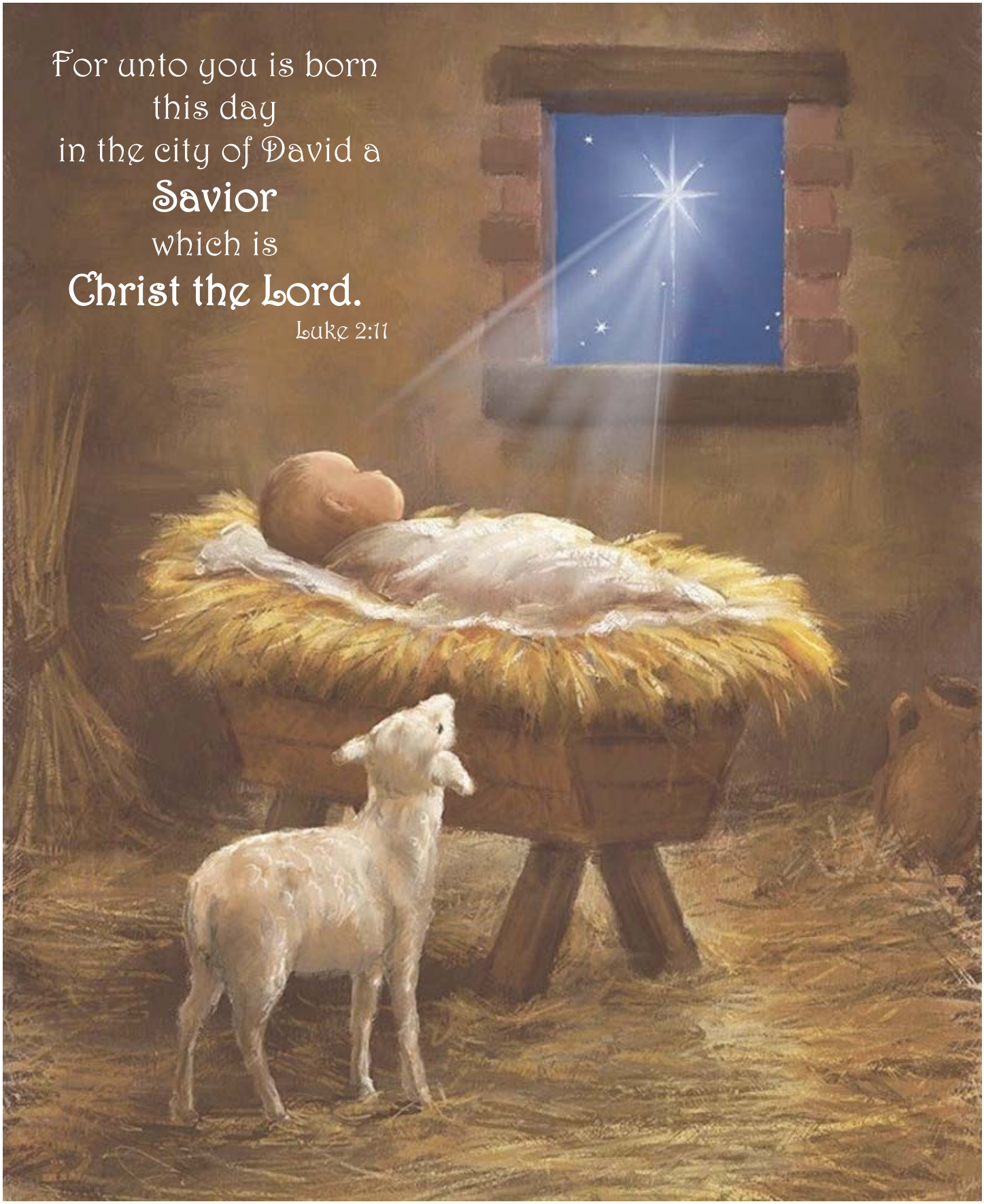
METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 25
2022



ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 4pm St. Monica & St. Lucy

SUNDAY 9am & 12pm St. Monica | 10:30am St. Lucy

DAILY MASS is held at St. Lucy's at 9am (except Wednesday)

SATURDAY MASS is held at St. Monica's at 9am

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 24
9:00am For the Parishioners of St. Monica & St. Lucy
4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, December 25
9:00am Christmas Day Mass

Saturday, December 31
9:00am Joseph Fiorenza
4:00pm New Year's Eve Mass

Sunday, January 1
9:00am New Year's Day Mass
12:00pm New Year's Day Mass

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Cathy, Zack, Barbara & Bill

Please pray for Elaine Chamberlain & Marcelle Snell whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Jesus is longing for your presence.

