

New Year New Me

**SAINT
aidan**

Catholic Church & School

**PUT ON, AS GOD'S
CHOSEN ONES,
HOLY AND
BELOVED,
HEARTFELT
COMPASSION,
KINDNESS,**

**HUMILITY,
GENTLENESS, AND
PATIENCE,
BEARING WITH
ONE ANOTHER
AND FORGIVING
ONE ANOTHER**

START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT

COLOSSIANS

3:12

December 27, 2020

**THE CHURCH OF
ST. AIDAN**
505 Willis Ave.
Williston Park
New York 11596-1727

516-746-6585
516-746-6055 (Fax)
www.staidanparish.org
lynnp@staidanparish.org
516-404-2746 (After Hours Cell)

Pastor
Rev. Adrian McHugh

Associate Pastors
Rev. Solomon Odinukwe
Rev. Ken Grooms

Deacons
Rev. Rudy Martin
Rev. Jerry Magaldi
Rev. Salvatore B. Villani

St. Aidan School
ext. 202, 203 Grades Nursery-2
ext. 302, 303 Grades 3-8
Principal
Mrs. Julie O'Connell
Assistant Principal
Ms. Barbara Graham

Faith Formation
ext. 404, 405
Director ext. 406
Mrs. Elaine Smith,

Youth Ministry
ext. 403
Mr. Stephen Loewenthal

Music Director
Mr. Drago Bubalo ext. 130
drago.bubalo@gmail.com

Social Ministry, Director
ext. 410, 408
Ms. Rosemarie Cavallaro

Parish Facilities Manager
Mr. Pat Perez

Business Manager
Ms. Maria Peluso ext. 107

**We invite
everyone to walk
with Jesus
and experience
His healing
power and love**

RECTORY OFFICE 516-746-6585

HOURS MONDAY TO FRIDAY

9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

PLEASE WEAR A MASK

DAILY MASS

Catholics are dispensed from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Daily Mass can be viewed on staidanparish.org and on Facebook. Masks or cloth facial coverings must be worn by all present.

MASS CHANGE

Beginning Monday, January 4, 2021, the Monday to Friday 12:30 PM Mass at the Church of St. Aidan, will be moved to the Church of Corpus Christi. The 9:00 AM Mass at Corpus Christi will discontinue. This change is approved by the Diocese who encourage neighboring parishes to cooperate in serving the pastoral needs of the area. St. Aidan will continue to celebrate three daily Masses, Monday to Friday, at 6:30 AM, 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM. Few churches in the area offer an evening daily Mass, so we were encouraged to keep the 5:30 PM Mass. Three priests currently serve at St. Aidan. Two priests are available each day for Masses, funerals, duty etc.



BAPTISM

Baptisms are held on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Sunday at 1:30 PM.

BAPTISM CLASS FOR NEW PARENTS

The required Baptism class for new parents is held the second Sunday of each month beginning with the 12:00 Mass. Parents are asked to gather at St. Joseph's statue to the right of the main altar.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements are to be made at the Rectory office at least 9 months in advance. Pre-Cana and FOCCUS registrations must be arranged through the parish.

CONFESSION

Confessions are available in the St. Aidan sacristy meeting room on Saturday from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM and 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Enter by the church door at the children's play area. You can also make a confession appointment with a priest by calling the rectory office.

ANOINTING & COMMUNION

The anointing of the sick takes place after the 12:00 PM Mass on the 4th Sunday of each month. Anyone who is homebound may receive Holy Communion at home on a regular basis. Call the rectory - ext. 1.

THE CHURCH OF ST. AIDAN

505 WILLIS AVE. WILLISTON PARK, NEW YORK 11596-1727

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

Fr. Kevin	6:30 AM	Carol Ann White
Fr. Solomon	9:00 AM	Vito Mossa
Fr. Ken	12:30 PM	Louise (4th Anniversary Rem.) & John Catalano
Bishop Andrzej	5:30 PM	Helen Brown

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE

Fr. Ken	6:30 AM	Patrick Joyce
Fr. Ken	9:00 AM	Barbara Tucker
Fr. Kevin	12:30 PM	Heinz Berger
Fr. Solomon	5:30 PM	Maureen Healy-La-O & Anne Arcario

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE

Fr. Solomon	6:30 AM	Angela & Frederick White
Fr. Adrian	9:00 AM	Frank Galalis (1st Anniversary Rem.)
Fr. Kevin	12:30 PM	Margaret Flocarri
Fr. Ken	5:30 PM	Gino Calleo (1st Anniversary Rem.)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 SEVENTH DAY WITHIN OCTAVE

Fr. Ken	6:30 AM	Lv. & Dcd. Mbrs. of the Neroth Family
Fr. Ken	9:00 AM	Monika Baker
Fr. Kevin	12:30 PM	Paul & Annastasia Han (Anniversary Rem.)
Fr. Adrian	5:30 PM	Anthony Witt (<i>VIGIL FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</i>)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

	6:30 AM	No Mass
Fr. Solomon	9:00 AM	Edward Rummell (5th Anniversary Rem.)
Fr. Kevin	10:30 AM	Parishioners of St. Aidan
Fr. Adrian	12:00 PM	Jane O'Hara (Anniversary Rem.) Jason Lee Ameruso (15th Anniversary Rem.) Roger Shiels
Fr. Adrian	5:30 PM	John Danz

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2 STS. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZARIANZEN

Fr. Adrian	9:00 AM	John Kiggins
Fr. Solomon	5:00 PM	John Fausone Bernadette Artus Margaret O'Toole (10th Anniversary Rem.) Renato Guglielmi
Fr. Ken	7:30 PM	Parishioners of St. Aidan

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Fr. Ken	7:30 AM	Adoracion Palma
Fr. Solomon	9:00 AM	Deceased Rosarians Mary Duffy & Veronica Filippone
Fr. Adrian	10:30 PM	Mary Viola (10th Anniversary Rem.)
Fr. Solomon	12:00 PM	Mary & Albert Monfort Ruth Rogers
Fr. Adrian	5:00 PM	Lv. & Dcd. Mbrs. of the Legion of Mary James Donlon

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
IN WORD
OR IN
DEED,

DO
EVERYTHING
IN THE
NAME OF
THE LORD
JESUS,

GIVING
THANKS TO
GOD THE
FATHER
THROUGH
HIM.

