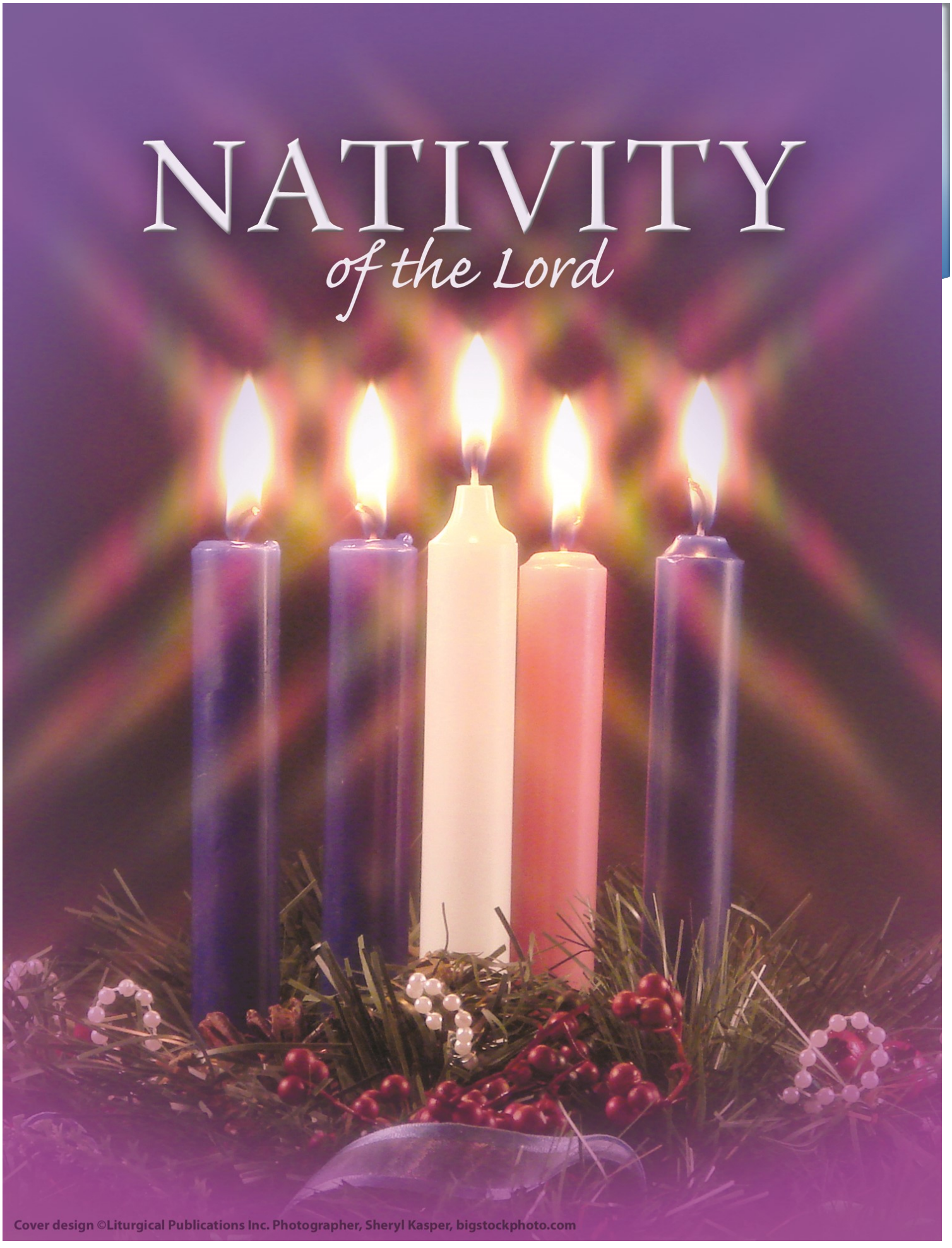
NATIVITY
of the Lord



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Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto Parish
PRAYER FOR PARISH SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Lord God, You love us with an everlasting love, and You choose us to share Your love with others. We ask that You rekindle in our hearts a new spirit of faith, of prayer and of reconciliation. Inspire us to search out and find ways of bringing one another closer to You. We pray for all who form our parish community, that we remain faithful to Your teaching, that we remain steadfast in our prayer, both personal and communal, that together with You and the Holy Spirit, our parish may be renewed and transformed. All this we ask in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Please cut out and pray daily.

