



CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

BLESSED SACRAMENT
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bsacramentparish@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-9370

OUR LADY OF VICTORY
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Chatham, ON N7L 3K8
ourladyv@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-8530

ST. AGNES
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ST. URSULA
205 Tweedsmuir Ave W
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stursula@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-8530

Website: www.ccfp.dol.ca and Facebook: <https://facebook.com/bssaususj>

OFFICE HOURS St. Agnes Church
52 Croydon Street
Monday & Tuesday 9 am-3 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9 am - 5 pm
Friday - CLOSED
(closed for lunch 12 noon - 1 pm each day)
(if you come to the office, please ring doorbell)

St. Ursula Church
205 Tweedsmuir Avenue West

OFFICE CLOSED
(staff and team are available by phone)



*I am the voice of the one
crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight
the way of the Lord.'*

John 1: 23

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor - Fr. Jim Higgins
519-352-8530 ext 222 - jhiggins@dol.ca
Associate Pastor - Fr. Jude Ogbenna, C. S. Sp.
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Associate Pastor - Fr. Olivet Okoro
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St. Joseph Custodian
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St. Ursula Custodian
Dat Phan
dphan@dol.ca

Readings for December 20

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16. Romans 16: 25-27.
Luke 1: 26-38.

December 13, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP FABBRO

"I am here by extending the dispensation from the Sunday obligation, including the solemnities of the Nativity of the Lord and Mary, Mother of God, until Easter. It seems unlikely that our situation with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic will change in the near future."

DEACON'S PEN

In our Gospel, we encounter John baptizing people in the Jordan River. The Pharisees sent officials to find out who John was. John responded to the officials - "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (John 1:23).

The "work" that John was referring to is work that must be done within each person's heart and mind.

If all we had to do was go out into the wilderness and make a straight path for the Lord, that would be easy, and many people would figure out how to do that.

Putting on the mind of Christ, seeing through His eyes, feeling through His heart, learning to respond to the world with Jesus wholeness and healing love (What Would Jesus Do?) are absolutely life changing. Life changing for us and for every person we meet. When we truly do "put on the heart and mind of Christ", others will be positively impacted by their interaction with us! This is the work of an entire lifetime.

Our responsibility is to **prepare ourselves well to participate in a genuine personal relationship with Jesus.** We do this through daily prayer (contemplative prayer as well as other forms of prayer); reading and praying over Sacred Scripture; reaching out in genuine love to our neighbour (the 14 Charitable Works of Mercy); daily examining our consciences; confessing our sins, our faults and our failings; asking for forgiveness; and actively seeking to grow in genuine Faith, Hope, and Love!

Especially when we are unable to participate in the celebration of Mass and Holy Communion, it is important that we make regular Spiritual Communions, preferably several times throughout each day!

There are also 3 exclamatory prayers that are most efficacious throughout the year:

Jesus, I trust in You! (pray 3 times)

Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me, a sinner!
(pray 3 times)

Let it be done unto me according to Your Word,
O Lord! (pray 3 times)

I pray that this Advent truly is a time of genuine Christian transformation for people everywhere! **He is coming, are you ready?**

May our Risen Lord richly bless + you and all those you love!

Deacon Steve

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday ~ 5 pm at Blessed Sacrament Church

Sunday ~ 8 am at St. Joseph Church

Sunday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church

(This Mass is live streamed.)

Sunday ~ 10 am at St. Ursula Church

Sunday ~ 11 am at St. Agnes Church

Sunday ~ 11 am at Our Lady of Victory Church (Polish)

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES (FIRST COME FIRST SERVE)

Tuesday ~ 9 am at St. Ursula Church

Wednesday ~ 7 pm at Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

Thursday ~ 9 am at Blessed Sacrament Church

(This Mass is live streamed.)

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays from 10 - 11 am at Blessed Sacrament



2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPE DISTRIBUTION

The distribution of **ALL CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES 2021 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** will take place at the St. Ursula Church from 12 - 3 pm on Friday, December 11, Saturday, December 12, Friday, December 18 and Saturday, December 19. Volunteers will be in place to distribute envelopes to you when you enter the building. COVID-19 protocols, such as physical distancing and face masks will be in effect. If you are not able to pick up your envelopes, you may send someone on your behalf. You will not be able to pick up your envelopes when attending Mass.

