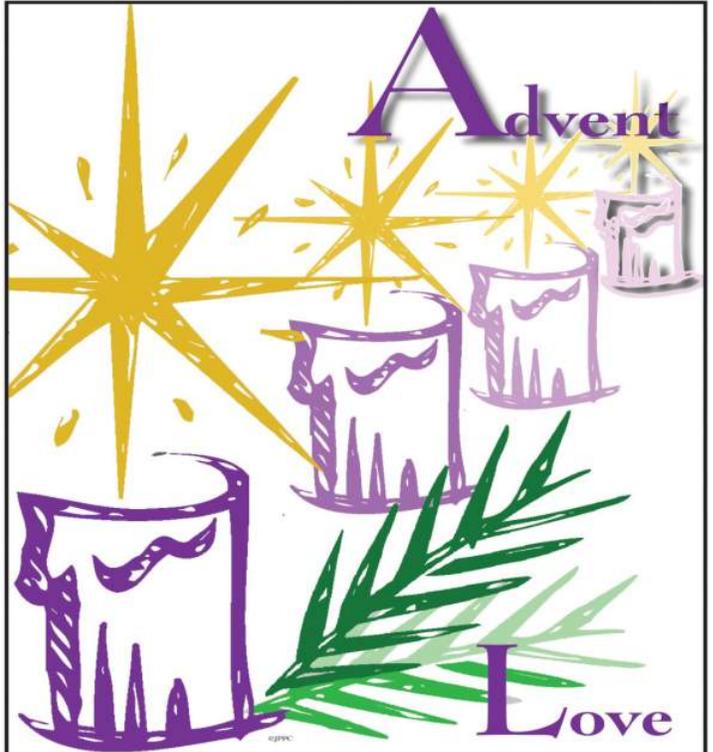
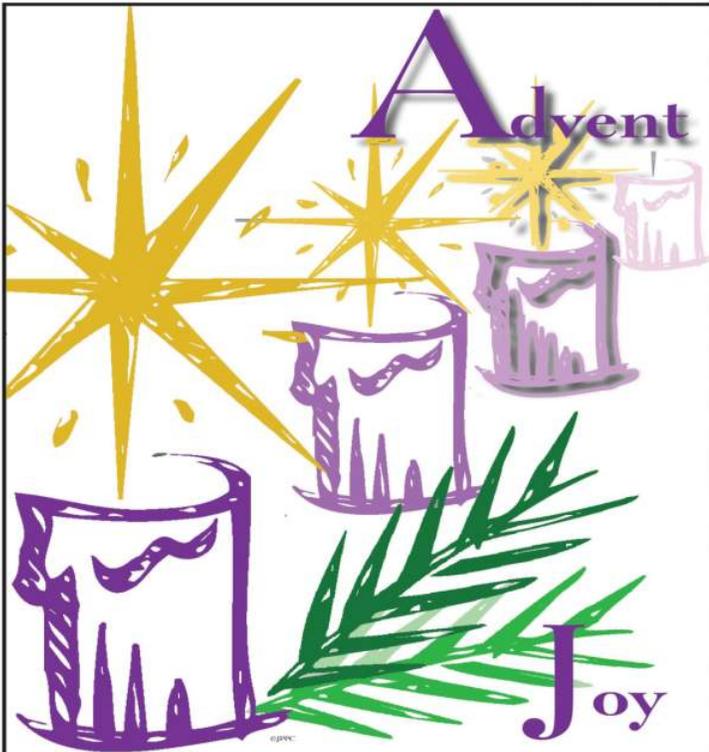
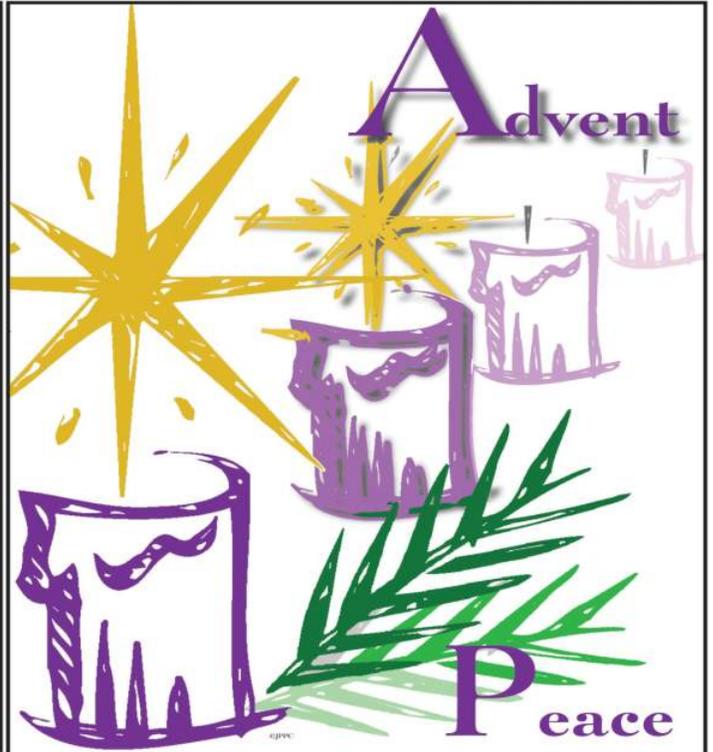


SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES
EXTON, PENNSYLVANIA
December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Saints Philip and James Parish

Exton, PA

December 21, 2025



Sunday Mass Schedule

Vigil: 4:00 pm

8:30, 10:30AM, 12N & 5:30PM

Monday through Saturday

Holy Mass 8:30AM

Holy Days of Obligation Monday - Friday

7 PM Vigil,

6:30, 8:30 AM, 12 Noon, 5:30, 7:00 PM

Parish Clergy

Rev. Anthony R. Hangholt, Pastor

Rev. James W. Cassidy, O.S.A., *in residence*

Weekend Assistance

Rev. Christopher J. Drennen, O.S.A. *Malvern Prep*

Rev. Francis J. Sabatini, Pastor Emeritus

St. Lucy Parish, Phila.

Parish Staff

Mrs. Barbara A. Doyle

Parish Office Manager

Mr. Michael McCafferty

Business Manager

Mrs. Carmel Kropp

Coordinator of Liturgy Services

Saints Philip & James Rectory

107 North Ship Road Exton, PA 19341

Phone: 610 363 6536 • www.sspj.net

Rectory Hours Monday thru Thursday 9AM—5PM

Closed 12N - 1PM

Saints Philip & James School

Pre-K, K, Grades 1–8: 610 363 6530

Sister Teresa Ballisty, IHM, *Principal*

Parish Religious Education

Sister Marie Garman, IHM, *Director*

Office: 610 363 1307

Christian Initiation (formerly RCIA)

Mrs. Marie Romano

484-433-9401

CYO Information

cyo.sspj.net

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Savior.

COMMUNION: The Virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel..

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday December 20, 2025
4:00 PM Martha Kushner

Sunday December 21, 2025
8:30 AM Rita Shahou
10:30 AM Bridget Todd
12:00 PM Maureen Miller
5:30 PM George & Betty Zatscha

Monday December 22, 2025
6:30 AM Francis Duma D'sa
8:30 AM Ruggeri/Piasecki Families
7:00 PM Parish Advent Penance Service

Tuesday December 23, 2025
No 6:30 AM
8:30 AM Special Intention (L)

Wednesday December 24, 2025
NO AM Masses
Vigil Masses 4:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 11:00 PM
TICKETS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR ANY MASSES

Thursday, December 25 Christmas Day
8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NOON

Friday December 26, 2025
No 6:30 AM
8:30 AM Theresa Hanley

Saturday December 27, 2025
8:30 AM Francis Judge
4:00 PM The Menezes & Lopes Failies (L)

Sunday December 28, 2025
8:30 AM Richard Mancuso
10:30 AM Rose Ruggeri
12:00 PM Patricia Ann Cahill
5:30 PM Nancy Lewis




