

***Today in the city of
David there
has been born for
you a Savior,
who is
Christ the Lord.***



And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." -Lk. 2:10-11."



The sad thing about the Gospel description of Jesus' birth is that familiarity has dulled its impact. We take it for granted that it should have been so, we are not as astounded and filled with wonder as we should be. That God should become man was a tremendous act of condescension or rather of mercy and concern on his part. That the Incarnation should take place in the manner described is utterly unexpected. The prophets foretold the coming of the promised savior in terms of a triumphant, royal procession. The Magi, when they came, naturally sought for the new-born savior in the palace of a king. The reality was of a young couple, harassed by the bureaucrats, seeking simple lodgings and finally finding shelter in some sort of stable. It was in circumstances such as these that the eternal Word of God became flesh and lived among us.

This was not only very different to the expectations fostered by the Old Testament prophecies; it is utterly contrary to our ideas about what is right, important and proper. Christ showed a marvelous indifference to our conventional ideas. From the beginning he seemed determined to shock the 'respectable', or as Saint Paul put it, 'to destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothingness the cleverness of the clever' (1 Cor. 1 :19).

We often hear it said that Christianity is a revolutionary teaching. Unfortunately, the term 'revolutionary' has been almost exclusively appropriated by men of violence. The Christmas message is revolutionary in that it radically questions the values on which most of us build our lives, a seeking for position, prestige, power and possessions. Christ was born in simplicity; he does not seek to overwhelm by any external show, he comes weak and defenseless.

The Christmas message is one of peace, that men and women would be open and at ease with one another, without fear, confident in the love of the Father. Too often the reality in business, politics, in personal relationships and even in the Church, is that we see others as a threat and are aggressive or defensive. We throw up barriers against the other and create division and tension. We insist on our rights and privileges. We forget the message of Saint Paul that it was by a free generous act of the Father that we were called to be brothers and sisters, and that we are all equally poor before God. The way to peace lies in the trusting service of others in imitation of our savior who was born in a stable and died on a cross.

As long as we are more concerned with our dignity or with power than with the needs of others, we have not grasped the message of Christmas and the true source of peace. A few moments of prayer before the crib will tell us a great deal about what is wrong in our world and where the solution is to be found.

May the Infant of Bethlehem raise His hands over you and bless you. May the goodness and kindness of the Christ Child fill your souls with new-born love and joy now and in the New Year.

Father Christopher Bennett, Pastor

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Holly, Ivy and Greenery

In Northern Europe Christmas occurred during the middle of winter, when ghosts and demons could be heard howling in the winter winds. Boughs of holly, believed to have magical powers since they remained green through the harsh winter, were often placed over the doors of homes to drive evil away. Greenery was also brought indoors to freshen the air and brighten the mood during the long, dreary winter.

Legend also has it that holly sprang from the footsteps of Christ as he walked the earth. The pointed leaves were said to represent the crown of thorns Christ wore while on the cross and the red berries symbolized the blood he shed.

Poinsettias

A native Mexican plant, poinsettias were named after Joel R. Poinsett, U.S. ambassador to Mexico who brought the plant to America in 1828. Poinsettias were likely used by Mexican Franciscans in their 17th century Christmas celebrations. One legend has it that a young Mexican boy, on his way to visit the village Nativity scene, realized he had no gift for the Christ child. He gathered pretty green branches from along the road and brought them to the church. Though the other children mocked him, when the leaves were laid at the manger, a beautiful star-shaped flower appeared on each branch. The bright red petals, often mistaken for flowers, are actually the upper leaves of the plant.

Christmas Carols

Christian scriptures detail a world of spirits and nine choirs of Angels who were sent by God into the lives of humankind. Legend tells that in Bethlehem, people heard the Angels sing one time in unison to announce the birth of the Christ Child. The words thought to ring out at that moment were: *Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis*. Therefore, this is considered to be the first Christmas carol.

According to ancient tradition, Christmas carols of all times and all nations should adhere strictly to the narrative of Saint Luke, which has three distinct points: the recitative of the Angel of the Lord, the choir of the multitudes of Angels and the reaction of the shepherds.