Seeing *Christ*



What's Pastor Thinking

Today we meet one of the senior citizens of Jerusalem. His name is Simeon. We are told he was

‘righteous and devout.’ ‘It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.’ Simeon had been waiting for his entire life for the fulfillment of that prophecy. Perhaps, toward the end, he started to wonder. Maybe he felt that time was running out. Have you ever been in that kind of reflective mood? A lot of people go through such a phase, especially those who have been facing illness and death in families through these months of the pandemic. You start wondering if your life really mattered; if you made somewhat of a difference, and you wonder what that difference might be.

Perhaps, Simeon was in that kind of mood on the day he saw Mary and Joseph holding . . . none other than the Messiah. I wish we were all like Simeon. I wish we all would see Christ in our infants, our children, our youth, and all the grown-ups too.

The story is told about a monastery that was having trouble. The monks were bickering with each other, and things were not going well. So the head of the

monastery went into town to seek the advice of the local Rabbi, a man who was well known for his wisdom and insight. When they met, the monk related his concerns and asked what kind of advice he might offer to the community. The Rabbi was taken aback by the reports. He told the monk he was surprised to find they were having such difficulties because he was certain that one of the monks was the Messiah. The Monk returned in silence. And said nothing to the others for several hours. Finally one of the monks asked him what the Rabbi had said. And he explained how the Rabbi was convinced that one of them was the Messiah. Well, as the story unfolds, the problems they were having began to go away as each began to treat the other as if they were the Messiah, as if they were the Christ. Everyone served one another with compassion and love. What would our lives be like if we began to see the Christ in each other? What would it mean if others began to look at us as if we were the Christ? May we all learn how to be more like Simeon and see Christ in our children, may we see Christ in each other and may we be Christ to one another.

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

HOMER LIWANAG
CHRISTIAN FERGUSON

WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Jill Ohl
Lily O'Rourke
John Joseph Mulrooney
Steve Pomticello
Kay Perro
Mark Cristello
Maryann Katkowsky
Sean Anderson
Francesca Caccavale
Thomas Yorke
Judy Kostovick
Jack Groothuis
Sharon Devis
Agnes Chun
Blaise DeCario Webber
Virginia Fallon
Kathleen Donnelly
Frank Keenan

Isabella Mueller
Eileen Fitzgerald
Richard Arcario
Janet Stemberger
Jho Martin
Mercy Velasco
Anthony Bosco
Tony Sigonolsi
Shirley Aguirre
Daniel Kozak
Vittoria Fellin
Peter Testani
Ambrose Donnelly
Siobhan O'Keeffe
Christine Adelman
Alicia Zumbrunn
Anthony Siconolfi
Rob Clarkin
Geraldine Massey
Ann McGarry
Dominic Caccavale
Greg Sasso
Baby Nolan Shelley
Noel Mcpartland

Dana Cavanaugh
Flavia Marino
Florence & Paul Simmons
Mary Mone
Jonathan Viola
Christine O'Gara
Juliana Kim
Rosie Bischoff
Kathleen Donato
Rebecca Ross
Michael Horowitz
Robert Marino
Helen Burns
Deanna Tadej
Grace Marie Devaney
& Family
Joseph Nolan
Dahlina Paul
Edward Dirrane
John Hayes
Paul Orlando
Margaret Sullivan
Arthur Pennisi
Linda & Michael Hayes

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship will be published in the
January bulletin.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Parish Goal \$150,000.00
Pledges \$108,860.15 Donors 449
Payments \$107,433.90

BANNS OF MARRIAGE**SECOND WEEK**

EMILY KAREN, St. Aidan
JAMES SEIGER,
St. Bartholomew, Philadelphia, PA

ONLINE GIVING

Over 350 parishioners are donating
online. Go to staidanparish.org.
Click DONATE.



Hymns for Mass this weekend

Angels We Have Heard

"GLORIA"

FRENCH CAROL

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strain.

Refrain:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

Responsorial Psalm PSALM 128 1-2, 3, 4-5

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts;
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The First Noel

"NOEL"

THE ENGLISH CAROL

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]



What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

WILLIAM DIX

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LEWIS REDNER

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of the heav'ns.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

Joy to the World

GEORG FREDERICH HANDEL

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.



We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Add an additional prayer to your family routine today and brainstorm ways you might help each other grow in faith throughout this New Year.



The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

"Mary is more blessed in receiving the faith of Christ, than in conceiving the flesh of Christ."
St. Augustine, *On Holy Virginity*, 3

Mass will be celebrated for the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God on Thursday, December 31st at 5:30 PM and on Friday January 1st at 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM. (No 6:30AM Mass on Friday).

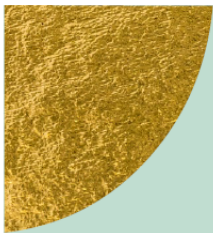
- **TO PLACE A NEWS ITEM IN THE BULLETIN EMAIL LYNNP@ST AidanPARISH.ORG**
- **TO PLACE AN ADVERTISEMENT ON THE COVER, CONTACT THE CHURCH BULLETIN 631-249-4994. THE COST OF OUR BULLETIN IS COVERED BY OUR SPONSORS.**
- **JOIN US FOR DAILY MASS FROM THE CHURCH OF ST. AIDAN AT ST AidanPARISH.ORG AND ON FACEBOOK**

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.



