

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW PARISH — CHRISTMAS DAY



The beautiful feet of Isaiah's messengers announcing peace and bringing glad tidings can seem distant from our lives. Living in a digital age can diminish any excitement at receiving a message, since messages pour in all the time through e-mail, texting, Facebook, etc.

But still, at the heart of all communication is the word and that is the image today's readings present to us in speaking of the mystery of the incarnation—our God becoming human. Luke's baby of Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, is first presented in John's Gospel as the eternal Word of creation, as life, as light shining in the darkness, as the Father's only

son, full of grace and truth, and finally, as the Word become flesh who dwelled among us, true God and true human.

Give yourself time over these days to ponder not only the babe in the crèche, but also the profound mystery of the Word of God in whom and through whom all things were made, this Word who became human.

Eternal Word of the Father, you became human so we might become divine. Let your message penetrate deeply into our minds and hearts, and move us to bring your light to life into a world often threatened by darkness and death. Love us today into a new birth. Amen.



WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

WEEK OF 12-18-11—\$6,382.55

Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00



On behalf of the Parish and School Staff, I wish everyone a most Blessed Christmas. May this be a day filled with good friends and family and may God fill your hearts to overflow with love.

*Sister Dorothy
Parish Life Collaborator*



SCHEDULE — THIS WEEK

The Parish Office will be open 8 am until noon December 26 through December 30 so that our staff, who works so tirelessly throughout the year on each of our behalf, may enjoy some much deserved time with their families. If there is an emergency, please contact me at 412-657-5515.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

12-30-11 — Mass @ 10 AM

NEW YEAR'S MASS

12-31-11 — Vigil Mass @ 5 PM

1-1-12 — Mass @ 8 AM & 10:30 AM

ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISH

SCHOOL NEWS



NO SCHOOL

There will be no school the week of December 25th. No extended care will be available.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

At this time we would like to wish our Parish Family a very happy and blessed Christmas Holiday. During this holiday we encourage everyone to remember the importance of this season. May God bless you and keep you safe.



"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 2:11-12

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

CHRISTMAS



Readings for the Week of December 25, 2011

- Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
- Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 /Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
- Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
- Next Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



PRAYER FOR SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

Holidays can sometimes be hard, God. So much has changed from the holidays I remember—the magical Christmases of my childhood, the Easters with young children (did we ever find all those eggs?), not to mention unjustly ignored Pentecost. And all the others, the in-between holidays.

Your feasts have seen lots of changes, too, God. From people to people, place to place, over a few thousand years. Help me remember their meaning: birth, death, new life, New Creation, Spirit. Maybe a sign should be posted: "Silence or singing, please. God at work." Amen.

Someone you love in a troubled marriage? You might suggest that they consider Retrouvaille. Retrouvaille has helped 10's of thousands; it can help you. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on January 13, 2012, contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434 or e-mail 3041@retrouvaille.org.



DECEMBER 25, 2011

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

CHRISTMAS

This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectations get in the way of our loving ACCEPTANCE of our children.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



The gospel today shows Mary and Joseph weren't 'perfect' parents. If you have ever been 'amazed' and 'astonished' at what came out of your child's mouth, then you are in good company. If there were times you 'didn't understand' your children or felt 'anxious' about their behavior so did Mary and Joseph. Parenting is tough but it is also the stuff of holiness.



On this Christmas Day, pause, look at your true love, and appreciate the gift you are to each other. Hopefully, the frenzy of Christmas Day has waned and you can rest in each other's company for a moment. It's a better gift than two turtle doves.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

The next class for parents will be held here at St. Bart's on Monday, January 16, 2012 at 7 PM in the Pastoral Conference Room.

To register, please call the office at 412-242-3374.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2011

ST. STEPHEN

10:00 AM Denise Ludovici (St. Bart's Ladies of Charity)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

ST. JOHN

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Susanna

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2011

HOLY INNOCENTS

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard, St. Susanna
1:30 PM **NO QUEST BIBLE STUDY**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011

ST. THOMAS BECKET

10:00 AM Anne Gottlieb (The Tomer Family)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

10:00 AM Living & Deceased Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (Sister Dorothy)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011

Vigil Of Solemnity of Mary

NO CONFESSIONS

5:00 PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012

SOLEMINTY OF MARY,

MOTHER OF GOD

8:00 AM Lillian Lynch (Family)
10:30 AM Sally Manganello
(Anthony & Peg DeMartino)

The Sanctuary Candle is lit

this week in memory

of

Don House

From his wife

Rose.