Christmastime music began with the *litanies*, or musical prayers, of the Christian Church. An early historian wrote that in approximately 100 A.D., the Bishop of Rome urged his people to sing "in celebration of the birthday of our Lord." By 400 A.D., priests would stroll around their parishes on Christmas Eve singing these Latin hymns.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with being the "Father of Caroling." Only church officials had been encouraged to sing carols prior to the time of St. Francis. In 1223, however, the saint placed a *crèche* (miniature Nativity scene) in a hermitage at Greccio, Italy. After this, many churches began displaying such scenes at Christmas and soon, people began to act out the events of the Holy Night. The actors composed Christmas carols to sing during their Nativity plays and, later, would stroll through the streets still singing. In that manner, did street-caroling come to be.

By the Middle Ages, wandering minstrels were traveling from hamlet to castle performing their carols. Later still, villages had their own bands of "waits." Waits were originally watchmen who patrolled the streets and byways of the old walled cities, keeping guard against fire and singing to while away the night hours. During the holiday season, the waits would include carols in their repertoires. Not everyone was delighted with this display of musical entertainment, however, and many townspeople complained, declaring they would rather get a good night's sleep than have somebody singing under their windows. Eventually the term was used to describe groups of musicians who sang and played at various civic events during the Christmas season.

The word "carol" derives from a Greek dance called a *choraulein*, which was accompanied by flute music. The dance later spread throughout Europe and became particularly popular by the French, who replaced the flute music with singing. Originally, people performed carols on many occasions during the year. By the 1600s, carols involved singing only and Christmas had become the chief holiday for these songs. Counted among the most favored of non-religious carols are "Jingle Bells" and "White Christmas," both of which first appeared as popular songs in the United States



The parish office will be closed for Christmas starting Friday, December 20th and will re-open on Thursday, January 2nd. Have a safe and healthy holiday. We wish you and your family a blessed New Year.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

4:30 Yvonne Pine, Dave Rodrigues, Elsa Quelilio Kraygg Yasutome

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

6:30 Yvonne Pine, Joyce Martin, Eva Moses
 8:00 Yvonne Pine, Michael Giammona, Assunta & Stanislao Furtino, Virginia Tagnetto, Gary Filfam,
 9:30 Yvonne Pine, D. Mary, Paolina & Onofio Mazarli
 11:00 Yvonne Pine, Michael Kiley, Anthony & Anna Barcelona, Frank & Daisy Dinapoli, Cathy Brunett,
 12:30 Yvonne Pine, Andrew Trapani, Marie Babicka, Charles & Lena Cisi, Sitriad Babicka, Bob Meheula Jr.
 6:00 Yvonne Pine, Charles Sanchez



Saint Christopher

Christmas Eve Mass In the Church

4:00p.m., 6:00p.m., 9:00p.m. and Midnight

4:00p.m. Children's Mass in
 Presentation High School Gym
 4:00p.m. in the Healy Hall



Christmas Day

6:30a.m, 8:00a.m., 9:30a.m, 11:00a.m.
 and 12:30p.m.

**New Years Mass Schedule
 (Holy Day Of Obligation)**

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

Vigil Mass 4:30pm

Wednesday, January 1st, 2020

8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:00AM. Mass



The Still Small Voice . . . (1 Kings 19:12)

From the Saint Christopher Parish Spirituality Committee

The December 2019 Monthly Parish-Wide Prayer

Loving and forgiving God, out of your great love for us you sent your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to proclaim the Good News of your Kingdom and by his selfless sacrifice to redeem us from our sinfulness. You became one of us, born poor and vulnerable, to become one with us. The birth of Jesus, new life and new light in the darkness, inspires in us hope. Open our hearts, to embrace your Love. Open our minds, to absorb your Word. Open our lives, to follow your Son, Jesus Christ. In this season of light, we give to others what we ourselves have received, your gifts to us of love, life, and all we are capable of doing. Help us to continually become what we receive, the Body of Christ. This we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.
 Amen.