May the miracle of Christ's birth bring joy to you and yours this Blessed Season!

Merry Christmas from Msgr. Pedone, Deacon Gerry, Deacon Don and all the staff from our parish.

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S EVE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31ST
MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 4:00 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1, 2023
MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As we gather with our loved ones to celebrate the great feast of Christmas, let us remember that on this most holy day, God enters human history in a stable in a village the world doesn't notice. In a humble stable, the love of God becomes human; from that stable, the light of that love illuminates every stable where God's compassion and forgiveness and justice dwells. May this day be the beginning of Christmas in every season in our stables; may God be born again and again within our homes and hearths.

In my name, and that of Deacon Gerry and Deacon Don and the entire parish staff, we wish you a blessed Christmas!

MONSIGNOR PEDONE

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

ALSO, THERE WILL BE NO 7:00 AM MASS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.

A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY TO EVERYONE!

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Bishop McManus invites baptized, already catechized Roman Catholic adults, 18 years of age and older, and have not been previously confirmed to request this sacrament that will be celebrated at St. Paul Cathedral on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at 3:00 PM. If you are interested, please see Monsignor Pedone

A Christmas Letter from Jesus….

When you look for me at Christmas, you won't need a special star.
I'm no longer in Bethlehem, I'm right here where you are.
You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, to close your eyes, and say a prayer, I'm waiting here for you.
You're the one I want to be with.
You're the reason that I came!
And you'll find me in the stillness, where I'm whispering your name.

The Nativity of the Lord

The word **"NATIVITY"** comes from the Latin word "nativis" meaning birth. Over the years the word nativity has taken on the meaning of the account of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Today the Church celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ, the first day in the octave of Christmas. Throughout Advent the Church longed ardently for the coming of our Savior. Today she celebrates His birth with unrestrained joy.

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

The Son of God became man to give us a share in that divine life which is eternally His in the Blessed Trinity. Christmas time begins on December 24 with the first Vespers of the feast and ends on the feast of the Baptism of Christ. White vestments reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.

The Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us. The longings of the patriarchs and prophets are fulfilled. With the shepherds we hurry to the manger and adore the Incarnate Son of God, who for us and for our salvation descended upon earth.

The purpose of the Christmas feast is beautifully expressed in the **Preface of the Nativity**:

"For by the mystery of the Word made flesh the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind; so that while we acknowledge Him, a God seen by men, we may be drawn by Him to the love of things unseen."

Joy to the world, the Lord has come,
let earth receive her King!!!

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD, CHRISTMAS

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us…" (John 1:14) God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

Giving Trees 2022:

Thank You so much to all who participated in our Giving Tree program this year. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

MEAT RAFFLE

The Italian Festival Committee is hosting a Meat Raffle on **January 8, 2023 at 1:00 p.m**. at the Wheelock Inn in Millbury. D'Errico's Market is providing the meat. We are looking for 4 more people/companies to sponsor a table for the meats. The cost of the sponsored tables is $200. Please spread the word and support our parish.

Knights of Columbus®

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS

Complimentary Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 15th
After the 10:30 am Mass
In the Parish Center

This is to thank you to all parishioners for your continued generosity and support of the Knights of Columbus!

GET INFORMATION ON JOINING OUR MOUNT CARMEL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL!

The Knights welcome all Catholic men who are at least 18 years old.

Members may choose their level of participation and the projects that most interest them.

Please contact John Morello, Grand Knight, @508-414-6362, by email: john.morello@gmail.com, or call the parish center at 508-7535001.

The brighter your light shines, the easier it is for others to find their way.

Financial Stewardship
For the week ending December 18, 2022

Due to the Christmas holiday, this bulletin was submitted before financial information for the week ending December 18 was available. This information will appear in next weekend's bulletin.

Ministry Assignments December 31-January 1

December 31 @ 4:00 pm
Lector – Pat Solitro
Ministers – Chet DiLeo & Tom Lavin

January 1 @ 8 am
Lector - Chris Cook
Ministers - Joe Sama

January 1 @ 10:30 am (Choir)
Lector—Dave Soares
Ministers - Debbie & Gerry Woods

Please arrange for a substitute if you cannot fulfill your assignment. Thank you for the good work that you do! If a substitution is made, please contact Julie so the announcement sheets will be correct.

Upcoming Events

Adult Faith Formation (every Monday - 6:30 pm)
Golden Years (every Tuesday)
Knights of Columbus Meeting—7 pm (every 3rd Wednesday) All men of the Parish are welcome to attend.

Dec. 25—Merry Christmas!!
Jan. 8—Meat Raffle Fundraiser for the Italian Festival
Jan. 19—7:30 pm Respect Life Mass @ St. Paul Cathedral
Jan. 20—March for Life in Washington, DC

VENERINI ACADEMY

Venerini Academy is accepting students from Pk-3 to 8th grade. We have rolling enrollment for this academic year. Visit our website at veneriniacademy.com or contact Mary Sivo at 508-753-3210.

MOUNT CARMEL GOLDEN YEARS CLUB

December 2022 and January 2023

December 27, 2022
10:00 AM Socializing
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch Bingo

January 3, 2023
10:00 AM Socializing
NEW YEARS PARTY
After Lunch Bingo

January 10, 2023
10:00 AM Socializing
10:30 AM Board Meeting
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch Bingo

January 17, 2023
10:00 AM Socializing
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM VNA "Keep Well Clinic"
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch Bingo

January 24, 2023
10:00 AM Socializing
PAPER SALE
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch Bingo

January 31, 2023
10:00 AM Socializing
12:00 NOON Lunch – Followed by Social
After Lunch Bingo

***Bingo for members only**

ALL DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD BANK WOULD BE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED.

Instead of counting sheep, talk to the Shepherd

Five Simple Rules to be Happy

Free your heart from hatred
Free your mind from worries
Live simply
Give more
Expect less

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 24, 2022—4:00 p.m.
In Thanksgiving for Maria Irmina Rand by the Ortiz Family
Sal Meringolo (Birthday Remembrance) by Children
Guerra and Fenuccio Families by Anna Fenuccio
Joseph & Katherine Riggieri and Joseph Riggieri Jr. by daughter and sister Dolores

Sunday, December 25, 2022—8:00 a.m.
The People of the Parish

Sunday, December 25, 2022—10:30 a.m.
Giovanna Palladino and Martino Palladino by Family
Domenic D. Mercurio Sr. by Family

Monday, December 26, 2022
Frankie Morrone by Wife and Children

Tuesday, December 27, 2022—7:00 a.m.
Peter and Viola Griffin by Family
Robert Sr., Barbara Domiano and son Robert Domiano Jr. by the Cianci Family

Wednesday, December 28, 2022—7:00 a.m.
Joseph R. Tufano (44th Anniversary) by Family

Thursday, December 29, 2022—7:00 a.m.
The Louis Biuso Family: Antoniette, Loretta and Dolores by Grace DiBaro
Diego DiLeo, Mary & Michael Artuso by Grace DiBaro

Saturday, December 31, 2022—4:00 p.m.
Anne Porcaro-Chionchio by Parents
Jeanette LeClair (20th Anniversary) by Family
Joan Mero (13th Anniversary) by Flo
Stephen and Cyndee Barlow by friend Dolores

Sunday, January 1, 2022—8:00 a.m.
In Thanksgiving for Maria & Merlin Banzuela by Family
Robert Morello Sr. (First Anniversary) by Family

Sunday, January 1, 2022—10:30 a.m.
Maurice DiLeo (27th Anniversary) by daughter Nancy

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR PARISH IN YOUR WILLS, BEQUESTS AND UPON THE DEATH OF LOVED ONES FOR DONATIONS. MANY THANKS!

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Francis Caffone, Donna Grasseschi, Lori Blackwell, Matteo Fiore, Patrick Loconto, Frank "Butch" Rano, Sylvia Pusateri, Thelma Ortiz, Cynthia Pedone, Roland Dionne, Sue Cozzolino, Anthony DeAngelis, Anthony & Paul Locantore, Ann Servidio, Joseph Vancelette, Madelyn Martin, Anthony Paldino, Ann Marie Verdolino, Charlene Swalec, Irene Bastardo, Lorrie Tufano, Silvia Cazzaniga, Maxwell Mitchell, Lynn Wagner, Carol Youngstrom, Rudy Aromando, Richard and Rita Sharameta, Cindy Worthington, Beverly DeMarco, George Burton, Charlotte O'Mara, Renate Perry, Angela Vizzo, Jacob Rivera, Stephanie Berthiaume Cowie, Fulvia D'Amico, Dermot Kelly, Margaret Setaro, Isabella Gamble, Melissa Totaro and Nancy Meringolo. May the Lord give them strength, courage and healing.

