



*I proclaim to you good news of great joy:
today a Savior is born for us,
Christ the Lord*



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**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
DECEMBER 25, 2022**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

The Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

4:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS DAY

The Mass of Christmas Night

12:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

The Mass of Christmas Day

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

St. Stephen, The First Martyr

7:30AM D'cd of Miller & Loeffler Families—Memorial

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

7:30AM Evelyn & Fred Buoro—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:30AM Bishop Robert E. Mulvey—4th Anniversary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30AM John E. Gardner—Memorial

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

7:30AM Carolyn A. Perretta—5th Anniversary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas

8:30AM Dina Catanio—1st Anniversary

The Vigil Mass for Mary, Holy Mother of God

4:00PM Nora "Dolly" Kugler—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

7:30 AM Irene McMann—Memorial

9:00AM Anna T. Carnevale—Memorial

10:30AM Jack Donnelly—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy





Dear Parishioners:

A very Merry Christmas! I wish each of you, and all who are dear to you, a Blessed Christmas season! May the joy of that Holy Night in Bethlehem, which filled the hearts of Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds who came to see the baby Jesus lying in the manger, warm your hearts with ever greater faith, fervent hope, and true love for God this Christmas!

Our celebration of Christmas this year will hopefully be more than simply routine. The routine of shopping, sending cards, baking, and decorating all enrich the beauty of this joyful season. At the same time, I hope that beyond the routine, we might truly celebrate the reason for the season.

God promised to send a savior to rescue us. Throughout the history of Israel, the Jewish people anticipated the coming of the Messiah, one who would save them. Over time, many began to think the Messiah would be a King, more of a political ruler who would restore Israel to greatness. Thus, when our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was born in the most humble circumstances in Bethlehem, they did not recognize him.

In our Creed, we profess to believe that *"for us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven."* We should reflect upon this simple yet profound truth this Christmas. If the very name Jesus, in Hebrew, means *"one who will save his people from their sins,"* we might describe Christmas as a "rescue mission." And given that the rescue is nothing less than our eternal salvation, it is the

"greatest rescue mission" ever carried out on this earth!

This Christmas is a great opportunity to reflect upon how we have been rescued by Jesus, who "for us and for our salvation" came down from heaven. Christmas marks the beginning of our rescue mission! Jesus came to save us! That is the true meaning of Christmas, not the Hallmark or Hollywood warm and fuzzy Christmas.

Christmas can certainly be anything but routine for us this year if we take some time to consider its true meaning. Once we recognize the gift of love, mercy, and forgiveness in Jesus, who came to rescue us, we must accept, receive, abide, and rejoice in it.

The rescue of Jesus from our sin and death has eternal consequences! This rescue not only frees us from the shame of sin but also restores to us the original dignity of being sons and daughters of God! This rescue restores to us the inheritance of eternal life!

The more we appreciate the great rescue mission our Lord took up for us, the more we experience the desire for him to rescue others! This desire is the mark of a true disciple of Jesus. We become disciples of Jesus because he first loved us and came to rescue us from our sins.

When we allow ourselves to experience the deep and personal love of Jesus, born in Bethlehem, who would one day suffer and die out of sacrificial love for us and be raised up in glory—the gratitude of our hearts wants to bring this Good News of glad tidings to others.

So if this season has become all too busy with the

externals of Christmas, take some time to break from the routine. Consider how we figure into the greatest rescue mission the world has ever known. Let yourself be rescued by our Lord Jesus this Christmas, and then spread the Good News.

Make a firm resolution to live as a disciple of Jesus, coming to him every Sunday at Mass and engaging in the rescue of others by living and sharing our rescue story with them with love, sacrifice and charity! Break away from the sterile routine of the secular Christmas the world celebrates and live your faith with passion and commitment!

In this increasingly secular world, with its crass and commercial celebration of Christmas, we can easily lose sight of the reason for the season. Pope Francis reminds us: *"Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of commercial consumerism, of appearances or useless gifts, or excessive waste, but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart."*

Father Mahoney, Father Connors, and I will remember you and your intentions at our celebration of Christmas Masses. We offer our sincere prayers and heartfelt best wishes to you and your families this Christmas. May the celebration of the birth of our Savior be joyful, hopeful and faith-filled.