We encourage parishioners to sign up for PAD. PAD forms can be found on our website as well as other means of donating, such as e-transfers and on line donations. Please go to www.ccfp.dol.ca for further information. Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

HAPPY BRITHDAY

Happy belated birthday to Eva Beausejour who celebrated her birthday on November 7.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASSES

We are in need of some extra assistance for our Christmas and New Year's masses. We need volunteers to help with the Host and/or Registration ministry and also manage the power point. If you are able to lend a hand either at the registration table, by seating people or the computer at one or more of the masses please email Colleen Keane at ckeane@dol.ca. Your quick response would be a huge help to our finalizing all the details for the celebration of the masses during this Christmas season. Thank you!

GENERAL ABSOLUTION

During the COVID Pandemic Bishop Fabbro has granted permission to our priests to celebrate the Rite of General Absolution since we are not all able to attend individual confession. **We will be holding a General Absolution Service after each Mass on the weekend of December 19 and 20.**

In a general absolution service, Catholics are absolved from their sins without confessing them individually to the priest. It differs from the communal penance service held in many parishes every Advent and Lent, during which penitents gather together for common prayer, confess their sins individually to a priest, and receive absolution from him individually as well.

The Church permits general absolution in cases of danger of death or when "enough confessors are [not] available to hear the individual confessions properly within a reasonable time" (Rite of Penance, 31b). The Church has in mind a chronic condition here, for example in mission territories, where a priest may visit only occasionally, and penitents risk being without the grace of reconciliation for a long time. General absolution is not lawful "when nonavailability of confessors is based solely on there being a large number of penitents, such as may be the case at some great festival or pilgrimage" (RP. 31b).

Only the bishop may judge whether lawful conditions exist. The priest who wishes to hold a service of general confession and absolution needs the bishop's permission. If this is not possible, he should inform the bishop as soon as possible about the need and the absolution he gave (32)

Nevertheless, penitents who receive general absolution for mortal sin are obliged to confess it individually as soon as possible.

The liturgy begins with Introductory Rites and Liturgy of the Word. Then the people kneel or bow and make a general confession of sins, like the formula we use at Mass. "I confess to almighty God."

A litany or song may follow, and then all pray the Lord's prayer. The priest then gives absolution over the whole group of sinners, and all sing a song of praise.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Sacraments © 2020

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Written by Paul Turner



LAST DATE FOR 2020 DONATIONS

The last date you can donate for your 2020 income tax receipt for any of the parishes is Thursday, December 31 until 12:00 noon as the office closes at 12:00. If any donations come into the office after December 31, they will be included in your 2021 income tax receipt.

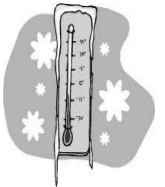
Here is a direct quote from CRA concerning donations:

What is a donation?

The date of donation is the date the gift is actually received by the charity. However, when a charity receives a donation by mail, the Canada Revenue Agency considers the date of donation to be the date of the postmark on the envelope. The charity should keep the stamped envelope as part of its books and records.

CHURCH CHUCKLE




A fella goes ice fishing for the very first time. All of a sudden, he hears a voice. "There are no fish under the ice!" He ignores it and moves to another area, cuts a hole and tosses his line in. Again he hears the booming voice: "There are not fish under the ice!"



He nervously looks up and asks, "Lord? Is that you?"

"No, this is the rink manager!"

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**Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions
for the week of December 14 - 19**

Monday, Dec 14 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

**ALL TUESDAY MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE
CELEBRATED AT 9:00 AM MASS AT ST. URSULA**

Tuesday, Dec 15 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Vern Jubenville ~ Ray Brosseau
~ Rosa & Amedeo Colaizzi

Tuesday, Dec 15 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Antonio Branco ~ Timothy Flanagan
~ Intentions of staff & students
of St. Ursula Catholic School

Wednesday, Dec 16 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ All Souls in Purgatory ~ Hang Phung
~ Sam Roberts & living members of Sam's family

Wednesday, Dec 16 - St. Joseph intentions
~ All Souls ~ Ivon & Pat Pinsonneault
~ Maurice Formosa & Evelyn McGee

Wednesday, Dec 16 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Intentions of Helena Dobrzanski ~ Marianna Bilski
~ O mądrość, świętość i odwagę dla kapłan

**ALL THURSDAY MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE
CELEBRATED AT 9:00 AM MASS AT BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

Thursday, Dec 17 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Rosa Amedeo Colaizzi
~ Dora Bechard & Paul Kloostra
~ Intentions of staff and students
of Monsignor Uyen Catholic School

Thursday, Dec 17 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Tom Waddick ~ Anita Carpanzano
~ Jennifer, Ofelia & Jack Chater

Friday, Dec 18 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ Barb Reaume

Friday, Dec 18 - St. Joseph intentions
~ Kathleen O'Hara
~ Deceased members of
the Lindsay & Geneau families
~ Deceased members of the Verbeem Family

Saturday, Dec 19 - Our Lady of Victory
~ Amelia Melillo ~ Hilda & Jack Gleason

*To Everything there is a Season...
"a time to be healed..."*

Please pray for those who are currently
sick our parish family....