Prayer for the New Year



On New Year's Eve or New Year's Day, the household gathers at the table or at the Christmas tree or manger scene. Many people make New Year's Day a day of prayer for peace.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

Let us praise the Lord of days and seasons and years, saying:

Glory to God in the highest!

R/. And peace to his people on earth!

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years,
for we are part of a universe of suns and moons and planets.

We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we
praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days.

Then the Scripture is read, Book of Genesis 1:14-19:

Listen to the words of the Book of Genesis:

God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the

darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

(The family's Bible may be used for an alternate reading such as Psalm 90:1-4.)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, members of the household offer prayers of thanksgiving for the past year, and of intercession for the year to come. On January 1, it may be appropriate to conclude these prayers with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in Part VII: Litanies) since this is the solemn feast of Mary, Mother of God. In conclusion, all join hands for the Lord's Prayer. Then the leader continues:

Let us now pray for God's blessing in the new year.

After a short silence, parents may place their hands on their children in blessing as the leader says:

Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.
Bless your children at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.
You are our God, living and reigning, forever
and ever.

R/. Amen.

A LIST OF CATHOLIC HOLY DAYS 2021

- Friday, January 1, 2021,
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
A Holy day of obligation. Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass or watch livestream. Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, December 31st at 5:30 PM and on Friday January 1st at 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM. (No 6:30AM). This day concludes the Christmas octave.
- Sunday, January 3, 2021,
The Epiphany. Homes may be blessed and doors of homes "chalked" with the inscription 21+C+M+B+18 ("Christus mansionem benedicat"). The ritual will be published in our bulletin.
- Sunday, January 10, 2021,
The Baptism of the Lord marks the end of the Christmas season. Ordinary time begins the next day.
- Wednesday, February 17, 2021,
Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, March 28, 2021,
Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 1, 2021
Holy Thursday
- Friday, April 2, 2021
Good Friday
- Sunday, April 4, 2021
Easter
- Thursday, May 13, 2021,
Ascension of Jesus
- Sunday, May 23, 2021,
Pentecost
- Sunday, May 30, 2021,
Holy Trinity
- Sunday, June 6, 2021
Corpus Christi
- Sunday, August 15, 2021,
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday, November 1, 2021,
All Saints' Day

- Wednesday, December 8, 2021,
Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday, December 25, 2021,
Christmas Day

HOLY WATER

If you need Holy Water for your home please bring a bottle of regular water to Mass and ask the priest to bless it as you leave church.



Holy Name Society 9th Annual Super Bowl Raffle



Four "Super" Prizes

1st Quarter: \$250
2nd Quarter: \$500
3rd Quarter: \$250
Final: \$1,500

Here's How it Works:

- ♦ Only 100 Boxes Will Be Sold
- ♦ Cost: \$50 Per Box
- ♦ Boxes Will be Picked Randomly
- ♦ You'll be Notified of Box Number by E-mail or Phone
- ♦ Drop off the Below Form to Either the Rectory or Fred Pacher at 174 Primrose Road, Williston Park
- ♦ Make Checks Payable to St Aidan's Holy Name Society
- ♦ Act Quickly, Boxes Sell Out!

Holy Name 2021 Super Bowl Raffle

(Please Write Clearly)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Any Questions Call
Fred Pacher 294.3104
fpacher@optimum.net

Tom Kelly 741-2874
trkelly33@gmail.com

**Good Luck
&**

**Thank You for Your Support of the
Holy Name Society Mission!**

SOCIAL MINISTRY

As Pope Benedict XVI said in his Encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, "Everything has its origin in God's love, everything is shaped by it, everything is directed towards it. Love is God's greatest gift to humanity; it is his promise and our hope."

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE, PEACEFUL & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FOOD PANTRY: Please bring all non-perishable food/ personal hygiene items to the Parish Social Ministry office. Coming soon, we will have a new food box where you can drop off your food donations. It will be located next to the St. Vincent de Paul clothing box.

Toothbrushes, dove soap, frozen pizza and chopped meat

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Social Ministry office hours are: Monday-Friday, 9:00-3:00. Please use the Finamore Parish Center entrance (across from the church on Willis Avenue).

COAT COLLECTION

It's that time again. Keep the homeless warm this winter. Please donate a coat or jacket to a soup kitchen that feeds 185 million meals a year. Please call Tecky at (516) 655-9755 or Cathy comayu27@gmail.com for drop off point. Coats will be collected until February.

THE ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

The Corporate Mass of the Rosary Altar Society will be on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021. This Mass will be offered in memory of Mary Duffy and Veronica Fillipone.

The Mass can also be viewed online at staidanparish.org. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2021. There will not be a meeting in January. Please continue to say the Rosary daily and pray for peace and good health. Stay Safe.

MONDAY NOVENA

Please join us every Monday morning after the 9:00 AM Mass for a Novena to the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Rosary will follow.



Thank you for your generous support of the 2020 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Completing your 2020 pledge ensures that our Parish will benefit by receiving our full rebate.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Appeal.

Pledges can be accepted until December 31, 2020 and payments can be made through January 31, 2021!

Self-Mailers are provided in the back of the church.

Join us as we join together as *One Family in Mission!*

Thank You!

Please make checks payable to *Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

Parish: _____ Total Pledge: \$ _____

Name: _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Sunday, December 27th after the 12:00 PM Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, January 15th from 1:00-3:00 PM

CHARISMATIC PRAISE AND WORSHIP WITH BLD GROUP

Every Friday from 7:15 PM to 9:30 PM. Healing Mass on the first Friday of the month.

JOIN THE COLUMBIETTES

Would you like to join a Catholic group in 2020? The Columbiettes, from Corpus Christi Council 2502, invite you to join our group. We are Catholic women 18 years and over. We meet at the Knights of Columbus

186 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola NY. RSVP to Ruth Ann at 516-221-6105 or Marge at 516-269-9178

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

Thank you to everyone who dropped off gift cards and holiday cards. Through your efforts Junior Catholic Daughters was able to send over 440 holiday cards to the residents of Parker Nursing Home and we sent over \$200 worth of gift cards to St. Aidan's Social Ministry. Thank you for demonstrating the true meaning of Christmas.



