



**SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Seymour, Texas

**SACRED HEART
PASTORAL CENTER
206 N. CEDAR ST.
SEYMOUR, TX 76380-2102
OFFICE (940) 889-5252 FAX (940) 889-2136**



**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Megargel, Texas

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: DECEMBER 24, 2023

DEACON JIM NOVAK

Parish Life Coordinator

Office—940-889-5252 Cell—940-733-3784

FR. BOSE JUJUVARAPU, HGN

Parochial Vicar

940-655-8037

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: (Reconciliation Room)
Wednesday's 6:30 -7:30 p.m.; Saturday 5 – 5:45 p.m. or by appointment

PARISH LITURGY SCHEDULE:

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: (December 25 - 31)

Monday:	10:00 AM	Special Healing Intentions for Shirlee Motl by Terry & Belinda Bench(SH-Christmas)
Tuesday:		No Service
Wednesday:	6:00 PM	+Sherry Mae Hons by Susan Gulley
Thursday:	12:10 PM	+Tommy Carver by Marilyn Gibson
Friday:	12:10 PM	+Jerry Macha by Sacred Heart Choir
Saturday:	8:00 AM	Special Intentions for Bishop Strickland by Sharon Christian
	6:00 PM	+JT Bench by Terry & Belinda Bench
Sunday:	8:00 AM	+Alan Bewley by Zachary Schertz
	10:00 AM	+Raymond Redder by Sacred Heart Choir
	5:00 PM	Special Healing & Recovery Intentions for Scarlett Morrison by Shan & Marty Slaggle (SH-New Year's Eve)

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY FOR THE WEEKDAY MASSES: (December 25 - 30)

Mon.:	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-6	John 1:1-18
Tues.:	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59		Matthew 10:17-22
Wed.:	1 John 1:1-4		John 20:1a, 2-8
Thurs.:	1 John 1:5—2:2		Matthew 2:13-18
Fri.:	1 John 2:3-11		Luke 2:22-35
Sat.:	1 John 2:12-17		Luke 2:36-40

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH (December 31)

Please prepare for worship by prayerfully reading the Scriptures for next weekend Masses:

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve Masses

8:00 AM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Mass (Preceded by Holy Rosary)

9:40 AM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by Mass

All Weekend Liturgies: Fourth Sunday of Advent and The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass

All Weekend Liturgies: Presider for Mass – Fr. Bose

5:50 PM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Blessing of Lights preceded by musical selections by musicians

6:00 PM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Christmas Eve Mass

9:50 PM, Sacred Heart/Blessing of Lights & Manger preceded by musical selections by musicians

10:00 PM, Sacred Heart/Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day...Merry Christmas! (Holy Day of Obligation)

10:00 AM, Sacred Heart/ The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord Mass

Wednesday, December 27: (Faith Formation Classes suspended –Holidays)

6:00 PM, Sacred Heart/Mass followed by Holy Hour Adoration with Benediction concluding at 7:30 PM

Thursday & Friday: 12:10 PM, Sacred Heart/Daily Masses

Saturday, December 30:

8:00 AM, Sacred Heart/Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

5:45 PM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by 6 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 31: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Vigil)

8:00 AM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Mass (Preceded by Holy Rosary)

9:40 AM, Sacred Heart/Rosary followed by Mass

All Weekend Liturgies: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

All Weekend Liturgies: Presider for Mass – Fr. Bose

5:00 PM, Sacred Heart/Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God Vigil (New Year's Eve)

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, January 1: Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God (New Year's Day)

8:00 AM, St. Mary of the Assumption/Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God

10:00 AM, Sacred Heart Mass/ Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mother of God

Please sign-up for Flock Notes and also follow us on our Facebook or our website: <https://sacredheartseymour.org/>

For bulletins: go online to <https://sacredheartseymour.org/bulletins>. All past and present bulletins are posted.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LUKE 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

ADULTS: When have you followed the example of Mary and said, "Let it be done to me as you say?"