Wednesday Evenings
6-7pm
St. Lucy Church

Friday Afternoons
2-5pm
Gethsemane Chapel

CONFESSIONS

WED 6 - 7pm St. Lucy Church
FRI 4 - 5pm Gethsemane Chapel
SAT 3 - 3:45pm St. Monica & St. Lucy
and by appointment

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 24
4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Sunday, December 25
10:00am Christmas Day Mass

Monday, December 26
9:00am Helen Fredette

Tuesday, December 27
9:00am Lucille Labrecque

Thursday, December 29
9:00am Bruno Pelletier

Friday, December 30
9:00am Mary Sullivan

Saturday, December 31
4:00pm New Year's Eve Mass

Sunday, January 1
10:30am New Year's Day Mass

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/25/22	All Priests in the World	Pope Francis
Mon	12/26/22	Fr. Stephen Salocks	Jake Livingstone
Tues	12/27/22	Fr. James Braley	Liam Warner
Wed	12/28/22	Fr. Christopher Hickey	Giris Azize
Thurs	12/29/22	Fr. Thomas Sullivan	Christian Ortez
Fri	12/30/22	Fr. George Pucciarelli	Stephen Baruffi
Sat	12/31/22	Fr. Walter Keymont	All Seminarians

GETHSEMANE CHAPEL at ST. MONICA CHURCH
Open 7 days/week from morning rush hour until 7pm

CHAPEL of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE
Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm , Sat & Sun 9am-5pm

The Birth of the Savior. How beautiful and appropriate it is that we celebrate this Solemnity of our Faith! We should, also, be grateful that our culture still sets aside these days for vacation and enjoyment with loved ones. Yet we all know how easy it is to let hectic preparations and the festivities overshadow the very reason we mark the day. Even worse, many of the people and activities around us aren't trying to "remember the reason for the season" at all. For example, there are several forms of media playing 24 hour Christmas songs for weeks on end. However, the vast majority of pop songs (aside from the occasional remake of a classic religious carol) are either merely noting the celebratory nature of the holiday or seeking to evoke our own sentiments and memories rather than setting our focus on Jesus Christ.

By virtue of being in church and, more importantly, recognizing the Lord with due worship, we are oriented in the correct direction. Nonetheless, the ignorance of the world to the Nativity is just a symptom of something that we can all fall into as well. At Christmas we aren't so much marking the Lord's birth, as we are reverencing what His birth marks: the Incarnation. We celebrate the Birth of the Lord to recognize that the eternal Word, who is God, truly became flesh and dwelt among us in a fully human life. He is named Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." He who is Divine Life took to himself a human nature to share that life of divinity with us as we live our humanity.

The meaning of the Lord's Coming is an invitation that goes beyond celebrating one holy day, of course. It even goes beyond "living Christmas every day of the year," to paraphrase *A Christmas Carol*. The invitation is to LIVE IN and WITH CHRIST everyday of our life. Unfortunately, our daily life is situated largely in the outside world, where our chances of finding a Christian context in which to live are about the same as hearing His name on one of those 24 hour streaming Christmas stations!

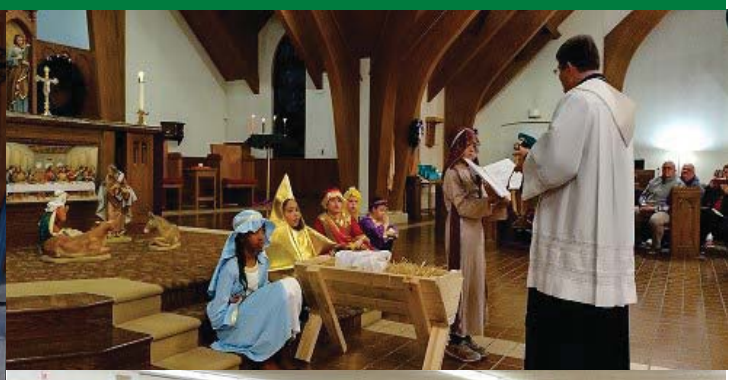
Situating our lives in a deeper context and relationship with Christ makes for a good New Year's resolution that begins, quite simply and only, in your parish. That's because the Lord gave us everything we need to fully live the life He offers. And it is found here, where the Word becomes Flesh and dwells among us.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES WITH A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOINED US IN OUR ADVENT PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST