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Are you the son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson/daughter of a Veteran who served in the Military or is presently serving? American Legion Auxiliary Unit 144 has scholarship applications available. Applications can be downloaded, please contact Dianne Karl, email dianneli@optimum.net, or call 516-746-2625 or text 516-778-0006. We have had scholarship winners for the past 6 years and this past year we had two winners from our Unit 144.

DON'T PUT THAT CHRISTMAS TREE AWAY!

The liturgical season of Christmas began on December 25 and lasts through January. It can be a little confusing. In secular society, Christmas is celebrated around the time of Halloween up until Christmas Day. On the day after Christmas all the decorations are put away and Christmas trees are put on the curb.

However, in the Roman Catholic Church, the liturgical season of Christmas does not start until December 25 (including the vigil celebrated on December 24) and lasts through January.

The USCCB explains how, "The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the

Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with Him...including the fact that He was born to die for us."

This is where it can get a little more confusing as the Baptism of the Lord is a moveable feast, depending on the day when Epiphany falls in the Roman calendar. In places where Epiphany is celebrated on the first Sunday that falls from January 2 through January 8, then the Baptism of the Lord could occur either on the following Sunday, or on a Monday. The latest that the Baptism of the Lord can occur is January 13. Ordinary Time starts on the day after this feast. This means that during certain years, Christmas lasts from December 25 – January 13!

Traditionally the feast of Candlemas (the Presentation of the Lord) occurs on February 2 and marked the final conclusion of the Christmas cycle.

This is because Candlemas celebrates an event that occurred 40 days after Jesus' birth and was His first introduction to the Temple. In other words, it is the final "baby Jesus" feast day on the Church's liturgical calendar. In some places people did keep up Christmas decorations like the creche until February 2, though it is probably not advisable to keep your Christmas tree up for that long (it may be a fire hazard at that point). Technically speaking, if you truly want to celebrate Christmas like Christians in ages past, you wouldn't decorate the house until Christmas Eve and then keep everything up until February 2. This is very different from Christmas celebrations today!

RELIGION AND ROCK

Tune into "Religion and Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7:00 AM- 8:00 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM on Long Island's East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11:00 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117. Sunday's theme for January 3 Being Excited. 1/10 Life's Struggles . 1/17 Unity . 1/24 Searching for a Meaning . 1/ 31 Spirituality

Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding Religion and Rock go to www.ReligionandRock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 or visit www.cfntv.org ! To receive this

announcement electronically, please email
aayroso@cfntv.org

ARE YOU SEARCHING?

Do you know someone searching for a spiritual home? Our “no strings” inquiry is open to anyone searching that you may know. This is ideal for learning about Catholicism and for Catholics who have not yet received the Eucharist and/or Confirmation. There is no obligation to continue. To set up an appointment to speak to someone please call the rectory at 516-746-6585.

ESTATE PLANNING

When preparing your estate plan, please consider a bequest to the parish of St. Aidan. You can make a contribution to support ongoing operations of the church, school or contribute to a particular project. Your legal counsel can help you refine the bequest language to suit your specific wishes for the Church of St. Aidan. Thank you.

BAPTISM

If you wish to arrange a baptism, please contact the rectory at 516-746-6585. Once your request is received you will be invited to set the date. Forms need to be completed giving information on the parents, child's date and place of birth, as well as the names and religious affiliation of the sponsors. At least one sponsor must be a practicing Catholic.

Baptisms are held on the 1st Sunday and 3rd Sunday at 1:30 PM. If you wish to hold a private baptism you must make arrangements with a priest to perform the baptism service. Private baptisms may be held on Saturday or Sunday when the church is available. First time parents are required to attend a Baptism Class. Classes are held in the church on the second Sunday of the month after the 12 Noon Mass. Crying babies and noisy children are welcome. The next class is on Sunday January 10th at 1:00 PM in the church. Please contact the rectory office.

ADVOCACY IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

You now have the tools to make your voice heard to your elected officials right in the palm of your hand. The Catholic Action Network (CAN) can text critical

St. Aidan's Church Blood Drive



Sunday, January 10, 2021
Williston Park Village Hall
494 Willis Ave., Williston Park
8:00am-2:00pm ~

- One pint of blood can save up to 3 lives
- You must be between the ages of 16-75 years old to donate blood (16 yr olds need parental consent & over 75 yrs need Dr.'s note)
- You must weigh at least 110 pounds to donate
- It is perfectly safe to donate blood every 56 days
- You will need DONOR CARD or ID w/ photo or signature
- Eat well and drink plenty of fluids before donating

Remember, Blood is Life... Pass It On !

 **New York** Blood Center

advocacy alerts directly to your smartphone, with links to quickly send messages to your elected officials on urgent issues of the day. To sign up, just text the word CAN to 50457. You'll receive a one-time link to complete your registration, which is free. Please consider signing up today.

