

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." - Lk 2:11-12

Christmas Letter from Fr. Thomas Pastorius,

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On that first Christmas, the angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will." The shepherds came and adored the newborn Savior. St. Luke wrote, "And Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart."

I would like to invite everyone who reads this article to follow Mary's example and to treasure the story of Christmas in their hearts and to truly reflect on the great mystery of God becoming man - the Word of God becoming flesh so that God could save us from sin. I invite you to do this not just today but for the weeks and months to come. Reflecting on the great gift that Jesus is for each one of us and then I invite you to take it one step forward by reflecting on the great gifts that Jesus gave us, the gift of faith, the gift of the Church, the gift of the Sacraments, and so many other treasures buried within the Holy Catholic Church.

Remember that we are in the midst of a special year of grace declared by Pope Francis to celebrate "God's Mercy." If you have been away from the Church for a time, please consider this an invitation to come back to God. I, and the people of Epiphany, will do everything within our power to make you feel welcomed and loved. If you attend Mass on a regular basis, I want to take this time to thank you for giving of yourself. Know that I am a better person because of your prayers and participation in our Sunday liturgies.

I would like to conclude my Christmas note to you all with the following Christmas Prayer:

Lord, in this holy season of prayer, song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance. Be with us as we sing the ironies of Christmas, the incomprehensible comprehended, the poetry made hard fact, the helpless Babe who cracks the world asunder. We kneel before you shepherds, innkeepers, wise men. Help us to rise bigger than we are. Amen.

Blessed Christmas,
Fr. Thomas M. Pastorius



*Epiphany of Our Lord
Catholic Church*

Sunday Masses: 8:00 & 10:30 am
Weekday Masses Monday, Wednesday
Thursday, Friday & Saturdays: 8:00 am
Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:00 am Tuesday Mass: 5:30 pm
Saturday Masses 8:00 am and 5:00 pm
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday,
7:00-7:50 am or by appointment.
Tuesdays, 5-5:20 pm
Phone: 314-781-1199
Emergency After Hours: 314-260-6261
6596 Smiley Avenue



Epiphany Christmas Flower Fund Memorials & Tributes



*Thank you to all who gave so generously to our Christmas Flower Fund.
Your donations have helped to beautify our church for the Christmas Season!*

Richard & Marilyn Barr

**In Memory of
Sarah Baumgartner
Anna Baumgartner
Thomas Baumgartner
Francis R. Webb
Cecilia Webb
Charlotte Moebs**
By Jerry & Sharon
Baumgartner

Virginia Bettlach

Michael & Diane Calvert

**In Memory of
Frank & Tony Caputa**
By Dorothy Caputa

**In Memory of
Annie Mae Vaninger
Fern & George Chesnut
John Vaninger
Martha Vaninger
Eugenia Rensing**
By Bob & Gloria Chesnut

Beverly Clancy

**In Memory of
Roy & Gertrude Kraemer**
By Janet Crews

Dominican Sisters of
Epiphany of Our Lord

**In Memory of
George & Nancy Hohmann**
By Don & Marie Ferguson

Michael & Christine Futhey

**In Memory of
Paul & Frances Fischer**
By Mary Fischer

**In Memory of
James Flynn**
By Maureen Flynn

**In Memory of
Harold & Clara Boucher
Harold & Eileen Boucher
The Boucher Family
The Heil Family
The Foshage Family
All Loved Ones & Friends**
By Rosita Foshage