St. Mary's Chapel is open for adoration of the Exposed Most Blessed Sacrament. Monday through Friday 9-7
Sign up sheets are available at the entrance to the chapel.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday 7 PM to 8PM, Saturday 3PM to 4PM
Sunday 8 AM—8:30AM

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

please pray for the sick

Thomas Melvin, Baby Calvin, Martin Flaherty, Lily Walker, Joseph McCormick, MaryAnn Harkins, Tracy Peacock, John Coyne, Bridget Dougherty, Sherri Lane, Bill Oxenford, Mason Ellingsworth, Lori Mergen, Kellen Leister, Linda Gardner, Dante Danilshenko, Susan Mousley, Bernadette Fattal, Kristin Schmitz, Deborah Elliott, Brandon Wack, Karen Wack, Jeff Wack, Ryan Wack, Michael Maguire, Karen Mary Portella, Fredericka DeFlaviis, Bradley Gramling, Arthur Romano, Debbie Ludwig, Erik Elken, Patrick Baker, Jim Santoro, Kole Sample, Gregory Petry, James DeFrances, Paula Slemmer, Sue Kushner, Don & Mave McKeen, Walt, Joan Delaney.



Pray for the safety of those serving Our Country: Matthew Kleponis, Brent Grafmuller, Cole Iannarino, Connor Iannarino, Christopher Iannarino, Timothy Iannarino, Matthew Boland, Liam Hansen, Daniel DiLuigi, Matthew Green, James Green, Michael Gorr, Andrew Gorr, Nick Lusi, Erik Salem Reed, Andrew C. Hagerty.

Please call the rectory if you would like a family members name added/removed to either list. Thank you.



Please remember all our deceased benefactors in your prayers especially Phil Mullen.

“Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are.” St John Chrysostom



Sacrament of Matrimony
Couples must make arrangements to meet with a priest at least six months in advance. The next Pre-Cana will be **March 2026**. For more info or to register call 610-363-6536.



Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated the Second & Fourth Sundays of most months at **1:00 PM** in the Church. Please contact the Rectory for the Baptism Forms.

Baptismal Instruction The next scheduled class is **March 15, 2026** at 10:00 AM in the Rectory Meeting Room. Call Rectory to register 610-363-6536.

Dear Parish Family,

As we stand on the threshold of Christmas, my heart is filled with deep gratitude and joy. This Christmas is especially meaningful for me, as it is my **first Christmas celebrating with you as your pastor**. In these first months together, you have welcomed me with such kindness, generosity, and faith. I truly feel at home among you, and I thank God daily for the gift of being your priest and shepherd.

Throughout this Advent season, I have been **overwhelmed—in the very best sense—by your participation and generosity**. Our Advent Giving Tree was a powerful sign of the love alive in this parish. The many tags taken, the gifts returned, and the quiet sacrifices made for children, families, and those in need speak louder than words. You have lived Advent not only as a season of waiting, but as a season of loving. The many other Advent events—prayer opportunities, devotions, gatherings, and acts of charity—revealed a parish eager to prepare room for Christ. Thank you for showing so clearly what it means to be the Body of Christ.

I have also been deeply moved by the beauty of our neighborhoods during this holy season. As I've driven through the parish, I've seen homes glowing with lights, Nativity scenes reverently displayed, and streets transformed into signs of joy and hope. These decorations are more than festive; they are small proclamations of faith, reminders to all who pass by that **the Light has come into the world**. In a time when darkness can feel close at hand, such beauty quietly preaches the Gospel.

One of my favorite musical expressions of the mystery we celebrate at Christmas is the beloved Italian hymn **“Tu scendi dalle stelle,”** written by **Saint Alphonsus Liguori** in the 18th century. Saint Alphonsus wanted to write a song that ordinary people could sing, one that expressed both the tenderness and the shocking humility of the Incarnation. In the hymn, he contemplates the Christ Child lying in the cold of the manger and sings these piercing words:

*“Io ti vedo tremar qui, o Dio beato!
Ah, quanto ti costò l'avermi amato!”*

**“I see you trembling here, O blessed God!
Oh, how much it cost you, you loving me.”**

Those lines stop me every time. Christmas is not sentimental nostalgia; it is **costly love**. God chooses vulnerability. God chooses poverty. God chooses the cold of the night so that we might know the warmth of His mercy. As we gaze upon the manger this Christmas, may we allow ourselves to be humbled by that love—and changed by it.