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

The tiny, vulnerable Baby in the manger is a beautiful Christmas image that reminds us of God's endless goodness and His immense love for us despite our undeserving reality. He, the King of kings, humbled Himself to become Man of flesh, in the most unassuming way—a tiny, vulnerable baby born in a stable more fitting for beasts of burden. But in this way, we can dare to approach Him—not as a distant, uncaring Power—but as a gentle, loving Creator, Who, thirty-three years later, would die sinless on the Cross so that we might live in His eternal glory. When we look at the mystery of the Nativity without faith, the seeming contradictions can be perplexing. Likewise, this year, when loss and hardship abound, without faith, it is difficult to see beyond our sorrow and fears. But, “The angel said to

them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.'" (New American Bible, Luke 2:10-11) What was true then, is true now: the good news of great joy is that God is with us, to save us, but also to be with us in every step, every breath we take—always! If we are humble, prayerful, and open to God's graces, we can be enlightened by His infinite goodness, even when times are dark. What doesn't make sense in appearance, what the world tells us is without value, what seems irredeemably weak can be turned inside out to manifest its truth, treasure and strength—but only in faith, when we trust God's plan. For example, in this month's newsletter you can read about Nicholas whose parents chose to ignore the worldly message that promised to take all hope from them. Nicholas has defied every one of those worldly "promises" with an unconquerable joy and love—an example by which we all could live more closely. At the same time, through faith, we are not overtaken by the darkness of the last year, but rather made stronger. In many ways, the pricelessness of life seems more appreciated than ever. We know with greater tenderness how much our relationships matter, the importance of family, and our need for community, most especially that of parish life and the Sacraments. Indeed, even the exploitation of nascent life in the laboratory (despite intentions to bring about good, e.g. in the production of vaccines) has been exposed in a new light not previously seen. This recognition is important because I hope it will bring us

to defend all human life with a renewed tenacity. We must especially champion the lives of those not yet born—after all, abortion, unthinkable considered an essential service during the height of the COVID-19 shutdowns, remains the preeminent human rights issue of our time. Every January since 1973, by participating in the annual March for Life, we remember the fateful day that Roe vs. Wade changed this country. To accommodate COVID-19 related restrictions this year, we will not be marching in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 29, 2021, but that does not mean we will be sidelined.

As we continue to accommodate COVID-related restrictions and other associated uncertainties in the coming months, the Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics has decided that, on a diocesan level, we will promote the March for Life 2021 as a virtual pilgrimage with local events, rather than a bus pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. on January 29, 2021. As we prepare to commemorate this day, we are seeking out those in our parish where, instead of sponsoring a bus, there may be interest in hosting alternative activities such as a few hours of Adoration, a parish commitment to pray. To assist us with planning and promoting events in our parish, please let us know if your group would like to organize a prayer event for "March for Life." We ask the leader of your group to please contact the rectory to schedule a prayer event in the church. We are happy to coordinate with you. Please visit our microsite www.DRVCMarchforLife.com.



**Before I
formed you in
the womb, I
knew you.
GOD**

Jeremiah 1:5

BB-BF-511

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. AIDAN SCHOOL

We are getting ready for the birth of Baby Jesus !

 *Away in the manger...*



ST. AIDAN'S "JUST WE TWO"

St. Aidan School will host a weekly "Just We Two" program for children between the ages of two and three years accompanied by his/her parent or caregiver.

The program will introduce your child to the idea of a school setting in a preschool classroom and allows bonding time for you and your child in a fun environment. There will be an age appropriate craft, free play, snack time (provided by parent for your own child), story and simple songs and finger plays. Please note, adults will be required to wear a mask. Limited space is available.

January 2021 Session:

Tuesdays 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

OR

Thursdays 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Tuesday and Thursday activities are the same - please only register for ONE day.

Begins: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 - May 25, 2021

Thursday, January 21, 2021 - May 27, 2021

Cost: \$150.00

Location: St. Aidan Convent~ 16 Pembroke Street Williston Park

If you are interested, please mail completed form and payment to Saint Aidan School

525 Willis Avenue Williston Park, NY 11596 Attn: Just We Two.

If you have any questions, please call us at 516-746-6585 ext. 202

or email dvitale5547@staidanschool.org.



JUST WE TWO PROGRAM JANUARY 2021 REGISTRATION SHEET

Please indicate

1st and 2nd and 3rd choice

Tuesday

____ 11:30-1:00

Thursday

____ 11:30-1:00

(Tuesday and Thursday activities are the same)

Child's Name

Child's Date of Birth:

Parents' Names

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Cell:

Person Attending Class with Child:

Relationship:

Phone:

If you would like to register for the Just We Two program please return completed form with check payable to St. Aidan School. Cost \$150.00.

Mail to Saint Aidan School Attn: Just We Two 525 Willis Avenue Williston Park, NY 11596

Thank you.

On-going Communication! FAITH FORMATION HAS ITS OWN PAGE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE: staidanparish.org/ff. Please visit this webpage throughout the year for updates and information.



2020-2021 School Year: Due to the current pandemic, the Faith Formation program is a blended program for the 2020-2021 school year, which includes children working at home under the direction of their parents supported by the Faith Formation Office plus small Church Gatherings where children will come together in the church while remaining socially distant. Children must be registered to participate. Children attending public schools are expected to participate in Religious Education classes every school year from grade 1 through grade 8. Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information.

Multisensory Religious Education: Children and Catechists assigned to Schedule "B" will meet on Thursday, January 7th at 4:30 or 5:45PM.

Reminder for Grades 7 and 8: Church Gathering homework project assignments were due on October 26th for grade 7 and November 2nd for 8th grade students. Please submit all overdue assignments as soon as possible. The first group of Confirmation Packet Projects and Mass Reflections are due on January 15th.

Attention Grade 2 Parents: The Second Church Gathering in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on Monday, January 4th and Tuesday, January 5th at 4PM and 6:30PM in the church. Please have your children attend the session on the day and at the time signed up for at registration. Please contact the Faith Formation Office regarding any concerns you may have. Children are expected to arrive on time. The session will last for one hour.

Attention Grade 3 Parents: There will be a Church Gathering for all registered 3rd grade children on Tuesday, January 12th and Wednesday, January 13th in the church at either 4PM or 6:30PM. Please have your child attend at the day and time that was selected at registration because attendance will be taken. Please call the Faith Formation Office with any questions and/or concerns you may have. Children are expected to arrive on time. The session will last for one hour.

Helpful Websites: During this time of pandemic precautions, the following websites may be helpful. Google.usccb.org (United States Catholic Conference of Bishops) which provides the Scripture

readings for Mass. Catholicmom.com, which ordinarily has many of the Mass worksheets made available to the children at the Family Mass, is providing videos and articles about how to celebrate the Faith at home in the "domestic church." Loyolapress.com and religion.sadlierconnect.com have some family activities and informative articles.

Contact Us: The Faith Formation Webpage includes direct contact information for each member of the Faith Formation Office Team. During this time of phasing into a more "normal" schedule, the office is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 6:30PM and on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only. Please contact us with your questions and concerns. We welcome your phone calls and emails during this challenging time. If you have paperwork to submit, there is a Drop Box outside the building for your convenience. If you want to stop by the office, please call ahead of time.

The Faith Formation Office wishes you a Holy, Healthy, Happy New Year!
Carolyn, Maryann, Jim, and Elaine

Grade 5 Church Gathering

The Mass and Sacraments



The “signs” of each sacrament were displayed and explained



The parts of the Mass were reviewed



**Each of us should
fully participate
during Mass**



During this time of transition, the Family Mass will continue to provide some limited materials each week. The Magnifikids magazines are available on a weekly basis along with the Children's Worship Bulletins for ages 3 to 7 and ages 7 to 12. They are located in the Children's Corner racks in the main lobby of the Church. Even if you are not yet returning to Mass due to pandemic concerns, these materials can be used at home. Take a few minutes to stop by the church to pick them up for home use. Please do not leave them in the church.

Today the church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The liturgical color is white, the church's color for the Christmas season. Each week, we have been focusing on a Word, Phrase, or Short Sentence of the Week to help link the gospel to family life. This week's Short Sentence of the Week is: **RECOGNIZE JESUS**. Put the Sentence of the Week on the refrigerator as a reminder throughout the week.

In today's Gospel story, St. Luke describes how Mary and Joseph, being devout Jews and new parents, fulfilled the requirements of the Jewish Law, by journeying to Jerusalem to make the prescribed offering in thanksgiving for their first-born son. Upon arriving at the temple, they were greeted by Simeon, an old man of the temple. Luke describes Simeon as one who was filled with the Holy Spirit. Before anything was said or done, Simeon recognized Jesus as the

Savior and openly declared this knowledge to his parents, who were surprised by what Simeon knew. Simeon even foretold the suffering Mary would endure because of the destiny of her Son. An old woman of the temple, Anna, also recognized Jesus' identity as the One who would redeem Jerusalem. At the end of the story, we are told that the Holy Family returned to Nazareth and that Jesus grew up in the "wisdom" and "favor" of God. The gospel story doesn't tell us anything else about Jesus as a child until the Passover story when Jesus was a young teen. Even though there are no exact accounts of Jesus' early years growing up in His human family, we know that growing up in the favor of God would imply growing up in harmony and inner peace. We also know that the Holy Family was not part of the rich or upper class among society of that time. They were a hard-working family, who knew God and grew in relationship with God as time progressed.

Children are surprised to learn that life in Jesus' time was quite primitive compared to today. There were no modern conveniences! What we do know and can learn by the example of the Holy Family is that regardless of external forces that try to prey upon a family, the family should be held together by the deep love, respect, and generosity each family member has for other family members. There was also an appreciation for life and for the community. The people didn't take life for granted especially since the Jewish people were not a free people. Throughout history, the Jews were made subject to other civilizations. We can be certain that life for the

Holy Family had its challenges but these challenges did not defeat them because they recognized God in their midst.

Helping children to **RECOGNIZE JESUS** is extremely important. With younger children, giving them good example is imperative. The expression, "Children learn what they live" is so true. Young children need to be given both reminders and opportunities to put others first because Jesus is in them. Since their contacts are limited, recognizing Jesus starts within the family and eventually branches out to others. Any Acts of Kindness activities within the family help to provide both the stimulus and the reinforcement for this effort. Older children need to be given opportunities to consciously serve others in the family without a huge reward being the goal. Selfless love blooms in the family. Enjoy growing that garden of love that will last forever. This week, as a family, clean out some of the old toys and other items so make room for the Christmas gifts that will need to be put away. Encouraging sharing within the family unit is probably the best and most consistent way to **RECOGNIZE JESUS**.

New Year's Day is the holyday of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The church honors Mary as the Theotokos, Greek for God-Bearer. The Church honors her as our spiritual mother as well. If possible, attend Mass. Pray as a family that each family member recognize that through our Baptism, we all carry Jesus within us. Let His Light shine through us to others. The Family Mass wishes you a Happy New Year 2021!



www.cffor.org

2020 Ends: With No End to
Discrimination Against Religious
Freedom

"Of course, there are dangers in religious freedom and freedom of opinion. But to deny these rights is worse than dangerous, it is absolutely fatal to liberty."

President Harry S. Truman

San Francisco, CA: As new restrictions are imposed on churches that will now ban indoor worship services in some counties, Abp. Salvatore Cordileone said, "Worship is both a natural and a Constitutional right. My people want to receive the Body and Blood of Christ; they need it, and have every right to be free to do so." (1) The new health order treats religious worship as a "non-essential" activity, while allowing hair & nail salons, massage parlors, and tattoo parlors to remain open. The Archbishop criticized the government for "demoting worship" and further said, "But the government still chooses to treat worship as less important than shopping for shoes." (2)

However, in May, 2020, Pres. Trump said, "Today, I am identifying houses of worship, churches, synagogues, and mosques, as essential places that provide essential services." (3)

Mississippi: A 3rd grade girl was banned from wearing her "Jesus Loves Me" mask even though "Other students within the school district have freely worn masks with logos of sports teams

or even the words 'Black Lives Matter,'" said an Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorney. (4) School administrators forced her to remove the mask because it had a "religious message." (5)

The school's action was a clear violation of the U.S. Department of Education's Guidance on students' religious freedom which states: "Students may display religious messages on items of clothing to the same extent that they are permitted to display other comparable messages." (6)