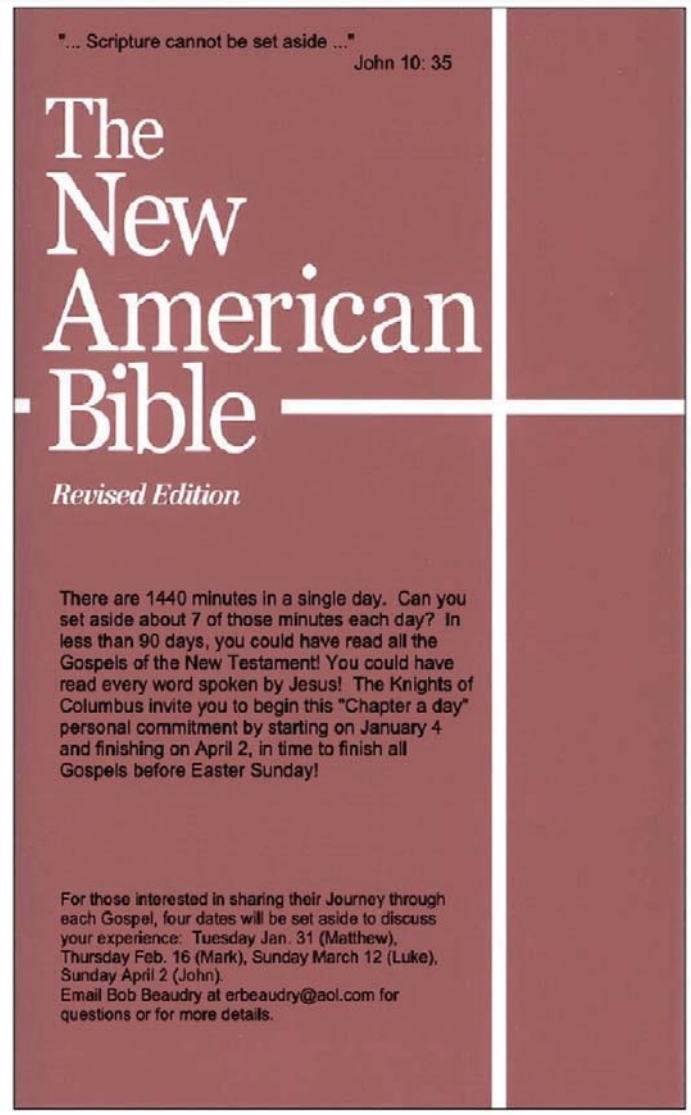
Fr. Chris Hickey, of Catholic Television's "Going My Way" and Pastor of Our Lady of the Angels Collaborative in Hanover, was our keynote speaker for our Advent Mission. Fr. Chris gave insight into building vibrant Catholic communities and brought Christmas joy by leading the congregation in song. Requests for

LESSONS AND CAROLS



PROJECT BETHLEHEM

Many thanks to all who donated gift cards to support PROJECT BETHLEHEM for Lazarus House Ministry. I am thrilled to announce we collected **$3,710.00**. They were overwhelmed and grateful for the generosity shown by St. Lucy's Parish. Thank you for all of your support and God bless you and your families this Holy Season.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Thank you for your generosity and support. Because of your overwhelming generosity, we were able to collect **$6,480.00** in gift cards for 118 children and Market Basket cards for over 65 families. The families we serve truly appreciate the assistance your donations provided. This year we were fortunate to have St. Lucy's Project Bethlehem to join us in our Christmas program and enhance our ability to provide for our needy families. May God bless you and your loved ones in 2023.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality in collaboration with the Lawrence Ladies Lodge #2026 donated 151 Christmas Stockings for homeless children sheltered at the Days Inn in Methuen. Children of 50 Immigrant families ranged in ages 4 months to 18 years old received their stockings filled with age appropriate gifts and candy at a Dec. 22nd Christmas celebration sponsored by the Methuen Health Department and the Alternative Home Health agency. Sodality members Dianne Dewan, Debbie McCall, and Judi Alaimo delivered our donations and were assisted by two Health agency workers.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality is also committed to assisting Methuen citizens experiencing food insecurity and donated $500 in gift cards to the St, Vincent DePaul society on December 14th.