CHRISTMAS ALTAR & FLOWER FUND

To share in decorating the altar for Christmas, you may donate to the Christmas Altar and Flower Fund in memory of a loved one or as a sign of praise and worship. Special envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church or you may use a plain envelope. Enclose the names of those you would like remembered with your donation and either drop in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING IN MEMORY OF:

Sarah Carolyn DeCarli, Don DeCarli, Steven DeCarli, Bernice DeCarli, Ed & Agnes Wallace, MaryAnn Wallace, Donald Wallace, Karen Wallace, Helen Blackford, Danny Blackford, Eva Hazen, Eleanor Agulara, Eleanor Alexander, Marie & Iorad Babicke, Charles & Lena Cisi, Patricia M. Dinapoli, Cacabela & Jonis Family, Deceased members of Levink Harper, Ravenal G. Santos, Frank Davis, Michael Scullion, Maria Usaheil, Patrick Boe, Van Ho, Eva Moses, Patricia Jones Strout, Kathy Jones Moritz, Ann & Ed Grossheider, Florence Barker, James Moran Jones, Pat & Beg Scudero, Amelia Nardi Travis, Yola Gullo, Anna & Anthony Barcelona, Michael Kiley, Bud Cabral, Manuel & Evelyn Perry, Marlene Williamson, Jean Taddie, Sam & Jennie Pedone, Anthony & Mary LaMarra, Eugene Olszewski, Anne Olszewski, Otto Sorensen, Wilma Sorensen, Dean Olszewski,

Ladies' Guild



ANTIQUE SHOW - January 24-26, 2020

Mark your calendars! The Ladies' Guild will proudly hold our ANNUAL ANTIQUE SHOW for the 50th year! This year's theme is "Antiques Through the Decades" a look back on the last 50 years of this time honored tradition!

Mark your calendars for the Antique Show Cooking Days!! These are some of the best days to volunteer! Please consider volunteering for a shift or two.

Meatball Cooking Day:

Sunday, January 12, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Lasagna Cooking Day:

Monday, January 13, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cooking Day:

Tuesday, January 14, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cooking Day:

Saturday, January 18, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cooking Day:

Sunday, January 19, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cooking Day:

Monday, January 20, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Also visit our website and please consider sponsoring by going to

<http://stchrisladiesguild.org/sntiqueshow.html>.

No amount is too small!

*To donate by check, please make payable to **St. Christopher's Ladies' Guild.**

Send check to:

St. Christopher Parish Office,

ATTN: ANTIQUE SHOW,

2278 Booksin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time; they just have the heart!" -Elizabeth Andrew

To volunteer please go to

https://stchris.ivolunteer.com/cookdy_020

Thank you,

2020 Antique Show Chairs

Courtney Budziak, Christine Gossett,

Natalie Morales and Katy Tuttle

For additional questions, please email us at

antiqueshow@stchrisladiesguild.org



Christmas Adopt A Family

The Outreach Adopt A Family program needs. Extra gifts for children on the waiting list. Please bring toys to the Msgr. Allen Center. You can email Nancy Melander at nancymelander@gmail.com if you are interested in helping in any way.



Outreach

The Outreach Pantry is collecting food for the Holiday Food Baskets. The following



items are needed: hams, turkeys, mash potato mix, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned pasta, canned fruit, pasta sauce, pasta, rice, dry beans. Checks can be made out to St. Christopher Outreach, Grocery store gift cards are also appreciated.

Communion to the Sick

If you or someone close to you is unable to attend church due to age, illness or injury, please call Loretta in the Pastoral Care office at 408-264-5114 or email, loretta.pfaff@stchrissj.org. We have ministers to the sick and homebound who are available and happy to come once a week to pray and bring Communion to those individuals who are unable to come to Church anymore.

Attention Online Giving Donors:

If you have donations posted to your credit card and you have been issued a new credit card by your bank for what ever reason, please be sure and log on to your Online Giving Profile and update your account information. You can access the Online Giving Site by using the link on our Parish Website, www.SaintChris.com. If you have any questions please call Gayle Blackford X319

Thank you for your continued support of our Parish.