"Public schools have a duty to respect the free expression of students that the First Amendment guarantees to them. ... No public school student should be singled out for peacefully sharing her religious beliefs with fellow students," said ADF counsel. (7)

Kentucky: A Federal Appeals Court recently overturned a lower court's decision that declared Gov. Andy Beshear cannot order private religious schools to stop in-person instruction to prevent the spread of Covid-19. This lower court (U.S. District judge) said the First Amendment protects religious schools' right to make decisions without government interference. "If social distancing is good enough for offices, colleges, and universities within the Commonwealth, it is good enough for religious K-12 schools that benefit from Constitutional protections." (8) However, the new ruling from the Federal Appeals Court stated, "We are not in a position to second-guess the governor's determination regarding the health & safety of the Commonwealth at this point in time." (9) thereby denying First Amendment protections to religious schools.

The Kentucky Attorney General who supports First Amendment protections, said, "...we're already hard at work to

take this matter to the U.S. Supreme Court." (10)
(wpsdlocal.com, 11/27/20(8);
courierjournal.com, 11/29/20(9)(10);
cna.com, 11/28/20(1)(2); nypost.com,
5/22/20(3);
pjmedia.com, 11/5/20(4)(7);
gogateways.org, 11/18/20(5)(6)

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves. – William Pitt



The Feast of the Holy Family In the Readings for the Sunday after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family and family life. This is timely and appropriate because Christmas is, or should be, a family celebration. It began with the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph becoming parents, rounding out their household into a family. This is the perfect model for our family culture. In the First Reading, from the Book of Sirach (3:2

14), Sirach, the sage, gives us his concept of the ideal family with all the responsibilities, as well as, the honors and benefits that are bestowed on each member. In modern society, we have a tendency to overlook the responsibility that each member of a family has to all the other members regardless of age. That is why we have so many families falling apart. They are not pulling together because parents are not teaching the importance of "family life" and children, as soon as they are able, break away to follow their own interests instead of the interests of the family. Parents should read and teach

this passage of scripture to the children for the betterment of the entire family. In the Responsorial Psalm (128:1-5), the psalmist picks up the same theme of family life and blesses those who "walk in the way of the Lord." This subject is so important to the Lord and to the people of the Old Testament that it is repeated in Proverbs (31:10-31). The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians (3:12-21). In this passage, Paul gives us his thoughts on the ideal family and Christian life in general. This is just as true and applicable today as it was then. However, many women get upset with a certain phrase within this beautiful section of Paul's Letter and dismiss the entire passage. Please take a moment to listen to what Paul is really saying: If we are truly Christians, with Christ living within us, then authority over, or responsibility to, should be a matter of "Love" not only within families, but toward everyone. In the Gospel Reading from the Gospel of Luke (2:22 – 40). In this passage we have three separate stories surrounding the dedication of the Child Jesus to God in accordance with the Mosaic Law and culture. Although Jesus was God and Joseph and Mary knew He was special in the eyes of God they were obedient to the Law and custom of their time. Simeon and Anna the prophetess recognized that something was special about this child and his family and without hesitating they attributed that to the goodness of God. We, today, should learn a lesson from this passage and also recognize how special this family is and accept them as a role model for our family. Although Advent, a time of soul-searching and preparation, of waiting and hoping, of examining our hearts and actions to see if they conform to what God expects of us is over, we should not stop the process at the end of Advent. Examining our lives as

individuals and as a member of a family should be a daily event (as part of our Prayer Time) to see if we are in tune with what God wants from us. Why not consider, perhaps as a New Year's resolution, to have a weekly Family Prayer Meeting where at least one member of the family reads from the Bible and then all share their understanding of that passage. Something to think about during your prayer time this week!



I hope you had a merry and blessed Christmas, and now, welcome to the Christmas Season.

Yes, the real Christmas Season. In the secular world, the Christmas season now seems to begin right after Halloween, which means that other than the parade and a big meal, it even almost omits Thanksgiving, going right into Black Friday and all the other colored days of targeted sales. Then it ends on December 26, when all the winners of the ugly sweater contests take them back and exchange them. And the world forgets the gift of peace God gave us 2000 years ago. But in the Roman Catholic Church, among others, the liturgical season of Christmas only begins on December 25 and lasts much longer!

As the USCCB explains, "The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with

him... including the fact that he was born to die for us."

The latest that the Baptism of the Lord can occur is January 13. The season of Ordinary Time starts on the day after this feast. This means that the liturgical Christmas season runs roughly from December 25 to the middle of January. And since Christmas is such a joyful Season, the days are filled with special liturgical celebrations, some closely related to the biblical accounts of Jesus' birth, others commemorating seemingly unrelated saints, even including some martyrs. Some of these are celebrated on fixed dates on the calendar, others are always on Sundays, and therefore have different dates each year. Occasionally, one of the moveable feasts replaces a fixed feast, since they are celebrations of a higher order. Here is the official list:

Dec. 26 - The Feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr

Dec. 27 - The Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Dec. 28 - The Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

Sunday after Dec. 25 - The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (transferred to Dec. 30 if the Sunday is Jan. 1)

Jan. 1 - The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God (always on New Year's Day, the Octave Day of Christmas, which takes precedence over the Feast of the Holy Family)

Jan. 6 or the Sunday after Jan. 1 - The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (traditionally Jan. 6; but in some countries, such as the USA, it is now transferred to the first Sunday after New Year's Day)

Sunday after Jan. 6 - The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (transferred to Monday, Jan. 8 or 9, if Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday Jan. 7 or 8, respectively, in certain years.