A WORD OF THANKS

Our FKMV Board is so grateful for your ongoing generosity. Today almost 300 kids received their Christmas presents & had a wonderful time jumping @ Launch Park. To be sure, we couldn't accomplish these goals without your generous support. Thank you for partnering with us!!

Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will hold its regular hours of 9am-2pm with the following exceptions:

Monday, December 26th….CLOSED
Friday, December 30th….CLOSED
Monday, January 2nd….CLOSED

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: CLERGY TRUST

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The Christmas Collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests in good standing throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. Please ne generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergytrust.org

OFFERTORY FOR DECEMBER 10 & 11

St. Monica - $7,851.00
St. Lucy - $4,854.00

PARISH OFFICES

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www.methuencatholic.org
Hours: M - F 9am - 2pm

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978.686.9573

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978.686.1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF:

Donna Henderson	Principal
Sharon Tully	Administrative Assistant

smsoffice@methuencatholic.org

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
- Mass 9am St. Monica Church
- Mass 10am St. Lucy Church
- AA 7pm St. Lucy Lower Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26
- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Rosary Prayer Group 6pm Gethsemane Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28
- Eucharistic Adoration 6-7pm St. Lucy Church
- Knights of Columbus Meeting 6-8pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Rosary 6pm (Zoom)
- Catechism for Adults 6:30 (Zoom)
- AA 6:30pm St. Lucy Lower Church Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- Mass 9am St. Lucy Church
- Eucharistic Adoration 2-5pm Gethsemane Chapel
- Confessions 4-5pm Gethsemane Chapel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE
- Mass 9am St. Monica Church followed by Rosary Gethsemane Chapel
- Confessions 3-3:45pm Gethsemane Chapel
- New Year's Eve Mass 4pm St. Monica Church
- New Year's Eve Mass 4pm St. Lucy Church

MEET OUR PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
Fr. Joseph D'Onofiro	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Pierce	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager

methuencatholic@gmail.com

Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life

faithformation.stlm@gmail.com

Brink Bush	Music Director
Sharon Waning	Music Ministry (St. Lucy)
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities (St. Lucy)
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant

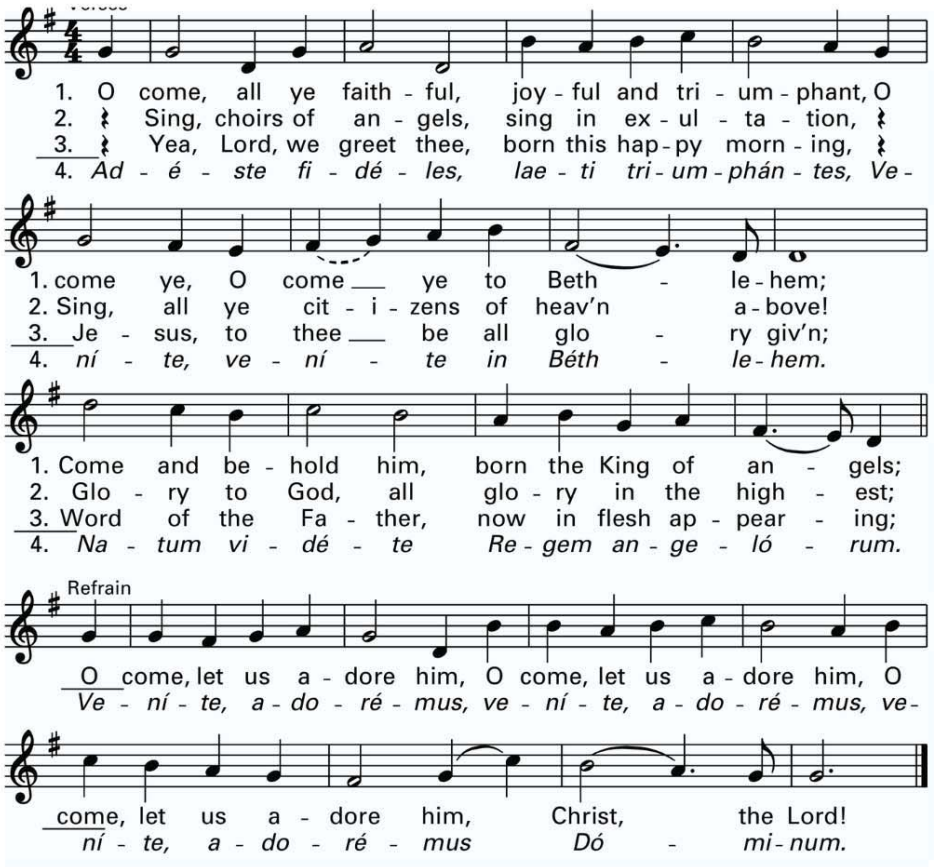
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
24 - 25 DECEMBER 2022