Companions in Ignatian Spirituality and Service

empowers men and women who wish to join their faith life and outreach ministries. Companions gather on the morning of the first Friday of the month at Santa Clara University. Following Ignatian Spirituality, Companions pray, reflect and share, as they accompany each other on their journeys. For additional information contact Marcos Herrera at MLHDLHEE@PACBELL.NET or Cathy Parent at (408) 245-2939.

Please Pray for us!!!



Pray for the ill in our Parish

Bronson Phillips	Rhys Dimla
Larry Flynn	Edmund Dimla
Nick Franzino	Ric Caasi
Rose Hausler	Erica Caasi
Pat Hawkins	Allyson Mandry
Mr. Gabriel Cadena	Jacqueline Tran
Joe Ray Contreas	Roz LeFevre
Taylor Hardley	Martha Gregersen
Vernon Casey	Charles Gregersen
Josephine Arevalo	



IN REMEMBRANCE

Let us pray for all who have died, that they may rejoice with the Risen Lord, especially:
Yvonne Dattolico



Please join the St Christopher ROSARY GROUP after 8:30AM Mass Weekdays (Mon through Sat)

By the grace of Our Blessed Mother, Mary, we are blessed to have one active visible Rosary Group in our parish. Please join us after the daily 8:30 AM Mass, where the Rosary Group remains after the final hymn, and joins in the prayer to Our Lady. This Rosary Group has a long history at St Christopher.

Be Well and Be Blessed



Check us out on our website at

www.saintchris.com

You will be able to look up Mass Times, Holiday Schedules, questions about Baptism, Marriages, and Church events, etc. Past bulletins are also available on our web site to look up past information.



If you left a picture of your loved one in the church during the month of November for All Souls, you can pick it up in the parish office, during office hours. Mon—Thursday, 8:30am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 4:00pm.



We continue to pray for all the men and women serving our country in this time of war:

David Anthony Garcia, Alex Ngo, Tim McCullough, Joey Bellomo, Nick Badagliacco, Matthew Ward, Angelo Totanes, Ciro LoBono, Tyler Hammerness, Branden Alwine, Greg Cook, Connor McDonald, Christian Dietz, Connor Quinn, Adam Christopher Madewell, Richard Stayskal, Larry Chartier, Andrew Morgan, Derek Carroll, Allen Ellerbee, Obadijah Petteway, Eric Gentrup, Michael Arnone, David Wells, Ryan Trapani, Rafi Miranda, Spencer Fishman, Ryan A. Johnson, David Ryan, Benjamin Owens-Filice, Christopher Healy, and Christine Doudell

The *Christopher* Ministry provides meals to parishioners during times of temporary crisis or hardship. If you or a fellow parishioner needs the help of the *Christophers*, please contact the Ministry Chairpersons. Also, please consider becoming a *Christopher* and helping provide this important and comforting service to members within the community.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Caroline Begg
(408) 267-7820

Jennifer Webb
(408) 476-9006

fccardhouse@yahoo.com jenywebb@yahoo.com



Interested in connecting with moms in the St. Chris community? The St. Christopher's Moms Group (SCMG) provides parents of children from birth through age five with support, friendship, and community. The SCMG offers a variety of activities and playdates for all types of moms and interests. For more information, or to become a member, email Michelle Arenzana at momsgroup@stchrisladiesguild.org

Out of Town?

FYI There is a web site, you can access when ever you are out of town and need a church for Mass, Go to www.masstimes.org and look up churches and Mass times, where ever you are. Check it out.

INFORMATION FOR REPORTING COMPLAINTS OR ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT:
DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE
THE OFFICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS
1150 North First Street, Suite 100
San Jose, CA 95112

Complaints or allegations of Sexual misconduct may be reported via:

PHONE: 408-983-0113

EMERGENCY HOTLINE: 408-983-0141

EMAIL: protection@djs.org

FAX: 408-983-0147

Or if you suspect Financial Mismanagement, call Ethics Point hotline at 1-888-325-7863

919100

**St. Christopher
San Jose, CA**

(408) 269-2226

Contact: Gayle Blackford

Special Instructions: