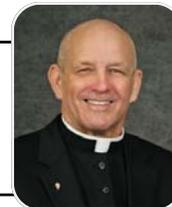


The Nativity of Our Lord



Merry Christmas!

On behalf of our parish staff and all our families, I extend a warm and inviting welcome to all who are visiting us during this holy season of our Lord's birth. May you, your families and loved ones have a blessed, joy-filled and holy Christmas; and may all God's blessing of the Christ-child be upon you in the New Year! Merry Christmas!

A Savior is Born (by The Priest magazine)

With the arrival of Christmas, the liturgy vibrates with joy and hope. Everyone wants the positive attitude this feast evokes to remain after December 25. For many it's the most loved holiday on the Church calendar.

Jesus' birth brings salvation, conquers sin and brings Christ the Messiah to live with us—astonishing truths to believe. Christmas also provides creation a rare opportunity to pause and show it's gratefulness to God.

Despite creation's sometimes tepid response to God's attempts to love them, God remains persistent. The good news the shepherds heard that Christmas night still is comforting to believers' hearts and ears this Christmas: *"For behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy. ...For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord"* (Lk 2:10-11).

The amazing shepherds rushed to see this good news themselves. Yet today Jesus the son of David and son of God still is called Messiah. Christmas still celebrates God's bonding with his creation. Crèches still create a scene of Jesus simply clothed lying on his bed of straw.



It is a gift long awaited, and the magnificent story of this special day reveals it all. Creation is lifted

up and embraced by the Creator. No wonder believers everywhere want the spirit of this day to remain.

The Christmas message has a deeper message than simply welcoming Jesus as Savior on Christmas morning. Christians need to be open about what and who needs saving in their lives. Charles Dickens, in his famous story "A Christmas Carol," demonstrates this point with Scrooge. During the night, three ghosts of Christmas—past, present and future—visit Scrooge. Together they saved Ebenezer Scrooge from his selfishness, stubbornness and arrogance. Jesus comes to save his followers in a similar way.

From his teaching and by his preaching, Jesus gives his disciples all they need to prepare themselves for judgement. They will learn how to love God, their neighbors and, above all, themselves. This love will save them.

Jesus will provide them with everything they need by grace, sacraments and example. As long as they listen and follow Jesus, they will not hear any words of condemnation on that final day. Jesus' coming on that first Christmas illustrates how real God's desire is to save us. Giving Jesus a vigorous response is an excellent return gift.

Some questions to ponder as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and enter into a New Year.

- ✦ What is the best gift you can give to Jesus this Christmas?
- ✦ Is there room in your "inn" for Jesus, or shall He look for another?
- ✦ Reflect on Mary and Joseph's response to the birth of Jesus. What surprises you?

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."

(Charles Dickens)



Parish Vision Statement

We, the people of the Catholic Community of St. Jude, are followers of Christ, striving to live the Gospel and reflect the compassion and love of Jesus to all people.

Parish Sacramental Policies

Baptism: To schedule a baptism or register for the baptismal preparation program, parents may contact Laurie Seybert. Baptisms may be celebrated during the Masses on the second weekend of each month, except during Lent.

Marriage: Arrangements should be made with Fr. Bob at least one year in advance of your proposed wedding date. No weddings are celebrated during Lent.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: Please call the parish office if you are hospitalized or at home and would like a visit from a Eucharistic minister to the homebound, Fr. Bob, or to receive the Anointing of the Sick.

Anointing of the Sick: is celebrated after each Mass the weekend of the third Sunday of each month.

Church & Community Center

801 N. Bridge St. 669-6049 Community Center

Parish Offices are located at 409 Wilson Street

Phone (517) 669-8335 Fax (517) 669-8343

After Hours Emergency phone (517) 803-0911

Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 9:00AM to 5:00PM Friday 9:00AM - 1:00PM

Bulletin Deadline is 10:00AM Wednesdays ~ Contact Tina Simon

Parish Staff & Phone Extensions

Pastor: Fr. Robert Irish ext. 11
Email: frbob@stjudedewitt.com
Permanent Deacon: Ted Heutsche
Email: deaconted@stjudedewitt.com
Permanent Deacon: Kevin Orth
Email: deaconkevin@stjudedewitt.com
Operations Manager: Rob Strouse ext. 10
Email: robstrouse@stjudedewitt.com
Parish Office Manager: Christina Simon ext. 13
Email: tinasimon@stjudedewitt.com
Bookkeeper: Rosemary Starn ext. 15
Email: rosiestarn@stjudedewitt.com
Director of PreK-8 Faith Formation, Youth Fusion & Sacramental Prep: Mary Lippert ext. 17
Email: marylippert@stjudedewitt.com
Director of High School, Young Adult, and RCIA: Hallie Card ext. 18
Email: halliecard@stjudedewitt.com
Faith Formation Administrative Assistant: Laurie Seybert ext. 16
Email: laurieseybert@stjudedewitt.com
Religious Formation Assistant: Lynda Roof ext. 19
Email: lyndarroof@stjudedewitt.com
Office of Worship and Music Ministries: Patrick Paddock ext. 20
Email: patrickpaddock@stjudedewitt.com
Maintenance: Ray Taylor