INTROIT *Isaiah 9:6*

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world.
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

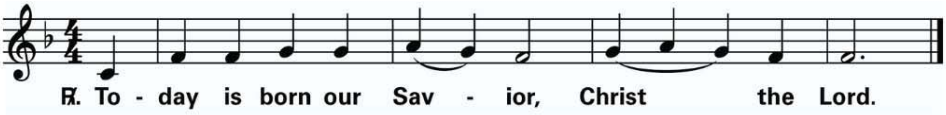


PENITENTIAL ACT – GLORIA *Refer to Pew Card*

FIRST READING *Isaiah 9:1-6*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as people make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames. For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Luke 2:11*



Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

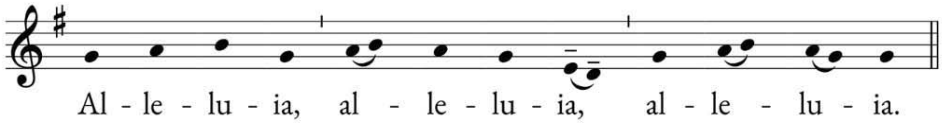
Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.

SECOND READING *Titus 2:11-14*

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

ALLELUIA *Luke 2:10-11*



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

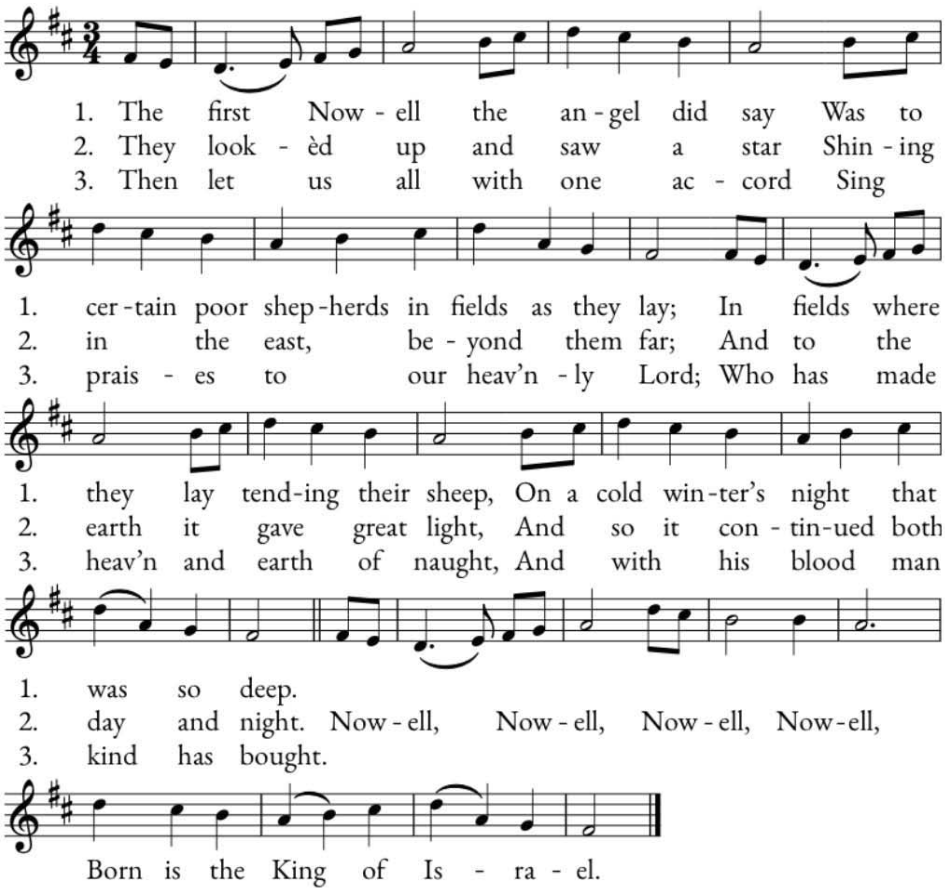
GOSPEL *Luke 2:1-14*

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."

