ allows us all to, once again, be caught up into the mystery of God's loving plan of salvation. How can we ever begin to truly fathom a love so great that ***"He wanted us to be saved by one like ourselves;"*** that **God Himself would be willing to come down from heaven** and take flesh and be born of the Virgin Mary in such poor and humble surroundings. And yet, that is exactly what we celebrate on "**CHRIST** mass" day. As we celebrate, we should also try to remember, with gratitude and awe, Mary's complete and total trust and her utterly courageous and loving "YES" to God's will. Hers was a YES, which almost two thousand years ago, brought into the world our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Her YES to God's will is one, which each of us should try our best to echo in our own relationship with God. Indeed, through God's grace and Mary's intercession, we believe that all things are possible.

Throughout this past Advent Season, the Church asked us to do our best to heed the words of Isaiah, John the Baptist and all the other prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah. Here in our Church, at every Mass, when we listened to the Words of Sacred Scriptures and homilies, we could not help but ponder in our hearts the words of Saint John, ***"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths."*** During Advent, we, hopefully, tried our best to prepare not only for the celebration of the great Feast of the Nativity of the Lord, or Christmas, but to also prepare our souls, our entire beings, for our future encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ when, ***"He will come again in His glory."***

On "**CHRIST** mass" day, as our world tries to cope with its ongoing economic challenges, wars and insurrections, wide-spread poverty and the ever present threats from extremists, I pray that we will allow the blessings of the Christ Child to fill our minds and hearts with the peace and contentment which only HE can bring. I also pray that through the intercession of HIS most Blessed Mother Mary, OUR Mother, we may find a way to bring "peace on earth and good will" to ourselves, our families and to all we encounter in our homes, our parish and our community. May the precious gift of our Catholic faith prompt each of us to embrace and to savor the timeless message of *CHRISTmas* day. With full hearts and voices, may we join the very hosts of heaven in their wondrous, indeed timeless song, ***"Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King."***

We wish all of you and your loved ones a truly joyous and peace-filled Christmas. Please be assured of our prayers this Christmas Day and all throughout this holy season. We don't tell you often enough how happy we are to be your priests and deacon, and we want you all to know how much we love you and enjoy serving you here in our beautiful parish of Saint Aedan - *May God bless us, one and all.*

Monsignor Emmet Nevin

Father Ivan Lovric and Deacon James Maher

Christmas Historical Facts & Traditions

RELIGIOUS MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary as a fulfillment of the Old Testament's Messianic prophecy. The bible accounts are found in Matthew 1:18 and Luke 1:26 and 2:40. According to these accounts, Jesus was born to Mary, assisted by her husband Joseph, in the city of Bethlehem. According to popular tradition, the birth took place in a stable, surrounded by farm animals. A manger or feeding trough is mentioned by Luke, where it states Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

CHRISTMAS COLORS

The traditional colors of Christmas are red, green and gold. Red symbolizes the blood of Jesus, which was shed in his crucifixion, while green symbolizes eternal life, and in particular the evergreen tree, which does not lose its leaves in the winter. Gold is the first color associated with Christmas, as one of the three gifts of the Magi, symbolizing royalty.

CANDY CANES' RELIGIOUS MEANING

Many people have given *religious* meaning to the shape and form of the candy cane. It is said that its shape is like the letter "J" in Jesus' name, it is shaped like the shepherds' crook, symbolic of how Jesus, like the "Good Shepherd" watches over His children like little lambs. It is a hard candy, solid like a "rock", the foundation of the Church. The flavor of peppermint is similar to another member of the mint family, *hyssop*. In the Old Testament hyssop was used for purification and sacrifice, and this is said to symbolize the purity of Jesus and the sacrifice He made. Some say that the white of the candy cane represents the purity of Jesus and His virgin birth. The bold red stripe represents God's love. The three fine stripes are said by some to represent the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Others say they represent the blood spilled at the scourging of the pillar.