Eva Beausejour and Robert Jubenville
God, grant them your peace.

"a time to die..."

Please remember in your prayers all deceased
relatives and parishioners especially Corrie Koppes.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.



DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan
ministers: Mrs. Jean Beneteau, Pastoral Minister;
Mrs. Marguerite Hewer, Pastoral Minister; Rev.
Christophe Mbunzu, O.F.M. Cap.; Deacon Brian
MacDonald; Ministers to Migrant Workers in the
Diocese of London; Rev. Augustine Ogundele; Deacon
Daniel Lemire.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Dec 14 Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17a. Matthew 21: 23-27
Dec 15 Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13. Matthew 21: 28-32
Dec 16 Isaiah 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25. Luke 7: 19-23
Dec 17 Genesis 49: 2, 8-10. Matthew 1: 1-17
Dec 18 Jeremiah 23: 5-8. Matthew 1: 18-24
Dec 19 Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a. Luk 1: 15-25



FLOWERS ON THE TABERNACLE

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we were not
able to put flowers on the tabernacle for all
those who requested flowers from our Family
of Parishes. We will be putting all the
weekend flower requests from October 18 to
Christmas in the December 20th bulletin.



We will no longer be taking flower requests on a
weekly basis. In 2021 we will take flower requests
only for special Sundays such as Easter, Mother's
Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas but
will not start taking them until closer to Easter. We
will have an announcement in the bulletin as to
when we will start taking requests. Thank you!



Love is the beauty of the soul.

St. Augustine

Christmas Schedule 2020

Christmas Eve Masses ~ Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament (FULL), St. Joseph and St. Ursula
(Blessed Sacrament will be live streamed.)

9:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament, St. Agnes and St. Ursula
(Blessed Sacrament will be live streamed.)

12 midnight - Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

Christmas Day Masses ~ Friday, December 25

9:00 am ~ Blessed Sacrament
(This Mass will be live streamed.)

10:00 am ~ St. Ursula

11:00 am ~ St. Agnes

11:00 am ~ Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

12:00 noon ~ St. Joseph

New Year's Eve Mass ~ Thursday, December 31

5:00 pm ~ St. Ursula Church (FULL)

New Year's Day Mass ~ Friday, January 1

9:00 am ~ Blessed Sacrament (FULL)
(This Mass will be live streamed.)

11:00 am - Our Lady of Victory (Polish) (FULL)



HOW TO REGISTER

In order to ensure your seat at any of the scheduled Masses

(Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, December 26 and 27, New Years Eve, New Years Day and January 2 and 3)

Registration will be taken on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 16 and Thursday, December 17

Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22

RESERVATIONS will NOT be taken after Tuesday, December 22

for the above mentioned Christmas, New Years and regular Sunday Masses up until January 3.

TO REGISTER

Go on line at www.ccfp.dol.ca or

call the parish office at 519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530 on the above specified dates from 9 am until 5 pm.

JOY



THIRD
WEEK

OF ADVENT

Gather around your Advent wreath as a family to pray.
Ask God to quiet your hearts. Choose someone to lead.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Let us make the sign of our Baptism, † In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit! In this third week of Advent, we ask you to fill our hearts with JOY as we prepare for Jesus, who is coming soon! You know that we are excited about gifts, decorations, gatherings, and treats. But may all these things point toward the unending JOY we find in knowing and loving Jesus.

HEARING GOD'S STORY

This week in our gospel we hear John the Baptist "I am a voice crying out in the desert, prepare the way for the Lord!" John helped the people prepare a way for Jesus by telling them that true JOY comes from pleasing God and leading lives filled with goodness.

I wonder what brings you JOY in your life? How can you bring joy to others?
Talk about it.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Last week, we lit the Advent candles of hope and peace (light last weeks' purple candles)

Today we light the pink candle. This is the candle of JOY. (light the pink candle)

God our Father, as we JOYfully look forward to Christmas, guard us from needless worry and stress. Help us clear out whatever noise and busyness distracts us from Jesus or steals our JOY.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

ADVENT CANDLE SONG

(SUNG TO THE
TUNE OF TWINKLE
TWINKLE LITTLE
STAR)

Advent candle shine so bright
Let us see JOY in your light
Please forgive us any wrongs
Fill our hearts with JOYful songs
Advent candle shine so bright
Let us see JOY in your light!