CHILDREN: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

'The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel' (Is 7:14). This well known affirmation by the prophet Isaiah announces the coming of the Messiah into human



history. It already gives us a taste of the proximity of that marvelous, stupendous day which will be the 'dies natalis' of Jesus. It was foretold by the prophets and proclaimed throughout the whole of Sacred Scriptures that He would be the One who would fulfill and bring them to completion. Our God will be incarnated and born due to the generous willingness of the 'Virgin' who, from the very beginning of time, was chosen to be the Mother of the Savior. *Wake up, therefore, because the birth of the Lord is almost at hand, let us go to meet Him in His glory: to listen to him, to love Him and to follow Him!*

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day) Monday, December 25



Monday the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of the Nativity the Lord, the Birth of Jesus Christ, and the First Day in the Octave of Christmas**. Throughout Advent the Church longed ardently for the coming of our Savior. Today she celebrates His birth with unrestrained joy. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Son of God became man to give us a share in that divine life which is eternally His in the Blessed Trinity. Christmas time begins on December 24 with the first Vespers of

the feast and ends on the feast of the Baptism of Christ. White vestments reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel. – Isaiah 9:5 - <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar>

Thank you to everyone who helped with our bake sale to benefit St. Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital.

Due to your generosity, we were able to raise \$386, which we sent to the hospital for the purchase of Christmas gifts for their young patients.



Alex Rangel Angelina Nichols Payton Horne Stevie Jackson

We are at the end of the Advent season. Today's readings invite us to prepare our hearts and minds to make a place where God dwells. It is a time to prepare the way for the Lord as He comes. Sometimes we are so busy with external decoration that we forget to decorate our hearts and minds, which is more important. The holiness of our body, mind and heart is more important and we are called for that holiness. In the Gospel we see Mary saying "Here I am, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to Your word". She is not worried about herself, what will happen to her life, or what will be the consequences of her 'yes' to the Lord. Mary had complete trust in Him who had created this beautiful world, out of love. He makes everything possible in His way. She was convinced that God was going to do great things in her life. She surrendered herself completely and dedicated herself to the Lord so that through her life God's will be accomplished. She accepted the call of being the Mother of God and became instrumental in bringing salvation to humanity by giving Jesus to the world. Let us pray that we may also become instrumental in bringing His love and compassion to those who are in pain and suffering. **Pray and Practice:** *We pray to our Blessed Mother, that she may intercede for us to Jesus and may help us to have complete faith and trust in the Lord.* **Fr. Bose**

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

Fourth Sunday of Advent: In today's Gospel reading we hear proclaimed the story of the Annunciation, when the angel of the Lord announced to Mary that she would give birth to Christ through the intercession of the Holy Spirit. Mary allowed God's messenger to speak to her. She was attentive, not afraid to enter into a dialogue, then unconditionally obedient. Mary's acceptance of this mystery is a stewardship model for us. Good stewards remain open to the incursions of divine life into the normal course of their daily lives. How open are we to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives? What might we do this last week of Advent to be more attentive to the Lord?

CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SERVICES

Monday, December 25, is the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) – **A Holy Day of Obligation.** In the Catholic Church, **Holy Days of Obligation** or **Holidays of Obligation**, less commonly called **Feasts of Precept**, are the days on which, as canon 1247 of the Code of Canon Law states; *the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. Moreover they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.*

All are welcome to join us for our Christmas Schedule of Services at Sacred Heart Church in Seymour and St. Mary's Church in Megargel. A Blessed and Merry Christmas to All!

Christmas Eve/Sunday, December 24

5:50 PM - Blessing of Lights & Manger-St. Mary in Megargel
6:00 PM - Mass at St. Mary in Megargel
9:50 PM - Blessing of Lights & Manger- Sacred Heart in Seymour
10:00 PM - Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour

Christmas Day/Monday, December 25

10:00 AM - Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour

THANKS – ANGEL TREE DONATIONS:

Thank you again for your donations to the Angel Tree Family. \$865 was donated and was used to purchase gift cards from United Supermarket, Dollar General and Family Tree. The children received many gifts of clothing and toys thanks to your generosity. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me." Mt. 25:40

OUR PARISH STEWARDSHIP: December 17, 2023

SACRED HEART:

Amount in Checks/Envelopes & Loose: \$ 3,913.00
Youth: \$ 0 Special: \$ 200.00 Holy Day: \$ 0
TOTAL: \$ 4,113.00