THE FEASTS OF CHRISTMAS:

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26th

The Feast of the Holy Family is a liturgical Celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus of Nazareth, His mother the Blessed Virgin, Mary and His foster father Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY "Little Christmas" SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd

The Feast of the Epiphany is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. Western Christians commemorate principally (but not solely) the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus, and thus Jesus' physical manifestation to the Gentiles. On the feast of the *Epiphany* in some parts of Central Europe, the priest, wearing white vestments, blesses Epiphany water, frankincense, gold, and chalk. The chalk is used to write the initials of the three magi over the doors of churches and homes. The letters stand for the initials of the Magi (traditionally names Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar) and also the phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which translates: "May Christ bless this house."

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY, JANUARY 9th

The Baptism of the Lord is the feast commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. It marks the end of the liturgical season of Christmastide. The following day, the *ordinary* season begins and we return to the use of green vestments.



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Germans made the first artificial Christmas tree out of dyed goose feathers.

Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.

The “true love” mentioned in the song “Twelve Days of Christmas” does not refer to a romantic couple, but the Catholic Church’s Code for God. The person who receives the gifts represents someone who has accepted that code. For example, the “partridge in a pear tree” represents Christ. The “two turtledoves” represent the Old and New Testaments.

In A.D. 350, Pope Julius I, bishop of Rome, Proclaimed December 25th the official celebration date for the Birthday of Christ.

Christmas trees usually grow for about 15 years before they are sold.

Alabama was the first state in the United States to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.

Christmas wasn’t declared an official holiday in the United States until 1907.

Evergreens have been symbols of eternal life and rebirth since ancient times.

Wassail is from the Old Norse *vesheil*, meaning “good health.”

It is estimated that the single “White Christmas” by Irving Berlin is the best selling single of all time, with over 100 million sales worldwide.

Approximately 30-35 million real (living) Christmas trees are sold each year in the U. S.

The earliest known Christmas decorations were apples. At Christmastime, medieval actors would use apples to decorate paradise (usually fir) trees during “Paradise Plays” which were plays depicting Adam and Eve’s creation and fall.

BEHOLD,
THE VIRGIN SHALL
CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,
AND THEY SHALL NAME HIM
EMMAMUEL, WHICH MEANS
“GOD IS WITH US.”



MARY MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY

(On a Saturday = without obligation this year.)

January 1, 2022

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God is a special Feast Day for Catholics. For those who wish to attend Mass on this special day, we will offer a 9am Mass with music & singing.

YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO SAINT AEDAN

Thank you for your sacrificial Christmas gift to Saint Aedan parish. Your Christmas gift is an important part of our annual income and we are very grateful for your generosity. Thank you and God bless you.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON, D. C. FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, legitimate mass gatherings, such as the March for Life Mass, will need to be approached very differently this year.

For information regarding this year’s March, please visit their website: www.RocklandRTL.org, or call 845-732-8277. (Tracey DeRosa, chair)

PARISH INCREASED GIVING CAMPAIGN “BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING”

At the urging of the Archdiocese and because our parish expenses have gone up, just like yours, we are presently conducting an *increased parish offertory campaign*. It has been **six years** since we last did this here at Saint Aedan.

Please take home one of the *Beyond Sunday Morning* envelopes from the vestibule of the Church, or use the one to the right. Fill out the commitment form and return it in the envelope either by mail, or in the wooden collection box.

To date, we have collected increased giving commitments from 51 individuals and households. Some of these were for substantial increases and others just a few dollars a week. What matters is that everyone give this campaign their most prayerful consideration and, if their financial means will allow, make a commitment to increase the weekly offering to our beautiful parish. Many thanks to those of you who have already returned your Increased Giving Pledge. Saint Aedan, pray for us.



BEYOND SUNDAY MORNING

As we make plans to regularly attend Mass and confession and to volunteer our time in parish ministries, our Lord also invites us to create a plan for giving to His Church. In doing so, we can offer up our financial sacrifices as a way of prayerfully expressing gratitude for God's goodness. Whatever your contribution, we ask that you joyfully commit the sacrifice to prayer:

*Lord, we offer You these first fruits of our labor.
Please bless this sacrifice and use it to Your glory.*

Step 1: Check your preferred commitment option(s)

- I/we would like to sign up for electronic giving. Please send us the information to get started!
- I/we have already increased our offertory contribution through our online giving portal.
- Please send envelopes. I/we have not been receiving them.
- I/we are still praying about our commitment.