Also: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrmMQdkBPwY>
Immanuel-Michael Card

LET US BRING GOD OUR PRAYERS FOR JOY:

As we pray for our families who feel sad...
All: Come, Jesus, send us your JOY
As we pray for our families who feel afraid...
All: Come, Jesus, send us your JOY
As we pray for our families who don't know Jesus

All: Come, Jesus, send us your JOY
As we pray for our families who feel alone
All: Come, Jesus, send us your JOY
As we bring our own needs to you (name them)
All: Come, Jesus, send us your JOY

Let us give praise to God for the JOY in our lives, saying:
Glory be to the Father...



**Reflection for Week 3:
Mary's Impossible Dream**
LoyolaPress.com

In the musical “Man of La Mancha,” when Dulcinea asks Don Quixote what it means to “follow his quest,” he responds by singing “The Impossible Dream.” Mary, who awaited the birth of Jesus some 2,000 years ago just as we do this Advent, could have written the song. She certainly lived it.



Imagine how young Mary—probably no more than 15 or 16 years old—must have felt upon receiving the news that the impossible was about to take place within her, that she would give birth to the Savior. How could she tell her betrothed, Joseph? What would her family think? Who would believe her?

“Do not be afraid, Mary,” the angel says to her. “Nothing will be impossible with God” (Luke 1:30, 37). We know the rest of the story. The impossible was indeed made possible, not only at the birth of Jesus, but in the many miracles he performed, and most of all at his Resurrection. If God could accomplish all this, imagine what God can do in your own life. Advent is the season for imagining what is possible, for dreaming new dreams, for hoping beyond hope.

But it is also the season when hope can be hardest to find, dreams hardest to believe. The days draw short, the nights are long and the air turns. Expenses may loom at a time when resources are scarce. Separation, grief, loneliness, and depression are no strangers to the season. Hope may be in short supply during this time. We need Mary’s inspiring example of courage and trust in the face of uncertainty more than ever.

Mary can’t guarantee us a smooth ride, however. Look at her own difficult journey: first, she had to travel to Bethlehem late in her pregnancy (Luke 2:1-6). Have you ever tried riding a donkey? Now imagine doing so nine month’s pregnant! Later, she had to flee to Egypt with Joseph and the baby when their lives were in danger (Matthew 2:13-23).

Nor can Mary promise us a season free of anxiety and worry. Imagine how she must have worried about what was ahead for her beloved child as his messianic destiny was revealed to her, first by shepherds who left her pondering the news in her heart (Luke 2:16-19), then at the Temple by the prophet Simeon, who spoke to her of the sorrowful times ahead: “A sword will pierce your soul too” (Luke 2:22-35).

What Mary can offer us is a remarkable and inspiring example of courage in the face of adversity, patience in the face of uncertainty, and hope beyond hope that the impossible is indeed possible.

Mary stood with her son as he was crucified (John 19:25-27); she stood with his fearful followers who huddled after his death (Acts 1:13-14). She knew that the story wasn’t over yet. And she was right.

Our story isn’t finished, either, no matter what challenges or wounds burden us this season. All things remain possible with God. This is the miracle of Advent. We can once again dream the impossible dream—and reach the unreachable star.

According to Your Will: Mary’s “Yes” and Ours

In the Gospel of Luke, Mary says yes to angel Gabriel, who asks her to bear God’s son. And she does so in perfect freedom. As do we—in our own lives. God meets us in myriad ways, through nature, through prayer, especially through people “For Christ plays in the ten thousand places, lovely in eyes and limbs not his,” as the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote. God invites us to join him, he invites us to follow him, he invites us to create with him.

But the decision is always up to us. We are free to say yes or no to God.

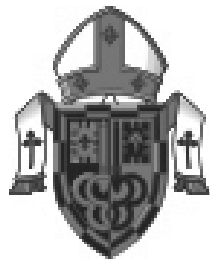
With her yes, Mary partners herself with the Almighty and is empowered to bring Christ into the world. This world-changing yes is what St. Bernard speaks of in one of his sermons on Mary: “Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.”

With our own yes to God’s voice in our lives we are also asked to nurture the word of God within us and bring Christ into the world—certainly not in the same way that Mary was, but in our own situations, and in our own ways. Using our own talents and graces we are called to bring Christ into the lives of others.

In describing the arc of the conversation between Gabriel and Mary, the Gospel of Luke perfectly describes the arc of the spiritual life: God initiates the conversation; we are initially hesitant and fearful; we seek to understand God’s word in our life; God reminds us of our experience, and, free to choose, if we say yes to God, we are able to bring new life into the world.