Envelope Use: 38 Regular; 0 Youth; 1 Special; 0 Holy Day

ST. MARY:

Amount in Checks/Envelopes & Loose: \$ 666.00
Youth: \$ 25.00 Special: \$ 0 Holy Day: \$ 0
TOTAL: \$ 691.00

Envelope Use: 8 Regular; 1 Youth; 0 Special; 0 Holy Day

Attendance: Sacred Heart – Sat. 80 & Sun. 72 St. Mary – 59

SEVEN DAY LIGHTS:

SPECIAL INTENTIONS: For the Alvin & Glenna Jungman Family by Shannon & Barbie Donnell Family, For the Henry & Lillie Mae Novak Family, For the George & Margaret Holub Family, For the Jim & Janice Knezek Family, For Michael Wright & Family, For the Ricky Wright Family, For the Living & Deceased members of the Ermis & Simaichl Family by Judy Ermis Holden & Family.

FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS BY: Kay Flippin, Terry & Belinda Bench, Ricky & Charlotte Wright, Marilyn McGough, Donna Carver. If you would like to contribute to the Seven Day Lights, the cost is \$1 per week. Thank You.

OFFICE HOURS & BULLETIN NOTICES:

This week office Hours are Wednesday & Thursday 10am – 3pm. All bulletin notices must be in by **12 noon on Wed.!**

THANKS - FUNDRAISER FOR DREYER FAMILY:

I can't begin to say enough THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who ordered and donated to the Dreyer Family Kolaches and Cinnamon Rolls fundraiser!! It's was a huge success and blessing!! We have an incredible, amazing and loving community. Please continue to pray for them as they are still recovering!! Extra prayers for Scarlett! Also an enormous THANK YOU to all people who came and volunteered their time and talents in making the wonderful kolaches and cinnamon rolls we had great crews for all three days!! Pam Jackson

NEW YEAR'S LITURGICAL SERVICES

Monday, January 1, is the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day) – All are welcome to join us for Schedule of Services at Sacred Heart Church in Seymour and St. Mary of the Assumption in Megargel:

New Year's Eve/December 31

5:00 PM Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour

New Year's Day/January 1

8:00 AM Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption in Megargel

10:00 AM Mass at Sacred Heart in Seymour

LITURGICAL NORMS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Season of Christmas is characterized by the use of either white or gold vestments to emphasize that just as brilliant Light, Christ our God has come to us as Savior of the world. The penitential season of Advent gives way to our joyful celebration of the Savior manifested to us. Expanding the full festive use of flowers and resuming the hymn of "Glory to God in the Highest" at all Masses expresses great rejoicing that God is with us. Our Theme for the Christmas Season is "The Word was made Flesh! The season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord."

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SESSIONS HOSTED BY ZACHARY SCHERTZ: Will be suspended until after the Holidays.

2024 COLLECTION ENVELOPES:

If you have not picked up your box of envelopes or if you did not have a box to pick up, please come by the office. We still have **20 boxes** at the office not picked up. All family members of our Parish should have a box of envelopes.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day): In today's Christmas Mass at dawn we hear from the Gospel reading that God has entered quietly into the world. Not into the great city of Jerusalem, but into a small village about five miles south. Not into a noble family, but to an outcast couple keeping the newborn in a manger. Not announced by royal edicts, but to common shepherds, the first human heralds of Christ's birth. As Christian stewards we simply allow Christ to live in us no matter what our circumstances happen to be. We allow Christ to share his love with us and reflect that love out to others. We now are the heralds of Christ's Incarnation. What an unimaginable gift from a generous Lord. Good stewards rejoice in this gift and give glory to God.

Old Calendar: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: December 28th

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before men. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood. Our Christmas joy is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following the Lamb wherever He goes. <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE FUND DRIVE: Please consider a donation to help our annual drive to raise funds for the Ministerial Alliance. In the month of December the community churches ask for your support to replenish our funds so that we can help those needy within our local community. You may simply drop off a donation or place a donation in the weekly collections marked "Ministerial Alliance." There are also boxes in our Seymour stores for your convenience.