Step 2: Indicate your new offertory contribution

Please use the chart below to determine your renewed or increased parish support.

My/our current regular giving is:

\$ _____

per week / month (*circle one*)

My/our new offertory will be:

\$ _____

per week / month (*circle one*)

<i>Current Weekly Offertory</i>	<i>Increase By:</i>				
	<i>20%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>100%</i>
\$100	\$120	\$140	\$160	\$180	\$200
\$50	\$60	\$70	\$80	\$90	\$100
\$25	\$30	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$50
\$10	\$12	\$14	\$16	\$18	\$20
\$5	\$6	\$7	\$8	\$9	\$10

Step 3: Fill out your contact information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parish _____ Parish City _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

OUTDOOR LIFE-SIZE NATIVITY



FIGURE	IN HONOR/MEMORY OF	DONATED BY
JESUS & CRIB	JOHN & CATHERINE VAUGHAN DOUG BUCHANAN JAMES BOHAN	JOE & SHEILA BUCHANAN PETE & CATHY VAUGHAN, JOHN & MARGARET BOHAN
MARY	MICHAEL J. CASEY	ROSANN CASEY
JOSEPH	PAOLO GRISAFI CARLO MAZZOCCHI	M/M ROBERT MAZZOCCHI
ANGEL	DECEASED GUILD MEMBERS	ST. AEDAN'S LADIES GUILD
WISEMAN MELCHIOR	FLORINTINO & MARSIGLIANO FAMILIES	THE FLORINTINO'S
WISEMAN GASPAR	CORNELIUS & PATRICIA COURTNEY	MARGARET ANN, NEIL & PATRICK COURTNEY
WISEMAN BALTHAZAR	ANNA & MAURICE McELLIGOTT MARGARET & JAMES BYRNE	ANNE & PAT BYRNE
SHEPHERD & SHEEP	MARGUERITE & MICHAEL FURY	MADELYN NEALON
COW	TARRANT & BENN FAMILIES	DENIS & NUALA TARRANT
DONKEY	PETTUS & LONGING FAMILIES	ANNE MARIE PETTUS
RECLINING SHEEP	ALICE CONNOLLY & JOHN SCANNELL	ALICE CONNOLLY
LIGHTED MANGER HOUSE		THE BECKERLE FAMILY
CRECHE STAGE	THOMAS BRADY	ELIZABETH BRADY



...Just a small reminder of how much we all appreciate the honor you have done our beautiful Parish, by your outstanding generosity!

*Continued
"THANKS"....*



THE NATIVITY SCENE or CRÈCHE

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head; the stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay."

For Christians the world over, the simplicity of the Nativity Scene or **Crèche**, sums up the whole meaning of Christmas and what it is that we celebrate and sing about at this *"most wonderful time of the year."* The **crèche**, which is French for *"manger,"* is most often a miniature nativity scene, which traditionally contains the figures of Mary, Joseph, the Infant Jesus and at least two animals - a donkey and a cow. More elaborate crèches may also contain shepherds, wise men, sheep and perhaps, an angel. The *crèche*, **which should be displayed in a special place in the home**, might also be displayed for public viewing in a prominent place in our front windows, on our lawns and, of course in our Churches and municipal squares.

Tradition tells us that it was Saint Francis of Assisi who, in 1223, created the first *living crèche* in a small cave in Italy. On Christmas Eve, he gathered with others to act out the nativity scene in all its impoverished glory. From that time forward the *crèche* was designed in a more realistic way by depicting a stable scene. To this day, the monastery at Assisi displays an impressive, life size, Nativity scene with figures which are remarkably life-like in appearance.

Just as many of us display the crucifix, a statue of Mary, or one of the saints in our homes year round, displaying the *crèche* at Christmas time can help all of the members of our families, especially our children, to contemplate one of the great mysteries of our faith and, with "the eyes of faith," better contemplate the story and the wonder of Christmas. By gazing down on the little figures of Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus, we may better appreciate the mystery of what we are actually celebrating, the birth of Jesus the Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary, the Word of God made Flesh who dwelt amongst us, your Savior, my Savior, the Savior of the World.