Less important "Memorials" or "Optional Memorials" of certain saints

may also be celebrated, but are omitted in years when their dates fall on a Sunday or on one of the moveable "solemnities" or "feasts" listed above:

- Dec. 29 - St. Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr
- Dec. 31 - St. Sylvester I, pope
- Jan. 2 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church
- Jan. 3 - Holy Name of Jesus
- Jan. 4 (in USA) - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious
- Jan. 5 (in USA) - St. John Neumann, bishop
- Jan. 6 (in USA) - Bl. André Bessette, religious
- Jan. 7 - St. Raymond of Peñafort, priest

So what does this mean for us this year? Because they are moveable feasts taking preference, and the first Sunday after Christmas is December 27, we will celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, rather than that of St. John the Apostle. The next Sunday, as required by the rubric for the Catholic Church in America, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany and not the Holy Name of Jesus. Then on January

10, the feast of the baptism of the Lord will close the official Christmas Season. But there's more. Christmas is a beautiful season in the Catholic Church, one that doesn't end on December 26, or even in mid-January, but can be extended as far as February. In much of Europe, the Christmas Season was traditionally celebrated beginning with Christmas Day and continued on from there. In the Middle Ages, this period was one of continuous feasting and merrymaking, climaxing on Twelfth Night, January 6, the traditional Epiphany, and the traditional end of the Christmas season which was solidified in popular culture when Shakespeare used it as the setting for one of his most famous plays, Twelfth Night. Later, the well-known song The Twelve Days of Christmas was written to celebrate the same period. The carol dates to at least 18th-century England, as a game sung by British children. In the game, players had to remember all of the previous verses and add a new verse at the end.

But another theory suggests an older origin, connecting the carol to the era when Catholicism was officially outlawed in England, from 1558 until

1829. The carol, it is said, was a coded catechism song for Catholics to learn the tenets of their faith which they could not openly practice at the time. While there is no proof of this, the theory ties the numbers in the verses to the Catholic faith as follows:
A Partridge in a Pear Tree - Jesus Christ
Two Turtle Doves - The Old and New Testaments
Three French Hens - The three virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
Four Calling Birds - Four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
Five Golden Rings - First five books of the Old Testament
Six Geese-a-Laying - Six days of creation before God's rest on the seventh day
Seven Swans-a-Swimming - Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
Eight Maids-a-Milking - Eight Beatitudes
Nine Ladies Dancing - Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit
Ten Lords-a-Leaping - Ten Commandments
Eleven Pipers Piping - Eleven faithful apostles
Twelve Drummers Drumming - Twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed
So popular was the season that in practice, the historical Christmas cycle was extended beyond Twelfth Night, and even past the Baptism of the Lord. Traditionally the feast of Candlemas (the Presentation of the Lord) which occurs on February 2, was used to mark the conclusion of the "Christmas cycle." So we will end the traditional Christmas cycle while the local weathermen are waiting for Punxsutawney Phil to tell us when winter will end. And as a final thought, there is no reason for us to limit the peace promised to us on the first Christmas to just this season. We do not have ten lords-a-leaping. We have one Lord lying in a manger. Let us extend the Christmas Season remembering that gift all year.

Saint Thomas Becket

Bishop and Martyr

DATES: 1118-1170

FEAST DAY: DECEMBER 29

A London-born clerk to Archbishop Theobald of Canterbury, Thomas studied canon law abroad and was ordained a deacon. His support of Henry II's claim to England's throne led to his appointment as royal chancellor. He was the king's great friend until 1162, when, as the new archbishop of Canterbury, he said he changed from being "a patron of play-actors and a follower of hounds, to being a shepherd of souls." He and the king clashed over many issues, notably the jurisdiction of ecclesiastical courts. Thomas fled to France for six years; soon after his return, Henry's wish to be rid of this troublesome prelate led to Thomas' murder by four knights. This medieval martyr starred in two modern plays: Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" and Anouilh's "Becket."

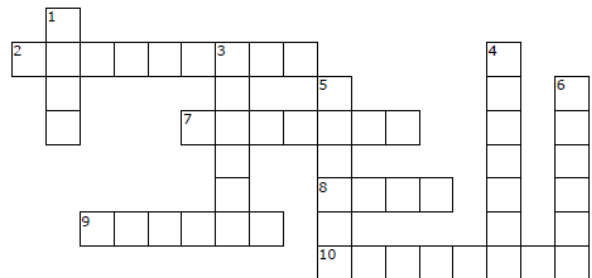


J O H I S R A E L D D L E F J
 J M I A A P E H L O E O O M K
 B R P W L H Z V V I I V V C K
 K I K R V J P B E C G Z O E C
 L G Y T A L S I Z A O H H U S
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 P L I P P R O M I S E D E J P
 B B C C K Z M A R Y P Y R P U
 R O E M V M C H I L D P N O H



Simeon and Anna Thank God
 Luke 2

SPIRIT	RIGHTEOUS	PRAISED	COURTS	TEMPLE
CHILD	DEVOUT	LIGHT	JOSEPH	JESUS
PARENTS	SALVATION	ISRAEL	REVEALED	PIGEONS
SIMEON	PROMISED	DOVES	SACRIFICE	MARY



ACROSS

2. Deliverance from the penalty of sin
7. Something you said that you would do
8. The organs for seeing in the faces of humans and animals
9. A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship
10. The town where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived

DOWN

1. The mother of Jesus
3. The homeland of the Jewish people
4. A person who is not Jewish
5. The man who was promised he would not die until he had seen the Messiah
6. The earthly father of Jesus

TEMPLE	SALVATION	MARY	NAZARETH	ISRAEL
SIMEON	JOSEPH	GENTILE	PROMISE	EYES

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 27, 2020

LEARN

FORMED NOW! WHO IS SAINT STEPHEN?

This past week, we celebrated the life of St. Stephen, heroic leader of the early Church. Join Dr. Gray and Dr. Barber as they discuss the first Christian martyr.



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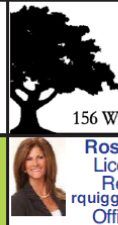


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