



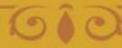
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Catholic Church

DECEMBER 25, 2019



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



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." - Lk 2:10-11

Sacraments

Weekend Mass Times

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Saturday Vigil | 5:00 pm |
| Sunday | 7:30 am |
| | 9:00 am |
| | 11:30 am |
| | 6:00 pm |

1st Sunday Spanish 1:30 pm

Daily Mass Times

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Mon. - Fri. | 6:30 am |
| Mon. - Sat. | 8:15 am |

Holy Day Mass Times

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| 6:30 am |
| 8:15 am |
| 12:00 pm |
| 7:00 pm |

Reconciliation/Confession

Saturday 3 - 4:30 pm
or by appointment

All Other Sacraments

Please call the office for information.

Clergy

Fr. Renier Siva
Pastor

Fr. Cleetus Karakkat
Parochial Vicar

William Goeke
Jim McFadden

Deacons

Fr. Ignatius Haran
Pastor Emeritus

Parish Office

Mon.- Fri. 8:30 am- 4:30 pm
307 Montrose Drive, Folsom
Phone: 916-985-2065

Website:
FolsomCatholic.org

Social Media:
@FolsomCatholic

Bulletin

FolsomCatholic.org/bulletin

| Bulletin Date | Ad Due by 5 pm |
|---------------|----------------|
| January 5 | December 20 |
| January 12 | January 2 |
| January 19 | January 9 |

Welcome to

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

We are a community where we welcome all as members of the Body of Christ.
We are welcoming, faithful, passionate, joyful, authentic,
sacramental, loving and charitable.

Today's Readings

Is 52:7-10 / Heb 1:1-6 / Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

"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." - Lk 2:10-12

Gospel Meditation

One of the most beautiful things about the Christmas story is its human simplicity. How very ordinary! How relatable! We see a young family caught up in government regulations, encountering difficulty booking travel arrangements. We see a belated baby shower filled with the most unlikely attendees. Yet, if you attended Christmas Mass during the day, the Gospel does not contain the familiar story of over-crowded inns and hay-lined mangers. It features something much more mysterious. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God ... all things came to be through him." Matthew, Mark, and Luke give us the Christmas story from the human perspective. John's Gospel tells the Christmas story from the divine perspective.

"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race." C.S. Lewis described Christmas as God parachuting down behind enemy lines. Jesus entered into a world darkened by sin, and it isn't so different today. We can find it in the complications of our own lives and the lives of our families. We can find it in our cities, our nation, our world. But it wasn't only the star that shone on Christmas night. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

In the midst of all that is so very human — whether the humdrum or the horrible — "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." No matter what we bring into this Christmas day, God enters our existence. He enters our experiences. When we allow God into our lives in a new way, when we surrender to Him our lingering areas of darkness, then we will "[see] his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." It's time to welcome Him.

Scripture Reflections

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah encouraged the Israelites to be joyful at the gift of salvation God offers them. How do you show to others your gratitude and joy with the birth of Jesus?

Second Reading

Hebrews speaks of Jesus as the full and complete revelation of God. What do you think the birth of Jesus reveals to us about God?

Gospel Reading

In his opening prologue, John defines Jesus as "the Word" who "became flesh" and from whom we receive "grace and truth." How will you celebrate this divine gift from God today?

THE WORD

Became Flesh

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

Merry Christmas! It's that time of the year again, are you ready? Are you ready to journey with the Emmanuel- - God-with-us, for another year?

Christmas is one of my favorite seasons in the Church Liturgical Calendar. We commemorate worthily the day when Jesus humbled himself and shared in our humanity. "And the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." (Jn 1:14). The Incarnation is one of the greatest- - if not "The Greatest" love stories ever told. It is only fitting to tell and retell it over and over again.

As we are about to take on yet another unpredictable and mysterious journey, let us humbly implore God's help through the intercession of our Loving Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary that we may remain steadfast in our faith throughout the year 2020. I hope and pray that this year will bring you and your loved ones the blessing you need to grow closer to Christ and His Church.

On behalf of Fr. Cleetus, our Deacons, and the Parish Staff, I invite all of you to join us as we celebrate the birthday of Jesus - - - "God Saves."

Have a joy-filled, grace-filled, blissful, and Christ-centered Christmas and bountiful New Year to you all.