As we approach the great celebrations of **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**, I want to gently remind us all that these are days when our church will be especially full. Crowds, parking challenges, and longer lines are signs of blessing, even if they test our patience. I ask you to **go out of your way to welcome those who are visiting us**—family members, returning Catholics, neighbors, and those who may not come often. A smile, a kind word, an offer of help finding a seat can become an unexpected moment of grace. For some, this Christmas Mass may be a first step home.

Finally, I extend to you a **very Merry Christmas** on behalf of **all our clergy**, the **Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** who live in our convent and minister so faithfully in our parish, and our **dedicated parish staff**. We are honored to serve you, and we are grateful for your prayers, encouragement, and love.

May the Christ who descends from the stars find a dwelling place in your hearts and homes. May His peace rest upon your families. And may this holy season remind us once again **how deeply—and how costly—we are loved**.

With gratitude and joy in Christ,
Father Anthony

Prior to the 8 PM Christmas Eve Mass, beginning at 7:30 PM there will be a Tableau presented by the PREP Children. In light of this beautiful presentation, we ask you to please enter the church in silence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Christmas 2025 Schedule:

Parish Advent Penance Service Monday, December 22 @ 7:00 PM

**Christmas Eve Masses Wednesday, December 24
NO AM Masses**

**Vigil Masses 4:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 11:00 PM
TICKETS WILL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR ANY MASSES**

**Christmas Day Masses Thursday, December 25
8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 NOON**

Examination of Conscience

1. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD. YOU SHALL NOT HAVE STRANGE GODS BEFORE ME.

Do I give God time every day in prayer?
Do I seek to love Him with my whole heart?
Have I been involved in witchcraft, superstition or black magic?
Have I received Communion in a state of mortal sin?
Have I deliberately told a lie in Confession or withheld a mortal sin in Confession?

2. YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD IN VAIN.

Did I curse or swear? Did I use God's name in vain, lightly, carelessly, by blasphemy?
Have I wished evil upon another person?
Have I been angry with God and stayed in that state of anger?
Have I insulted a sacred person or abused a sacred object?

3. REMEMBER TO KEEP HOLY THE LORD'S DAY.

Have I deliberately missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days of obligation?
Did I receive Holy Communion in the state of serious (mortal) sin?
Have I tried to observe Sunday as a family day and a day of rest? Do I get enough rest or am I constantly running?
Do I do needless work on Sunday?

4. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER.

Do I honor and obey my parents? Am I respectful towards them?
Have I neglected my duties to my spouse and children?
Have I given my family good religious example and try to bring peace into the home?
Do I care for my aged and infirmed relatives?

5. YOU SHALL NOT KILL.

Have I had an abortion or encouraged anyone to have an abortion?
Have I mutilated myself through any form of sterilization? Have I encouraged or condoned sterilization?
Have I harbored anger or resentment or hatred in my heart?
Have I physically harmed anyone? Have I driven recklessly (too fast, showing off, etc.)?
Have I abused alcohol or drugs?
Have I hurt myself through cutting, scratching, or in any other way?

6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.

Have I been faithful to my marriage vows in thought and action? Have I engaged in any sexual activity outside of marriage?
Has each sexual act in my marriage been open to the transmission of new life?
Have I engaged in any type of sexual activity (intercourse, oral sex, inappropriate touching, mutual masturbation)?
Have I been guilty of masturbation? Have I entertained lustful thoughts?
Have I been guilty of any homosexual activity?
Do I seek to be chaste in my thoughts, words, and actions?
Was I "immodest" in the way I dressed, acted or spoke (leading others to arousal)?
Are my words, texts and photos on Facebook and/or other social media sites sexually charged?
Did I look at pornography or visit chat rooms that were inappropriate?

7. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.