Matthew 25/Helping Hands Ministry phone (517) 930-1383

Sunday Masses

Saturday, 5:00PM, Sunday, 8:30AM, 11:00AM

Weekday Masses

Tuesdays at 6PM, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays 8AM

Reconciliation

Saturdays, 4:00PM and by appointment

Parish Web Page www.stjudedewitt.com

2019 Notable Events

January 1: Feast of Blessed Virgin Mary
Mass at 10AM

January 19: K of C Pasta Dinner 6:30PM

January 29: Confirmation 7PM

March 6: Ash Wednesday
Masses at 8AM & 7PM

Fish Fries: each Friday (during Lent)
March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12

Palm Sunday, April 14: Masses will be
Saturday 5PM, Sunday 8:30, & 11AM

Holy Thursday, April 18:
Food for the Poor Collection
Mass of the Lord's Supper 7PM

Good Friday, April 19:
Food for the Poor Distribution 9AM
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7PM

Saturday, April 20: Easter Vigil 8PM

Sunday, April 21: Easter
Masses at 8AM, 10AM and Noon

Sunday, May 5:
First Eucharist Celebration, 1PM Mass

Sunday, June 2:
Baccalaureate Mass & breakfast

Parish 50th Anniversary Celebration:
Saturday, September 28

For detailed information on these events and more please see our weekly bulletin or visit our parish website at www.stjudedewitt.com.



Please remember in prayer our parish members and their families that are serving in our armed forces.

Kerri, Matt, Richard, Brett, Chandra, Christopher, Stephen, Matt, Vann, Kara, Robert, Tyler, Kyle, Michael, Joseph, Erin, Matt, Michael, Ryan, Tamara, and Dalton.

Dear God, we pray to give all of our soldiers the courage and strength to do the duty that is required of them. May they always remember our appreciation for the sacrifice they are making for us. We are thankful for the men and women who are willing to risk their lives to protect our freedom. We ask you to go with each one of them and protect them wherever they go. Amen



Merry Christmas to everyone at the Catholic Community of St. Jude!!!

I pray that your time together with family and friends has opened your heart to the graces of the Spirit and that the same Spirit sustains you in love throughout 2019. As joyful as Christmas can be celebrating the birth of our Savior, good food and drink, gifts for children and grandchildren, gathering with family and friends, there are many people who face sadness and depression this time of year due to the loss of a loved one. This year my family will deal with this reality after experience the passing into eternal life of my mother-in-law. It is also the second Christmas after losing my own mom. Grieving is also different for all of us and we never know what might spark the grief. Maybe it's a favorite Christmas carol that you shared together, or a special food that was always prepared for the Christmas meal, or a particular place you always sat at midnight Mass. Whatever it is, it's very real and difficult to experience. I don't have any special words to share or suggestions to ease the loss; grief is just something we work through with prayer, time, and the support of others in our life who continue to love us to healing. So we celebrate the birth of the greatest healer of all, our Lord Jesus Christ. I look at the nativity scene on the front of this bulletin and think about its possible message. The artist, Carl Heinrich Bloch, must have seen the darkness that can envelop us, pain, sinfulness, death but chose to emphasize the light of Christ that overcomes the darkness. You can see it radiating on the faces of all those who make themselves present to Him. I believe the message to all of us, is to allow the light of Christ to enter into our hearts, filling us with His healing grace, and allowing us to reflect it to others, bringing hope to a troubled world. Let your love shine for all the world to see!

God's Blessings.

Rob Strouse



Welcome to St. Jude Faith Formation

Mary Lippert: for details about programs for pre-school and Kindergarten students, 1st—8th graders, and preparation for First Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation: 517-669-8341 ext. 17 or marylippert@stjudedewitt.com

Hallie Card: for details about RCIA, Confirmation Preparation, Young Adult Ministry and High School Youth Group; 517-669-8341 ext. 18 or halliecard@stjudedewitt.com

Faith Formation For Toddlers through 8th grade
www.stjudedewitt.com/faith-formation

Little Lambs Story Hour is for toddlers and their caregivers, Tuesdays at 10am, September through May.

Children's Liturgy of the Word is held Sundays during the school year at the 8:30am Mass. Children ages 4 (by Dec. 1) through grades 2 are invited to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Wee Believers: When the 1st – 3rd graders return after the Prayers of the Faithful, the **Kindergarten students** remain in the Community Center for a hands on lesson.

Traditional Elementary Formation, grades 1-4 meet weekly on Sundays, 9:30-10:45am. Small classes are lead by catechists and assistants.