In our increasingly secular society, where many of our government as well as corporate leaders shy away from the religious meaning of Christmas, it is extremely important that we Catholics, indeed Christians everywhere, go out of our way to make sure that we have a *crèche* at our home and/or property all throughout the Christmas season. The Christmas season of the Church does not end on the Feast of the Epiphany (or "*Little Christmas*"). **The Church's Christmas season actually ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.** It is entirely appropriate, therefore, to celebrate this wonderful season and display all the symbols or festive decorations of Christmas right up until the last day, which is January 10th. Let us also make the time to explain the real meaning of Christmas to our children and grandchildren.

Before Christmas trees became the custom, the **crèche** already had a pride of place in people's homes. The *crèche* is, therefore, a wonderful teaching tool for our children and an important reminder to adults, of what Christmas should be all about. We should all take full advantage of it during this holy season and have it by our tree or in another prominent place in or outside of our home. So, this Christmas, as presents are passed around and we gather with our loved ones around the table, let us first pause and gather around the *crèche* to pray. Let us offer thanks to God for gifting us with His only Begotten Son and pray for the grace to live in a way that is always worthy of so great a gift.

**"Hark the Herald Angels sing, Glory to the New Born King."
"O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord."**



2022 - NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS - 2022

The Mundane!

GIVE UP SMOKING – CONSIDER SEEKING HELP

GIVE UP DRINKING – CONSIDER SEEKING HELP

GIVE UP ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES – CONSIDER SEEKING HELP

GIVE UP GAMBLING – CONSIDER SEEKING HELP

BEGIN A DIET – CONSIDER SEEKING HELP

AVOID LISTENING TO AND SPREADING GOSSIP

EXERCISE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

BE LESS AGGRESSIVE AND MORE COURTEOUS WITH YOUR DRIVING.

BE LESS COMPLAINING AND DEMANDING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

GIVE WELL-TIMED, HEARTFELT ADVICE – DON'T NAG OR BE OVERLY CRITICAL.

STUDY HARDER AND GET BETTER GRADES IN SCHOOL.

BE ON TIME TO WORK, SCHOOL, MASS OR APPOINTMENTS.

BE KIND TO THOSE WHO MAY NEED A LITTLE KINDNESS -IT COSTS YOU NOTHING.

CUT DOWN ON EXAGGERATIONS OR LIES -YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYBODY.

AVOID SHARING INAPPROPRIATE JOKES – THEY ARE ALL TOO OFTEN AT SOMEONE ELSE'S EXPENSE.

BE LESS PRIDEFUL AND MORE HUMBLE.

BE HAPPY WITH WHAT YOU HAVE – DON'T DWELL ON WHAT YOU HAVE NOT.

The Spiritual!

SET ASIDE SOME QUALITY TIME TO PRAY EVERY DAY AND AS FREQUENTLY AS POSSIBLE.

MAKE TIME TO READ EVEN ONE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE EVERY DAY.

MAKE TIME TO WORSHIP THE LORD, IN THE LORD'S HOUSE, ON THE LORD'S DAY EVERY WEEK.

MAKE TIME TO GET TO CONFESSION ON A REGULAR BASIS. *IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL!*

MAKE TIME TO KEEP UP WITH YOUR FAITH BY READING THE CATHOLIC NEW YORK MAGAZINE AND/OR OTHER RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS.

TENDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY OR LOCAL COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME AND TALENT TO ONE OF OUR MANY PARISH MINISTRIES. IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD TOO!
MAKE A CONSISTENT EFFORT TO SHARE SOME OF YOUR MATERIAL BLESSINGS WITH THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE. GIVE TO THE PARISH S.V.D.P. FOOD PANTRY OR OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.

REACH OUT TO RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO ARE NOT AS INDEPENDENT AS THEY USED TO BE AND OFFER TO GET SOME THINGS THEY NEED FROM THE SUPERMARKET, OR...JUST CALL THEM.

MAKE A SINCERE EFFORT TO SHOW PATIENCE, COMPASSION, UNDERSTANDING AND LOVE TOWARDS FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE GETTING ON IN YEARS....IF NEEDED, SOME FORGIVENESS TOO!

IF TODAY WERE TO BE THE LAST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD YOU REGRET HAVING PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW?