**In Memory of
Rosalie Heuing**
By George Heuing

**In Memory of
Caroline McFarland
Ed & Ann Boelhauf
George Horridge
Sarah Pfyl
Jenny Dryden**

By Bob & Carol Horridge

Richard & Joan Huelsmann

Bob & Monica Hunyar

**In Memory of
William Carl Hunyar, Sr.**
By Mary Hunyar

Michael & Amanda Jelavich

**In Memory of
Howard Lingle**
By Louis Jearls

Dorothy Kaup

Joan Kenny

Dave & Jeanette Kuntz

Marge LaBarbera

**In Memory of
Scott Laschober
Robert K. Laschober
Raymond & Eugenia Klarsch**
By Bob & June Laschober

**In Memory of
Alana Shifflet
Patti Trendle
Robert Trendle**
By Karl & LeAnn Laschober

Robert Learmont

**In Memory of
Berdel, John, Rose
& Paul Leuthen**
By Jeanne Leuthen

Charles & Mary Mana
Edward & Pat Maschek

Dianne Mayfield

Nancy McAnany

Larry & Lisa Meyers

**In Memory of Joseph &
Rosemary Mosblech**
By Mary Mosblech

Laura Murphy

**In Memory of
Dan Nerviani**
By Trish Nerviani

**In Memory of
Tonelli & Bozich Families
Podnar & Yerlilling Families**
By Rich & Pat Podnar

Gene & Barb Pollman

**In Memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Julian Przada**
By Jim & Claire Przada

Steve Runde

**In Memory of
Ethlyn & Franciot Maret**
By Mickey & Mary Louise
Smith

**In Memory of
Catherine & Eugene Stahl**
By Mary Stahl

Cecilia Stochla

John Toney

**In Memory of
Hilda & Milton Kopff**
By Gerry & Marilyn Unger

Ann Villhard

Carol Welby

David & Rose Wells

**In Memory of
Rosemary Guempel**
By Donald & Theresa Yorker

**In Memory of
Mary & Paul Zacheis**
By Joan Zacheis

Tom & Pam Zacher

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Collection Letter from Archbishop Robert J. Carlson,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! The weeks of Advent waiting are over, and Christ is born!

We rejoice in our Savior's birth - remembering the great gift of faith He has given us through the mystery of His incarnation and the saving power of His death and resurrection.

Each year, the people of our archdiocese have been asked to make a special gift on Christmas Day to support our seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. The men of our seminary, who have responded to Christ's call to follow Him, are truly a gift to the Church and to the Archdiocese of St. Louis. It is these men who will bring the faith given to us by Christ 2000 years ago to future generations here in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

I ask you, once again, to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas Day collection, which helps pay the day-to-day expenses and maintenance of our seminary.

Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas. May the Lord of life come into your hearts and homes in a special way during this holy time of year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis

Epiphany Christmas Flower Fund Memorials & Tributes

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Your donations have helped to beautify our church for the Christmas Season!*



Anonymous Donor

Pat Acquisto

Richard & Marilyn Barr

**In Memory of
The Brown Family &
The Bartoni Family**
By Michael & Margaret
Bartoni

Carol Bohn

**In Memory of
Harold Brewer**
By Evelyn Bohnenkamp

Bob & Mary Brindell

**In Memory of
John Ellison, Sr.**
By George & Kathleen
Buckingham

In Memory of Josephine Caruso
By Larry & Mary Caruso

Beverly Clancy

**In memory of
Dad (Darrell)**
By Barb Dilly

**In Memory of
Lawrence & James
Gabelsberger**
By Irene Gabelsberger

**In Honor of
Nelda Gabelsberger**
By Irene Gabelsberger

Wayne & Ann
Garavaglia

**In Memory of
Katherine & Henry Gunn
And the Deceased
School Sisters of
Notre Dame**
By Sr. Pat Gunn, SSND

John & Kathy Jones

Edward & Mary Knop

Robert Learmont

Tony Lively

Edward & Pat
Maschek

Dianne Mayfield

Michael & Mary Peters

**In Memory of
William Morrow &
William Morrow Jr.**
By Maryann Morrow

Rich & Pat Podnar

**In Memory of
Cecilia Schmid**
By Roger & Jeanette
Santen

**In Memory of
Robert Schneider
Mary Lou Cassoult
Catherine Tennant
Marge Koenigsfeld Rogers**
By Brian & Colleen
Schneider

Jeff & Margaret
Schroeder

Lawrence Sheldon

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**In Memory of
The Swift Family**
By Mary Ellen Swift

**In Memory of
Edward & Marjorie
Murden &
Richard & Evelyn
Tompkins**
By Richard & Mary Ellen
Tompkins

**In Memory of
Audrey Twellmann &
Gill Twellmann**
By Deborah Twellmann

**In Memory of
Julian Przada**
By Jim & Claire Przada

**In Memory of
Julian Przada &
Connie Przada**
By Maria Przada

**In Memory of
The Deceased Members of
The Krull &
Wisniewski Families**
By Ken Wisniewski

**In Memory of
Wesley, Mary &
George Spielman**
By M.J. Young



Have a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Blessing of A Nativity Set

Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray

O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption, grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

All: Amen

Scripture Readings: Gospel. Lk 2:1-14

Leader: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

All: All glory to you Lord!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled.