**He is Coming!
Are You Ready?**



DIOCESE OF LONDON

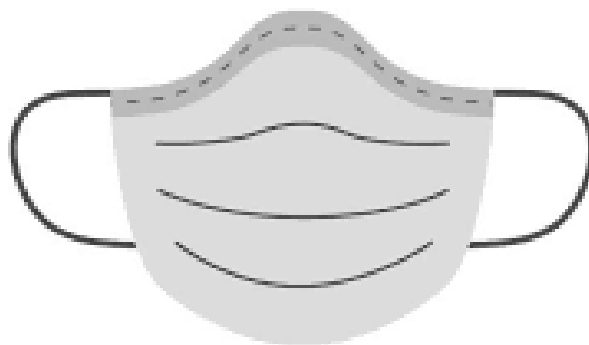
Announcement on Wearing Masks

We are taking every reasonable precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our churches and protect parishioners. There are reports from parishes across the diocese of people claiming a mask exemption but who would not have a valid exemption. Those who attend Mass or other services without a mask and without a valid exemption are violating provincial COVID-19 restrictions and putting fellow parishioners at risk. Masks are to remain in place during the entire time of the Mass.

The Catholic Church has earned the trust of provincial officials with our WorshipSafe guidelines, but if we do not consistently implement them, we may be subject to more stringent scrutiny or church closures.

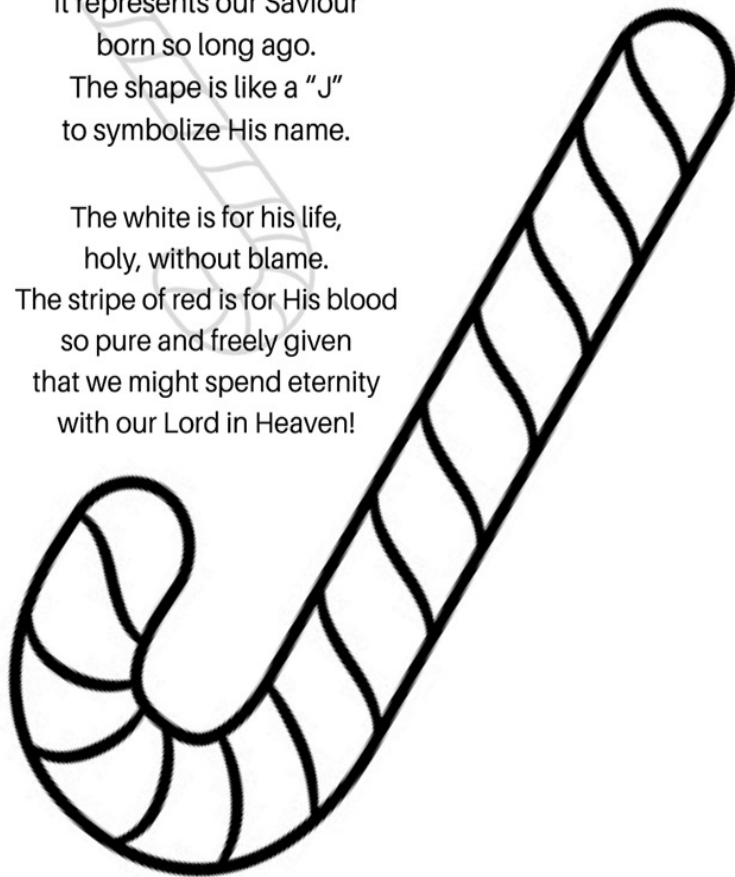
Starting January 1 2021, if you have a medical exemption for wearing a mask, then you will be required to present documentation to the pastor to enter a church in the Diocese of London. We will still ask that you wear a mask briefly to enter and exit and to receive Communion. Those with the mask exemption will be seated in a designated area.

Those who refuse to comply with this diocesan regulation will be asked to leave and will not be permitted to attend Mass until they agree to wear a mask.



It's just a little Christmas treat
but also (did you know?)
It represents our Saviour
born so long ago.
The shape is like a "J"
to symbolize His name.

The white is for his life,
holy, without blame.
The stripe of red is for His blood
so pure and freely given
that we might spend eternity
with our Lord in Heaven!



RANDOM ACTS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

- Take a treat or thank you note to your school caretaker
- Write a nice letter to a brother and sister
- Make a Christmas craft to share with someone
- Make a thank you card for a fire station or police station
- Set the table and help with family dinner and clean up
- Help a family member wrap presents and listen to carols
- Donate clothes or toys to St. Vincent de Paul
- Send a thank you to someone who works for the church
- Say a prayer for someone you are having a hard time with