THIS WEEK OUR SANCTUARY LAMPS ARE DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF:

The Blessed Mother
By Bobby DiPadua

Albert Riggieri
By Wife and Children

Joseph Tufano
By Family

Joseph & Katherine Riggieri and Joseph Riggieri Jr.
By Daughter and Sister Dolores

Rest in Peace

We, the parish community of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Loreto, extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Lucille Carrier, Margaret Ann Riggieri, Nicola D'Andrea, and Ricardo Cazzaniga. God grant them peace forever and bring comfort to their families and friends.

Morning is God's way of saying…

One more time….. Go make a difference…...
Touch a heart .... Encourage a mind…...
Inspire a soul…..and... Enjoy the day.

Take Five for Faith
Daily renewal for busy Catholics

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

Sunday, Dec 25, 2022
Jubilee, every day!
Christmas is the only day of the year designated as "merry." While most birthdays are declared "happy" in the celebration of life, the birth of God among us recommends merriment: a festival of delight, high spirits, good fellowship, and feasting. Yet Saint Théophane Vénard observed that our faith asks even more of us: "Try to fulfill each day's tasks steadily and cheerfully. Be merry, really merry. The life of a true Christian should be a perpetual jubilee, a prelude to the festivals of eternity." Capture the spirit of Christmas in your being. Resolve to bring joy to the world, every day of the year.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)
TODAY'S READINGS: *Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

Monday, Dec 26, 2022
A day for renewed commitment
Advent is full of anticipation that finally culminates on Christmas. But once the Savior is here, there's no time to wait to start Christianity's mission. So today we honor the first martyr of the faith, Saint Stephen, who was stoned to death. One of the first followers of the apostles, chosen by them to serve as a deacon, Stephen preached and performed miracles and forgave his attackers (Saul, later Saint Paul, among them) before dying. As we get ready to start a new year, let Stephen inspire you to reflect on your baptismal call to spread the gospel and how you might renew your efforts in word and witness.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR
TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). "You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved."*

Tuesday, Dec 27, 2022
Love remains
What should your true love gift you on the third day of Christmas? How about the reminder that Saint John was the "beloved disciple" of Jesus? So beloved that Jesus—even as he was dying on the cross—entrusted his own mother to John's tender care: "'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother'" (John 19:26). As the dust settles on our often hectic celebrations of Christmas, remember that "faith, hope, and love remain . . . but the greatest of these is love." So don't fret if your holiday feast doesn't include a Martha Stewart masterpiece; simple love should be the main course—and makes for the best leftovers.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). "Beloved: What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen . . . and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life."*

Wednesday, Dec 28, 2022
Dry every tear
In the midst of celebrating the great octave of Christmas we are reminded that Jesus was born into a world much like our own: filled with violence and terror, impacting especially the most vulnerable. Pope Francis stated in his 2016 address for the Feast of the Holy Innocents: "Christmas is . . . accompanied, whether we like it or not, by tears. . . . It is the sobbing of mothers bewailing the death of their children in the face of Herod's tyranny and unbridled thirst for power. Today too, we hear this heart-rending cry of pain, which we neither desire nor are able to ignore or to silence." How shall we respond, to bring some comfort to those who grieve?

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."*

Thursday, Dec 29, 2022
No disposable lives
"Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" Those words are attributed to King Henry II. This provocative question signaled to Henry's armed forces that Bishop Thomas [Becket] of Canterbury should be killed. And so he was. Catholic teaching tells us that every single life is precious, whether a bishop or a pauper. On this memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, consider ways our community can reject the notion of ridding ourselves of turbulent human beings—be they convicts, the bedridden, or other troublesome or inconvenient lives.

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel."*

Friday, Dec 30, 2022
All in the family
Families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. One thing they all share, however, is that they are not perfect. "Perfect families do not exist," said Pope Francis in a 2015 address. "This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows." As we remember the Holy Family, let us also recommit ourselves to this kind of love within all our family experiences.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). "And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection."*

Saturday, Dec 31, 2022
Slow down to celebrate
Part of the wisdom coming to us from our long church tradition is found in the realization that some mysteries take a while to unfold. That is why during the Christmas season we celebrate the great mystery of God in the world for an entire octave, the eight days between Christmas and the solemnity tomorrow of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. As we approach the end of this great celebration, ponder for a few moments how the mystery of this event has unfolded for you this year. And take a moment to feel the joy of Christmas once again.

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
TODAY'S READINGS: *1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*