



Andrey - 12/24

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Christina Rossetti

*In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty
Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.*

*Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.*

*What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,—
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.*



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD- DECEMBER 25, 2024

Merry Christmas! Whether you are a lifelong parishioner or a visiting guest, we are so happy that you have joined us to celebrate the **Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ!** May the Lord fill your hearts with the joy of His peace as we rejoice together in the birth of the Christ-child. If this is your first time here at St. Joseph's or if you are recently returning, we would love to welcome you back every weekend, throughout the Christmas season and beyond!

As quickly as it may have seemed that **Christmas** has come, may we not forget that our celebration has only just begun. The joy of **Christmas** cannot be contained in a single day, but is instead, in the life of the Church, a season within itself. I encourage you, keep the tree up! Let the Christmas lights continue to shine! Continue to play Christmas music! **Christ is born!** What more reason do we need to continue this celebration? Continue to rejoice!

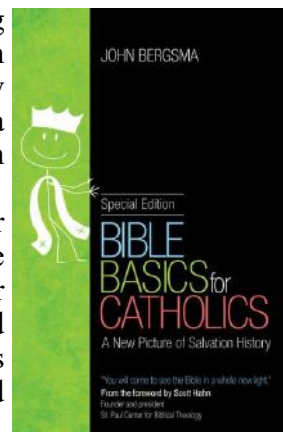


PARISH CHRISTMAS GIFTS

“BIBLE BASICS FOR CATHOLICS” BY DR. JOHN BERGSMAS

This book may look small, but it contains something very big inside: a profound summary of God's plan in Sacred Scripture. Given the size of the Bible, and how much time and effort it takes to thoroughly explore it, a little help can go a long way. This book offers more than a little help.

In *Bible Basics for Catholics*, Scripture Scholar Dr. John Bergsma provides us with the big picture of the Bible by focusing on the covenant story of God's plan for His children. Employing a conversational style and simple illustrations throughout the book, Bergsma helps us to understand the ancient world of the Bible and discover how it is still meaningful for their lives today.



A HISTORIC ORNAMENT FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY (1875-2025)



In just a few days, as we welcome the coming New Year, our parish begins celebrating her sesquicentennial anniversary. To mark the start of this momentous event, we have a special gift to our Parish Family: A Parish Christmas Ornament. The ornament sports our parish logo, highlighting the year our parish was first recognized by the Diocese of Fort Wayne (1875). The surrounding “stained glass” on the ornament helps to call to mind the beautiful stained glass windows that adorn our parish Church.



With humble gratitude to everyone who sent a card or Christmas gift:

Thank you!

To my Parish Family, May God bless you and your family abundantly in the coming New Year.

Know of my continued prayers for you and your family!

Michelle

I would like to thank the Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Cantors and Musicians for all your hard work in preparing for our Christmas Liturgies. May you all have a very Blessed Christmas Season.
Teresa



Becky Biberstein, Michael Green, Frances Carr, Tom Richhart, Troy Cook, Bobbie Jackson, Kimberly Abney, Sydnee Bradburn, Leanne Lee, Jeff Tillman, and Richard Payne.

"What Christmas Means To Me..."

"Christmas means open presents, building a snowman, hot chocolate, family, writing letters to Santa, going outside, celebrating Jesus' birthday. Getting Christmas trees to set up in the house. Its' the holiday of being with my family and feeling of love."
by Hunter Lehman, grade 2

"To celebrate the birth of Christ, and get together with family and friends.

It is the caring for one another, it is also a time of reflection and prayer. That is what Christmas means to me."

by Joao Carlos Calduro, Grade 8

"What Christmas means to me is my family and friends seeing me and getting presents and the birth of Jesus."
by Anna Lynn Felger, Grade 5



Christmas means that Jesus was born. I love going to Mass and praying on Christmas day.
by Louis Andrews, Grade 4



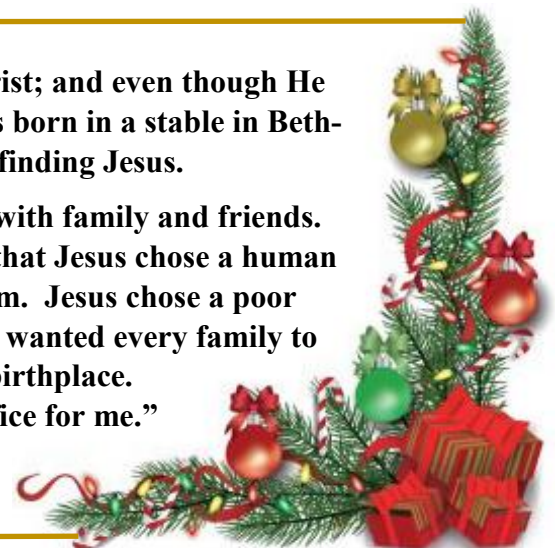
For unto us a child is born... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

"Christmas means a way of expressing your gratification and appreciation of others through physical gifts, because our love for one another is incomprehensible . We try to express it through gift giving."
by Luke Dreiband, Grade 12

"The joy of Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ; and even though He was just a baby He was the Messiah, The True King. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem in the city of David. The joy of Christmas is finding Jesus.

Another thing that Christmas means to me is spending time with family and friends. Another thing is rejoicing because Jesus has been born. Also, that Jesus chose a human loving mother named Mary to protect Him and care for Him. Jesus chose a poor family to be His family, he didn't want to be rich because He wanted every family to love Him. He chose a raggedy stable to be His birthplace. It makes me happy because Jesus did a big sacrifice for me."

By Sophia Spisak, Grade 4



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"Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."
 - St. John Paul II

Before you speak....

THINK!

T - is it true?
 h - is it helpful?
 i - is it inspiring?
 n - is it necessary?
 k - is it kind?