Year-End Giving: As this year draws to a close, you are likely to be reviewing your important financial matters, including your charitable giving for 2023. Now is certainly a good time to think carefully about *what* to give and *when* to give it. It is also an important time to reflect on the call to Stewardship – to give back to God in gratitude. Please remember the parishes, schools and many ministries of the Diocese of Fort Worth now and in the future. Gifts of cash, IRA distributions, securities, insurance policies, bequests, annuities and trusts can make a lasting difference.

Contact Information for Seminarian Trent Barton:

You can mail him at 401 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, DC 20017 or email him at: Trent.barton@fwdioc.org. Please continue to keep him in your daily prayers.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: LAY LEADERS, PRIESTS, DEACONS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

Thank You for Supporting the Annual Diocesan Appeal

Love one another as I have loved you: *"I give you a new commandment says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you."*
– John 13:34 - Thank you to everyone who responded generously to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your gift makes a difference to the people whom we will accompany in our shared journey of faith, hope and charity as one Church united in Christ. Thanks to you our **Sacred Heart parish** has **pledged \$13,092.57** from **46 families**. We are striving for 100 percent participation. We are counting on every family to make a commitment in order to reach our **parish goal of \$18,900**. Thanks to you our **St. Mary of the Assumption parish** has **pledged \$3,205** from **12 families**. We are striving for 100 percent participation. We are counting on every family to make a commitment in order to reach our **parish goal of \$4,800**. Please complete and return the commitment form that was mailed to you or donate online at bit.ly/DiocesanAppeal (case sensitive). **Your gifts before December 31 may be eligible for charitable deductions on your taxes.**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Rick Kieschnick, Briley Hostas, Melvin Kuhler, Cindy Cuba Boone, Carolyn Bertschy, Bessie Casillas, Joe Saitta, Jr., Donna Hampton, Cathy McElroy, Cora Shelton, Mary Myers, Olivia Wright, Keaton Hehl, Troy & Stella Glass, Bernie Thomas, Josiah Decker, Sheila Helton, Ofelia Garcia, Johnny Joe Pechacek, Michael Rodriguez, Bryker Fontenot, Adaline Urbanczyk, Kayley Lowder, Ralph Veitenheimer, Cheryl Hopkins, Genevieve Hmrcirik, Hailey Glass, Debbie Turner, Teagan Matthews, Hannah Green, Jim Cuba, Sharon Wright, Arleen Kuhler, Abigail Novak, Braxton Pierce, Andrew Amador, Billie McGough, Jason Gilley, Margie Psencik, Andrea Sanchez, Ellen Schaefer Bruggeman, Machele Hass, Jeanie Evans, John Helton, Charlene Gajdos, Margarita Martinez, Donovan Muharib, Rosario Cruz, Dorothy Matus, Karla Parker, Jeanelle Howell, Trina Hostas, Richard Latham, Coy Jakubicek, Arya Myers, Keely Willden, Larry Ballard, Michelle Martin, Donna Anders, Michael Wright, Ricky Wright, Judy Horn, Nick Bryant, Linda Willis, Sandra & Ricky Moorhouse, Korbett Loftin, June Hmrcirik, Rickey Bohanon, Cori Bohanon, Bobby Bohanon, Earl Carver, Tony Leal, Connie Rodriguez, Helen Rodriguez, Marilyn McGough, Mary Ann Redder, Mike Sullivan, Chris Christian, Charles Wright, Patsy Sosolik, Justin Walker, Scott Christian, Judy Wheeler, Tamara Gann, Dale Peterson, Anne Marie Vita, Billy Mac Howe, Deven Hall, Kim Novak, Lizzie Smith, Henrietta & James Styles, Deacon Jim Novak, Gary Coltharp, Jerry Kuhler, Vivian Steinbach, Ashley Felty, Deidra Groves, Melvin & Shirlee Motl, Jaime & Jim McLarty, Justin Elliott, Lana Studer, Robert Torrez, Waylan Wyatt, Levi Bourland, Chris Scott, Ashley Wright-Burke & Family, Phyllis Molina, Larry (Pero) Elliott, Ruby Robertson, Lane Hmrcirik, Logan Hmrcirik, Jaime Hmrcirik, Mike Flippin, Patsy Groves, Karen Bruggeman, Manny Perez, Eric Hostas, Chris Allen, Loy Studer, Leon Lagesse, Jr., Kaylan Carter, Peggy Brown, Scarlett Morrison, Rose Gonzales, Jeff Gregg, Steve & Katrina Dreyer, Jennifer Roy & Karissa Gill.