Family Faith Formation is a home study alternative for elementary students, grades 1-4, with monthly, large group family meetings.

Preparation for Reconciliation and First Eucharist
Two workshops are held in the fall prior to celebrating Reconciliation in December and two workshops in the spring prior to First Eucharist. First Eucharist is celebrated on the second Sunday after Easter.

5/6 & 7/8 Youth Fusion Program—Youth Fusion is a 13 session, Life Teen program, held on Sundays, October through May.

Confirmation I and Confirmation II Beginning in the fall of 2019, Confirmation is a two year program beginning in the 8th grade. Details to come!

Vacation Bible School "To Mars and Beyond"
June 17-20th! We are forming an adult planning committee and hope you'll consider joining!

rooted High School Youth Group



Join us on Sundays from 7:00 - 9:00pm
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See the website for our schedule
and upcoming events.

20s - 40s Women's Group

All women ages 20 - 49 are welcome to drop in for our Women's Group on Sunday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00pm in the Youth Room. This is a casual "come when you can" group that aims to fill our social and spiritual needs.

Contact Hallie Card for more information.

RCIA

If you are interested in receiving information on how to become Catholic or to catch up on missed Sacraments - for yourself or for someone you know - contact Hallie Card.



Our program has changed a bit since last year and we would love to tell you all about it!

We Are Catholic—Welcome Home!

The Catholic Community of St. Jude is one small piece of the world-wide Roman Catholic Church (also known as the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, since Rome is the seat of Peter). The Catholic Church is made up of families of every race, we are men and women, sinners and saints. Our family started with the First Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph) and over the centuries has spanned the globe.

Who is St. Jude that our parish community is named after?

St. Jude, known as Thaddeus, was a brother of St. James the Less, and a relative of Our Savior. St. Jude was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus. Ancient writers tell us that he preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Lybia. According to Eusebius, he returned to Jerusalem in the year 62, and assisted at the election of his brother, St. Simeon, as Bishop of Jerusalem. He is an author of an epistle (letter) to the Churches of the East, particularly the Jewish converts, directed against the heresies of the Simonians, Nicolaites, and Gnostics.

This Apostle is said to have suffered martyrdom in Armenia, which was then subject to Persia. The final conversion of the Armenian nation to Christianity did not take place until the third century of our era. Jude is invoked in desperate situations because his New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh, difficult circumstances, just as their forefathers had done before them.

St. Jude Thaddeus is the Patron Saint of Hope (or desperate/impossible cases) and his feast day is **October 28**. St. Jude is traditionally depicted carrying the image of Jesus in his hand. This recalls one of his miracles during his work spreading the Word of God. King Abagar of Edessa asked Jesus to cure him of leprosy and sent an artist to bring him a drawing of Jesus. Impressed with Abagar's great faith, Jesus pressed His face on a cloth, leaving the image of His face on it. He gave the cloth to St. Jude, who took the image to Abagar and cured him. Also St. Jude is often depicted with a tongue of flame above his head. This flame represents his receipt of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as one of the twelve apostles present in the Upper Room.

But who are we as The Catholic Community of St. Jude?

We, too, are families made up of every race and we are young and old, rich and poor, men and women, sinners and saints. Every since our founding as a parish community a little less than 50 years ago with just over 100 families, we have grown close to 1400 registered households and continue to grow each week.

And ever since that founding we have reached out to provide comfort to those in need in various programs and ministries. Programs such as our food pantry which feeds hundreds of people each month; provide educational supplies & clothing to children in need; our Warm Hearts program that provides financial assistance for heating, electric or rent bills; the Dresser or Crib program that provides basic items for expectant mothers who may not have the resources to provide for the birth of their child; ministry visits to those who are homebound, in nursing or hospital facilities who wish to receive the Eucharist or are in need of the anointing of the sick; we offer faith formation for our people from pre-K years and up to adult; promote respect of life for the unborn and the elderly; we make prayer quilts and blankets to give to those who are in need of prayer; we serve lunch once a week to our senior citizens; we provide funeral luncheons; our youth go out doing mission outreach to areas within our diocese (and at times around our country) to be united with our sisters and brothers less fortunate than us; and we gather in prayer & in song in support of each other especially when another may not feel like praying or singing. We do so much more and invite you to learn more of all that we do by visiting our website www.stjudedewitt.com or befriend us on Facebook to keep up to date on all the things that are happening when they happen. But most of all we invite you to come back and join us in fellowship of prayer each week.

We have prayed for you every hour of every day whenever we celebrate the Mass. Yes, we are the Catholic Church and if you have been away from the Catholic Church or would like to learn more about what the Catholic faith is all about, then on behalf of our Catholic Community of St. Jude, I invite you to come back home and take another look for ours is one family united in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We are Catholic—Welcome Home!

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