PROFESSION OF FAITH *Refer to Pew Card*

OFFERTORY HYMN *The First Nowell*



SANCTUS – MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION – AGNUS DEI *Refer to Pew Card*

COMMUNION HYMN *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight!

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him,
still The dear Christ enters in.

COMMUNION HYMN *Away In A Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

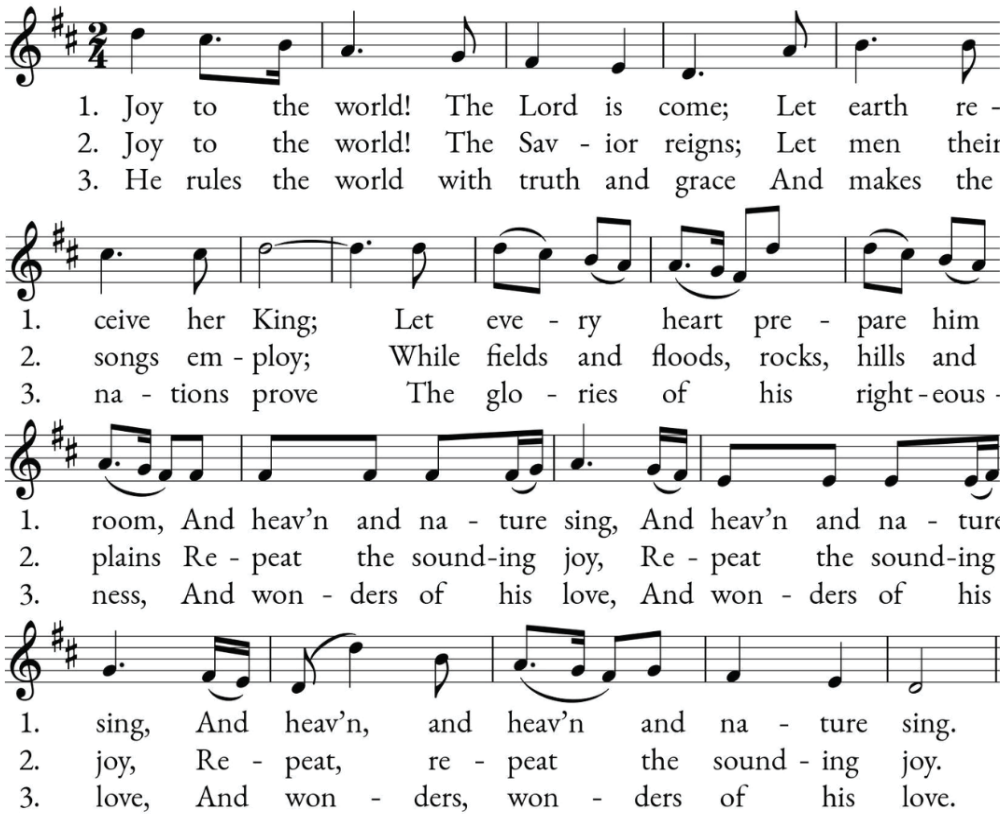
COMMUNION HYMN *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Joy to the World*



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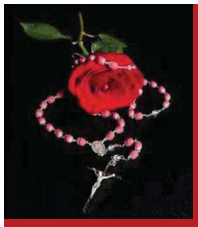

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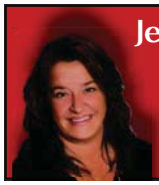

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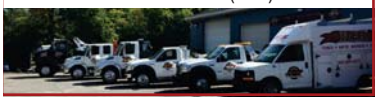

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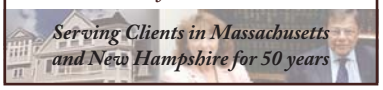

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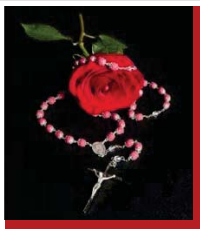

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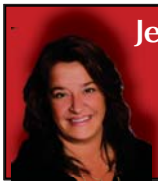

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