Humbly Yours in Christ,

Fr. Renier C. Siva

Pastor

Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace among
those with whom
he is pleased!

LUKE 2:14

Inspiration of the Week

“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” These eloquent and poetic words remind us of why we are here today. This is profound news to hear, but is it the news we are looking to hear? A key to faith is found when we experience the beauty, wonder, intrigue, and joy when we hear that God’s very life and light has been revealed and made manifest to his people. In the manger, we also see the cross and the whole mystery of Christ revealed. It is a mystery that tells us not only who God is but who we are and how God asks us to live. Does this news have any real meaning for us? If so, after our family celebrations and gift giving, we need to get serious about constantly giving witness to Christ. We need to get serious about calling others to Christ by how we organize and execute the daily business of our lives.

Special Intentions

For those who live under the threat of violence in their countries, their neighborhoods, or their households, that violence and fear may be replaced by meekness and trust.

For those who find it difficult to be joyful at Christmastime, for those without family or friends because of death or estrangement, that they may be comforted.

For all of us, that we may extend the joy and grace we receive here today to our families, friends and neighbors.

Why Do We Call Jesus “The Light of the World”?

In cultures around the world, light and darkness are chief symbols of good and evil, order and chaos, clarity and confusion, hope and despair. These symbols tap into something essential about the nature of things. God has given us the created world as a gift. His first work, as we see in Genesis 1, is to create light, giving meaning and insight to the abyss. It is in the light that rest of creation comes to be. A gathering darkness emerges in Genesis 3. Adam and Eve hide, shrouding themselves from the sun’s rays and the gaze of God. While God offers a promise of salvation and establishes a covenant with His people, the sense of fog and dim understanding still remain. The Hebrew people repeatedly betray the promises they have made to God, and all around them the nations actively worship idols.

The promise of God is not in vain, however. In John 1, we see a depiction of Christ as primordial goodness, order, clarity, and hope. “The true light, which enlightens everyone was coming into the world ... this life was the light of the human race” (John 1: 9, 4). Think of the last sunrise you witnessed (if you could wake up for it!). As you watched the lavender brighten to rose edged with gold, did your heart swell? Did you recall the goodness of the world? Did you feel rekindled hope? Such is the role of Christ in the soul. Such is his coming Incarnate in our world.

Prayers for the Sick

We pray for our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul.

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|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Alan Ramsay | Gordon Ferriss | Oliver Carreon |
| Annie Brozosky | Gloria Mendivil | Pam Morin |
| Aurora Bertulfo | Herbert Kohagura | Pat Koelfgen |
| Bert Mateo | Jared Ellerson | Paulita Narcisco |
| Bob Taylor | Jessica Breazeale | Pierre Lavapie |
| Cher Juliet | Joann Pasterski | Rebecca Yap |
| Christopher Cordova | Joey Durse | Rene Rodriguez |
| Denise Phfa | Judy Wilkins | Shirley Benecke |
| Don Hendrickson | Karen Beckman | Shirley Joseph |
| Don Paul Howell | Liam Ocampo | Thoa Gilpin |
| Eric Coscolluela | Lorraine Mayrand | Tina Mills |
| Ernest Deus | Mary Matranga | Vista Costa |
| Evalia Hipolito | Michael Debellis | Vince Matranga |
| Gilbert Mendivil | Natalie S. Marhauer | |

Prayers for the Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of all who have died, our family members, friends, and parishioners. May they rest in peace.



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|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ann Danielsen | Lenon Padilla | Romy Elvambuena |
| Barbara Doherty | Liberato Mariano Jr. | Sanh Nguyen |
| Colette Koch | Maria Duenas | Sister Antinia |
| Dennis Knight | Mario Penman | Sr. Bridget Mary Flynn, RSM |
| Destiny Estrada | Mary Brisbin | |
| Doris Bourgeois | Mary Grimes | Sr. Kathleen Kinane |
| Doris McKeon | Mary Jo Morris | Sr. Mercedes Braga, SHF |
| Frank Brugger | MaryJo Cordona | Stephen Rando |
| Isabel Vilorio | Callahan | Thelma Lyon |
| John Drumm Sr. | Mike Diorio | Tom Baker |
| John O'Malley | Quy Pham | |
| Karen Maez | Raleigh Radin | |