Have I stolen what is not mine?
Have I returned or made restitution for what I have stolen?
Did I waste time at work (which is really stealing from the company)?
Do I gamble excessively, thereby denying my family of their needs?
Do I seek to share what I have with the poor?

8. YOU SHALL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR.

Have I lied? Have I gossiped? Have I spoken behind someone else's back?
Do I always tell the truth? Did I reveal secrets that should have been kept confidential?
Am I sincere in my dealings with others?
Am I critical, negative, or uncharitable in my thoughts of others?
Do I keep secret what should be kept confidential?
Is what I write in my emails, IM's, text messages or on any social media sites true about myself or others?

9. YOU SHALL NOT DESIRE YOUR NEIGHBOR'S WIFE.

Have I consented to impure thoughts?
Have I caused impure thoughts by impure reading, movies, conversations or curiosity?
Do I seek to control my imagination?
Do I pray at once to banish impure thoughts and temptations?

10. YOU SHALL NOT DESIRE YOUR NEIGHBOR'S GOODS.

Am I jealous of what other people have? Do I envy the families or possessions of others?
Am I greedy or selfish? Are material possessions the purpose of my life?



CELEBRANT SCHEDULE 2025
December 27/28, 2025

4:00 PM Fr. Cassidy
8:30 AM Fr. Sabatini
10:30 AM Fr. Anthony
12:00 PM Fr. Groark
5:30 PM Fr. Drennen



SSPJ Helping Hands Volunteers

A hand is here for the asking! We are a volunteer group and ready to help our fellow parishioners with temporary needs. We make meals, visit, drive for errands and doctor appointments, groceries, and church. Ask if you think we can lend a helping hand or if you would like to join our volunteer group.

For more info contact Joe Mayo 484-341-3007. HelpingHands.sspj@gmail.com

Stewardship Update

**Thank you for your
generous Support of
SSPJ Parish**

Bethesda Project – A Social Outreach

The SS. Philip and James parish family continues to provide on-going support of the Bethesda Project. This is a program which provides emergency shelters, transitional and long-term housing for Philadelphia's homeless population.

By way of explanation, one ministry of the Bethesda Project is in constant need of useable towels, toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.), men's new underwear (sizes M, L and XL) and twin flat white sheets. These items allow the homeless to shower, freshen up and change into clean undergarments. It gives them a fresh start and lends dignity to their person.

If you would like to participate, donations of the listed items can be placed in the designated container found in the church vestibule. Contact Lou Ruggeri (484-889-5239) for more info.

ADULT GROUP
WEDNESDAY, January 21
11:30 AM
RECTORY MEETING ROOM

**COME FOR FELLOWSHIP,
BINGO, BRIDGE,
PINOCHLE, CANASTA, etc.**

**Feel free to bring a friend!
Lunch will be provided**

BINGO

10	18	40	53	74
3	23	37	55	70
15	24	★	51	62
5	30	43	54	65
1	28	33	58	67

**Registration for
New Families**



We want you to be a part of our Parish Family! Whether you are a returning Catholic, a newcomer to the area, or someone with an interest in the Catholic faith, we want to welcome you to our Church home. Stop in our Rectory Office Monday thru Thursday 9-5 closed 12-1.

Moving On? Please let the rectory know if you are moving out of SSPJ Parish, so we can remove you from our registry.

BINGO

Every Monday
From 11:30 AM Until 3:00 PM

Doors open at 10:00 AM
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Contact Mike Reitman
genereitman@gmail.com



Contact Jim Evans
jim8646@comcast.net

There is a binder on the **Offertory Gifts** table near the Baptismal Font. We encourage individuals and/or families to sign up to present the Gifts. The calendar is prepared until the end of the year. Thank you in advance for your participation in this beautiful part of the Mass.

Jesus is calling YOU!

Grow in your faith through FORMED - a great resource to access powerful and informative religious programming.

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion honors the truth that Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin which prepared her to be the Mother of God.

As we get closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, we can utilize **FORMED** to access meaningful holiday programming. The series *The True Meaning of Christmas with Dr. Michael Barber* provides information about biblical accounts of Jesus' birth and the development of the Christmas season. Children can learn about the meaning of Christmas through *The Story of Christmas - Benjamin Cello Christmas Special*.