This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. 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 Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ!

Prayers of the Faithful & Our Father

When the Nativity figure is named in the petition place him/her/they into the Nativity Set.

Reader: We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ! Let us hold you in our hearts, as did Mary, your mother did.

All: Come Lord Jesus Come!

Reader: We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ, Let us care for your children in the world as St. Joseph cared for you.

All: Come Lord Jesus Come!

Reader: We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ, Let us sing joyfully of your glory as did your angels in Bethlehem .

All: Come Lord Jesus Come!

Reader: We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ, May we kneel in adoration before you as did the lowly shepherds.

All: Come Lord Jesus Come!

Reader: We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ, You guided the magi to find you, please guide us still.

All: Come Lord Jesus Come!

Reader: We prepare your way, Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh help us to make our hearts a fitting home for you.
Come Lord Jesus Come.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us pray that pray that Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Blessing of the Nativity Set

You may wish to sprinkle some holy water from Church onto the Nativity set as this prayer is said.

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May Christ (+) our God enlighten our hearts and minds, now and forever.

All: Amen

Leader: Go in the Peace of Christ

All: Thanks be to God



Celebrating the 12 Days of Christmas

Each year, our family likes to do something special to celebrate each of the 12 days of Christmas. It is a wonderful tradition that the Church has given us, to be able to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity for 12 whole days! After all, if Christ is truly the God of the universe who has entered into our lives, then Christmas means we will never be the same again. It is the beginning of a whole new life, in everything that we do: parenting, school, work, marriage, hobbies... Jesus is with us. Keeping the 12 days of Christmas makes a good start to remembering this startling fact.

Our "something special" is always different. Maybe a kind act for a family member, or a special field trip (every year we go to Our Lady of the Snows sometime the week after Christmas, we have the whole place to ourselves!), or as simple as leaving the Christmas tree up and singing a carol together before dinner.

At the end of the 12 days, the Feast of the Epiphany announces the arrival of the 3 Wise Men. We are reminded that even though it can be more difficult to remember the coming of Christ at times other than Christmas, it is our joy to search for Jesus in every moment of our lives. Whether it is a joyous holiday season and it is easy to get to Church or if it is another time of year and it feels like crossing a desert to get to Mass, God promises that if we seek him, we will always find him.

Michael Rennier

Christmas Prayers

A Prayer for Christmas by St. Bernard of Clairveaux

*Let Your goodness Lord appear to us, that we
made in your image, conform ourselves to it.*

In our own strength

*we cannot imitate Your majesty, power, and wonder
nor is it fitting for us to try.*

*But Your mercy reaches from the heavens
through the clouds to the earth below.*

*You have come to us as a small child,
but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts,
the gift of eternal love*

*Caress us with Your tiny hands,
embrace us with Your tiny arms
and pierce our hearts with Your soft, sweet cries.*

St. Augustine Christmas Prayer

He lies in a manger, but he holds the world.

He nurses at his mother's breast, but he feeds the angels.

He is wrapped in swaddling clothes, but he robes us in the garment of immortality.

He is given milk, but at the same time he is adored.

He finds no room at the inn, but he builds a temple for himself in the hearts of all who believe.

That infirmity might be made strong, strength has been made weak.

Let us, therefore, not diminish but marvel all the more at his human birth.

Let us try to comprehend the humble stake he accepted for our sakes.

And then, let us be kindled with love, so that we may come to his eternal day.

May the humble joy of Christ's birth warm your heart and home this Christmas.

O Sweet Child of Bethlehem Prayer

"O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into the hearts of all people this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately, and which you alone can give them. Help us to know one another better and to live as children of the same Father. Unite us all in charity and grant us your heavenly peace. Amen."

A Prayer For Christmas by Pope John XXIII

Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Put into our hearts this peace for which we sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give us. Help us know one another better, and live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father. Reveal to us also your beauty, holiness and purity. Awaken in our hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join us all together in your love, and give us your heavenly peace. Amen.

In observance of the Christmas and New Years Holidays, the parish business office will be closed from December 24th through January 1st. The office will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2016. In the case of a true sacramental emergency, you can reach Fr. Tom by calling 314-260-6261. Please be sure to leave ALL the following information with the operator: the reason for your call, your name, phone number, and the name of our parish.