

A classical painting of the Nativity scene. Mary is seated in the center, holding the infant Jesus wrapped in white swaddling clothes. Joseph is on the right, looking down at the child. Several other figures, including a man with a beard on the left and another man with a hat in the background, are gathered around the manger. The scene is set in a stable with straw on the floor.

Merry Christmas!

*Joy to the World! The Lord has come.
Let Earth Receive her King!*

Catholic Parishes of
ARLINGTON

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A MESSAGE FROM FR. MARC



Fr. Marc Bishop - Pastor
St. Agnes and St. Camillus

Dear Faith Family,

I write, this great season of our Lord's coming, to assure you of my prayers for Christmas Blessings upon you. In this time of pandemic, when many are suffering medical, financial, and emotional hardship, we can find comfort knowing that we are being prayed for.

This season of Hope and Joy inspires me to rejoice in the promise of Christ's Birth. His life for me and you is a call to worship and serve. Two things we do best together.

I pray that you are able to fully participate in Christmas Joy.

Allow me to share with you a favorite prayer from the Mass of Christmas Day:

*O God, who wonderfully created the
dignity of human nature
and still more wonderfully restored it,
grant, we pray,
that we may share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our
humanity.*

I pray that you, and all whom you hold dear, have a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year, I am

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Marc J. Bishop
Pastor

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS MASS!

We are happy to join you and your family to celebrate the most special time of the year. During the past few months, it has been challenging to keep in touch with our parishioners. We want to hear from you and know how you are doing. Please take a minute to scan the QR code and complete our very brief survey, so we can better serve your needs. *Reach out to us anytime, we are here for you!*



OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOU!



Most of us are trying to put together the jigsaw puzzle we call life without a very important piece. Over time this becomes incredibly frustrating.

In this extraordinary book, Matthew Kelly powerfully demonstrates that we cannot live the life we have imagined, or experience the joy we yearn for, unless we learn to tend the soul. At every turn he floods the reader with hope and demonstrates unmistakably that the best is yet to come!



WILL YOU UPDATE YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S INFORMATION WITH US AS YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT?



We request that all households renew their information on our database. Your gift to us will keep our records up-to-date. Scan the QR code or use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/CPARLDatabase> to create a ParishSoft Account. Look for "REGISTER" at the bottom. Select ST. AGNES PARISH, ARLINGTON or ST. CAMILLUS PARISH, ARLINGTON in the Organization/Church List and then simply complete the online form. Thank you! Your information will not be shared with any other organization.

Cube

- On behalf of
the Catholic
Parishes of
Arlington, we
wish you and
your family a
very Merry
Christmas.
May the light
of the Lord be
in your hearts
today and
throughout
the coming
year.

Dear Lord, we
pray that your
light would
radiate in all the
dark places in the
world.

During this
Christmas
Season, let your
light of peace
and love shine in
our world.

Dear Jesus, give
us eyes to see the
signs of your
presence in the
world.

Loving God, help
us to live our lives
to receive the
One who said, "I
am the light of
the world."





Fr. Michael Sheehan

STOCKING STUFFERS

I want to begin by sharing how thankful I am to be a priest here in Arlington. Hopefully, it is obvious to all of you. But, just in case it helps to see it in writing, I love my assignment to St. Camillus, St. Agnes, AC, and SAS.

So, I'd like to show my gratitude by offering you these "stocking stuffers." Just imagine the professionally produced bulletins (or a printout of the e-newsletter) rolled up and sticking out over your hearth. Maybe next to it there's a candy bar or a new toothbrush. But here are my two nuggets for you all.

First, I hope that we all grow in our devotion to the Eucharist, the love of Jesus in Holy Communion. I know this gift doesn't fit easily in a stocking. But nonetheless, may each of us love Christ more in the Blessed Sacrament. In this year of the Eucharist, perhaps one might go to Mass more frequently. If, for example, you only go to Church on Sunday, maybe you can find a daily Mass that works for you. If you are unable to go to Mass, you might use a spiritual communion prayer to express your devotion to our Lord in Holy Communion. All of us can grow in this love for Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Second, and again, it doesn't fit in a large holiday sock, I offer increased devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She loves us so much. She's always with us. Let's show that love right back. So, what do you do now? One rosary per week? Well, can you pray two? Can you pray the one you do now with at least one good meditation on a particular mystery? Have you ever imagined you are one of the characters in the scene? Or consider just talking to the Blessed Mother. She is always available. She is always attentive and ready to listen. Nowadays, so many people are lonely. Let's speak to Our Lady. She loves us and will always listen. She works for us in heaven and shares our cares with the Lord.

So, these are my gifts for you all. I need them for myself, so I hope they help you.

Merry Christmas.



Roger Mansen
Director of
Liturgy and Music

MUSIC NOTES *from Roger*

As I write this brief note of Good Cheer and Christmas Blessings, I am struck by the similarity of the texts that we have used in our music at Mass this past Advent and now for the Christmas Season. I have mentioned several times the "O" Antiphons and our use of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" — that ever-imploing "O Come" as we await Jesus' arrival. Now at Christmastide, we sing a different use of that phrase.

Rather than calling to our savior for His appearance, we call to one another to worship Him:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"O Come, let us Adore Him".

As we welcome the New Born King and worship the Christ Child, may your Christmas be filled with love and joy and hope as we look ahead to the New Year.

A Most Blessed and Merry Christmas to you all!



Fr. Robert
Sahayaraj, OCD



Scott Morin
Director of Evangelization



Meredith Smit
Director of Faith Formation



Deacon Peter Bujwid



Fabiola Aguilera
Communications and
Office Manager

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1 Peter 4:10

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