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Kyle Matus, Andrew Gelb, Tai Bandy, James Crawford, Sam Atwood, Josh Wright, Chance Freeman, Wayne Howard, Korey Bailes, Mitchell Lee, Zachary Hamilton, Trey Matus, Julien M. Wright, Donovan Palacios, Carson Pope, Isaak Estraca, Sebastian Mabry, Tyrel Hart & Tylor Don Chism. *Please call the office to update the prayer list for those to be added or removed.*

PRAY FOR RAIN FOR OUR FIELDS, CROPS, RANGELANDS AND RESERVOIRS!

Who Staged the First Nativity Scene?

It's nearly impossible to go through December without seeing at least one nativity scene, whether it's a set of ceramic figurines in a private home, a life-size tableau in front of a church, or a cast of actors in a children's pageant. And rarely does a year go by that these representations of Jesus, Joseph, Mary, the three wise men, some shepherds, and miscellaneous barn animals go unmolested by vandals or unchallenged by lawsuits. Why do people put up crèches at Christmastime, anyway?

Blame St. Francis of Assisi, who is credited with staging the first nativity scene in 1223. The only historical account we have of Francis' nativity scene comes from *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, a Franciscan monk who was born five years before Francis' death. According to Bonaventure's biography, St. Francis got permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a manger with hay and two live animals—an ox and an ass—in a cave in the Italian village of Greccio. He then invited the villagers to come gaze upon the scene while he preached about “the babe of Bethlehem.” (Francis was supposedly so overcome by emotion that he couldn't say “Jesus.”) Bonaventure also claims that the hay used by Francis miraculously acquired the power to cure local cattle diseases and pestilences. While this part of Bonaventure's story is dubious, it's clear that nativity scenes had enormous popular appeal. Francis' display came in the middle of a period when mystery or miracle plays were a popular form of entertainment and education for European laypeople. These plays, originally performed in churches and later performed in town squares, re-enacted Bible stories in vernacular languages. Since church services at the time were performed only in Latin, which virtually no one understood, miracle plays were the only way for laypeople to learn scripture. Francis' nativity scene used the same method of visual display to help locals understand and emotionally engage with Christianity.

Within a couple of centuries of Francis' inaugural display, nativity scenes had spread throughout Europe. It's unclear from Bonaventure's account whether Francis used people or figures to stand in for Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, or if the spectators just used their imagination, but later nativity scenes included both *tableaux vivants* and dioramas, and the cast of characters gradually expanded to include not only the happy couple and the infant, but sometimes entire villages. The familiar cast of characters we see today—namely the three wise men and the shepherds—aren't biblically accurate. Of the four gospels in the New Testament, only Matthew and Luke describe Jesus' birth, the former focusing on the story of the wise men's trek to see the infant king, the latter recounting the shepherds' visit to the manger where Jesus was born. Nowhere in the Bible do the shepherds and wise men appear together, and nowhere in the Bible are donkeys, oxen, cattle, or other domesticated animals mentioned in conjunction with Jesus' birth. But early nativity scenes took their cues more from religious art than from scripture.

What about those nativity plays that children often perform at Christmastime? They are an obvious outgrowth of the miracle plays of the Middle Ages, but the reason children (rather than adults) perform in them isn't clear. However, it's possible the tradition stems from the Victorian Era, when Christmas was recast in America and England as a child-friendly, family-centered holiday, instead of the rowdy celebration it had been in years past. - *Bruce Forbes of Morningside College*

Plenary indulgence available for 800th anniversary of first Nativity scene- “In order to promote the spiritual renewal of the faithful and increase the life of grace, we ask that the faithful receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions from 8 December 2023, the solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to 2 February 2024, feast of the Presentation in the Temple of Our Lord Jesus Christ, **by visiting the churches run by Franciscan families throughout the world** and stopping in prayer in front of the Nativity scenes set up there.”