Be well. Stay safe. Do good. A Happy and Holy Christmas and Blessings for the New Year! God Bless.

Father Healey

Nativity of the Lord



In comparison to the celebration of Easter which dates back to the second century, the celebration of Christmas is of late origin, dating back only to the fourth century.

No claim is made for December 25 being the actual date of Jesus' birth, but it is probably no accident that this celebration of the coming of the true light falls at a time of increasing daylight.

Expanding that symbolism, four separate, carefully chosen and crafted sets of readings and prayers are prescribed for the various times of celebration of this solemnity: vigil, midnight, dawn, and day.

The images contained in these readings and prayers journey from early hope to radiant fulfillment.



Not Just Another Story

This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

Weekly Collection

December 11, 2022

Weekly.....	\$21,506.00
EFT.....	\$5,554.00
Total=\$27,060.00	
Outreach.....	\$1,510.00
Retired Religious.....	\$4,789.00
Immaculate Conception.....	\$2,691.00
Annual (to date).....	\$108,915.00

December 12, 2021

Weekly.....	\$16,938.00
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!



Second Collections

This Week: Christmas Collection

Next Week: Holyday Collection

Leave a Legacy of Faith for the next Generation! Remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

OLM Parish Office Hours Christmas 2022



The OLM Parish Office closes for the Christmas Holiday on Friday, December 23, 2022, at NOON & Reopens on Tuesday, January 3, 2022, at 8:00am

The OLM Parish Staff Wish You a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!



Religious Education
NEWS

We wish all our OLM Religious Education Students, Teachers and Families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2023!
Mrs. Mickey St. Jean & Mr. Doug Green



Striving to Be Saints & Scholars!

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the OLM School Students, Faculty, Staff, Families, Benefactors & Alumni!

*Mr. Patrick H. McNabb
Principal*

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Loving God,
Help us remember
the birth of Jesus,
that we may share
in the song of the angels,
the gladness
of the shepherds,
and worship of
the wise men.



— Robert Louis Stevenson

TrueWordings.com



Outreach
Update

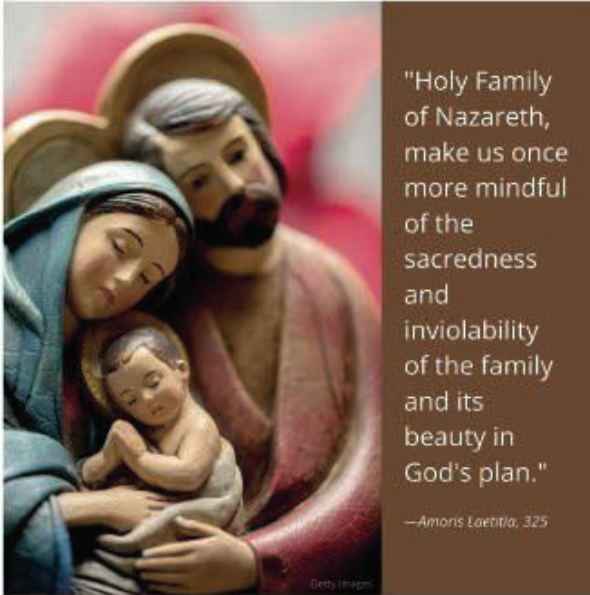
We offer our sincere gratitude and thanks for your generous donations and financial support of the OLM Outreach over the year. Blessings for a Holy Christmas Season and a Healthy New Year!

Gratefully in Christ,
Mr. Doug Green

**WANT TO KEEP "CHRIST"
IN CHRISTMAS?**

**FEED THE HUNGRY, COMFORT THE
AFFLICTED, LOVE THE OUTCAST, FORGIVE
THE WRONGDOER, INSPIRE THE HOPELESS**

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas! This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all in which to live in faith and simplicity.

Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children— share, as members of his Body, in Jesus' mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus' name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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