To register: Enter FORMED.org in your browser; select FIND YOUR PARISH SUBSCRIPTION; enter Zip Code 19341; select SSPJ, then enter your name and email address. Your login is your email address; no password is needed.

Pray the Stations of the Cross

Join us as the Exton Knights of Columbus will be Praying the Stations of the Cross on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month at Saints Philip and James. We will be gathering in the front of the church on the Mary's side after the 8:30 Mass to remember the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please join us as we walk through all 14 Stations and remember Christ's Passion and his love for us.

SSPJ Men's Group

This is an open invitation to join us on the first and third Wednesday evening of each month. We strive to know God as a loving Father, and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, Scripture, Catholic video content, and discussion. We meet in the Rectory meeting room from 7:00 to 8:30PM. About once each quarter, we gather at a local watering hole for fellowship. Contact Bob 610) 574-5131 or Nick (248) 520-3214 for more info.

Christian Initiation of Adults

"Thirsting for God?"

Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition, who is searching for what it means to become Catholic?

Do you know someone already Catholic but, who has not yet received Confirmation & Eucharist? They may be searching also!

Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly RCIA) is a place to ask questions and seek understanding. Weekly sessions will begin again in September. Please contact Marie (marieromano@verizon.net) 484-433-9401.



COME CHECK US OUT!

There's something for everyone!

SSPJ'S THRIFT SHOP HOURS

Thursday 3:30 to 7:00 pm
Saturday – 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday—1:00 pm- 4:00 pm

Cash only
Thank you.

610-363-6530
x560



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Sunbathing season ... just a distant memory? Rest assured, all is not lost. You can now take in some "spiritual sunbathing"! There is nothing better than taking in the warmth of the grace and love radiating from the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Thank you St. John Vianney for the metaphor of "spiritual sunbathing". To give it a try for an hour, please contact Patty Callan at 484-467-8807 pacallan@comcast.net.



Saints Philip and James Prayer Shawl group will meet on **Friday, January 9 @ 9AM** in the rectory meeting room.

All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join the group. If you have any questions please call Kathy at 610 363 1720 or kpenderghest@verizon.net (We are no longer accepting yarn and projects can be worked on at home)

Spiritual Direction

Companions for the Journey Spiritual Direction is the contemplative practice of helping others to awaken to the mystery of God in their lives. Even more so in these unprecedented times, our need for our personal connection to God is vital.

The Spiritual Direction Ministry at the Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA offers trained and experienced Spiritual Directors for those seeking to revitalize their relationship with God and for those who want to deepen their spiritual lives. In person, virtual and phone meetings available.

For more information on how this ministry can enrich your life, contact Daylesford Abbey at 610-647-2530 ext. 1020 or at spiritualdirector@daylesford.org.

DAYLESFORD
A B B E Y

All Bulletin Announcements need to be to the rectory by Monday -12 noon for the upcoming weekend. Please have all bulletin announcements for January 4 to the Rectory by December 22.

Wishing a
Merry Christmas
to you and yours!

*Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth,
peace and goodwill towards men. – Luke 2:14*

*From all of us at
Saints Philip and
James School*



CHRISTMAS Nativity Scene Word Search



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



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SHEPHERD'S STAFF
ANGEL CHOIR
BETHLEHEM TOWN
STAR OF DAVID
HOLY FAMILY

VIRGIN MARY
STABLE ANIMALS
WISE MEN GIFTS
GOLDEN FRANKINCENSE
DONKEY'S STALL
GUIDING STAR
SACRED NIGHT

JOSEPH'S JOURNEY
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CHRISTMAS MIRACLE
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Bus: 610-889-0909

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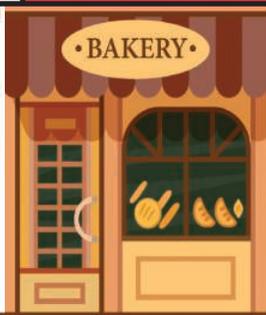
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