

**She will bear a son, and you
shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people
from their sins.**

Matthew 1:21



December 25, 2021



Our Lady of Lourdes
455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795
631.661.3224 | Website: ollchurch.org

Msgr. Brian J. McNamara, Pastor

Rev. Charles Mangano, Associate Pastor

Rev. Sylvester Chukwumalume, Chaplain - Southside Hospital



Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

Christmas is a time for family. We are glad you decided to celebrate with our Parish Family during this Holy Season. We hope you will return often. If you would like to become a registered member of our Parish, please fill in the information below and place this form in the collection basket or send it to the Parish Office.

Family Name _____

First Names: Head of Household _____ Spouse _____

Children (please include ages, grades and sacraments received)

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____



Solemnity of Mary

The Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes will gather on **Saturday, January 1** to celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary**.

We will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary on...

Friday, December 31 at 5:00pm

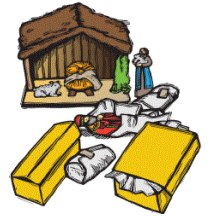
Saturday, January 1 at 8:30am, 10:00am, 12:10pm and 5:00pm

(The 5:30pm Mass on January 1 is the Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.)

Please come and pray with us!

The First Nativity Scene

The origin of the display of the Nativity dates back to the time of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis was concerned that people did not appreciate the gift of Christ's birth. St. Francis wanted to celebrate the Incarnation (God becoming a man) in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people to remember the Christ Child and how Jesus was born in Bethlehem.



On Christmas Eve, in the year 1223A.D., at the proper time, St. Francis and his Franciscan brothers created a new Bethlehem. People, young and old, came to see this new sight. They carried torches to light up the sky as they approached the manger. Once again, shepherds came from the fields to come and adore the King. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a beautiful tradition was started.

As you look upon your own family Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. In order to show His abundant love, mercy, and forgiveness for us, God became one like us. That is what the crèche ultimately symbolizes.

Visit a collection of Nativity Sets from around the world in the Parish Center.

Christmas Raffle

Below please find a set of 6 chances. It is a 50-50 drawing. Chances are \$25 each or 6 chances for \$100. 1st place winner will win 35% of the money, 2nd place will win 10% of the money and 3rd place will win 5% of the money. You have to be in it to win it!



The drawing will take place on **Sunday, January 16 after the 12:30pm Mass.**

Hopefully, the Wise Men will bring you a gift of a winning ticket!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Phone _____	Phone _____	Phone _____
1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE	CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Phone _____	Phone _____	Phone _____
1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100	1 Ticket for \$25; 6 Tickets for \$100



DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2021

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

On December 1, 2019, Our Holy Father Pope Francis issued *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter *On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*. It is a beautiful reflection that I draw on every Christmas season and one which I urge you to read and pray.¹

In it, the Holy Father reminds us that the simple act of arranging our Nativity set links us to the past, opens questions for the present, and orients the future. It is an act that has an existential impact.

Pope Francis says: “Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.”

The beautiful scene of parents and grandparents setting up creches together with children and grandchildren is a powerful multi-dimensional experience of catechesis – the teaching and passing on of our Catholic faith and our belief in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Parents and grandparents have that wisdom of teaching children and grandchildren how to assemble and situate the creche, but at the same time, they also have the catechetical and relational sensitivity to let children and grandchildren make choices about where the shepherds, the sheep, the three kings are to be placed.

Children are encouraged to place the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the Prince of Peace – with their own hands into the center of the creche. How often children then enjoy, sometimes on their own and sometimes with brothers and sisters and family members, moving and interacting with the figurines. How often their biblical imaginations and souls are set on fire with God’s love as they play with their family Nativity sets.

The Holy Father continues: “I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the meaning of life.

¹ https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Luke 1:79).”

We can drift through life dodging and repressing these critical existential questions of life. We can live blindly and superficially.

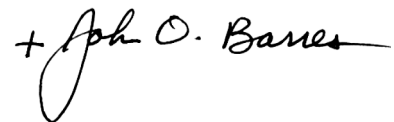
Our Catholic belief in the unity of the Nativity and the Crucifixion, the Creche and the Cross, Bethlehem and Golgotha keeps our lives centered and focused on the things that really count in our short time on earth – the Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) and a belief in the Eternal Joy of Heaven, our true home. The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness, and solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The Governor of New York State has included houses of worship in her recent directives. Therefore, since the Church does not require parishioners to present proof of vaccination in order to worship God, we ask that all parishioners (two years of age and older) comply with the requirements to wear masks when participating in any activities on parish grounds. This State requirement is currently in effect through January 15, 2022.

We will continue to adapt accordingly as new information becomes available. Your patience and Christian charity towards one another during this difficult time is appreciated.

Christmas

FLOWER OFFERING

John & June Carrick,
Thomas & Ellen McMahan
Mark Rosen
Peter McCann, Sr.
Mrs. Melissa Rogan
Michael Reilly
Mary & Patrick Rodemeyer
Al Velten & Drew Velten
Patrick Manley
Mary Bamberger
Vincent M. Sepe,
Mr. & Mrs. C. Manbracchia,
Mr. & Mrs. M. Sepe, Jon Sepe
Frank Aparo
Mr. & Mrs. Angelko Telesmanic
John & Mary Cunniffe,
Anthony & Patrick Cafferty,
The Loughlin Family,
Denise Roussianier
Frank Aparo
Amalia E. Busuttill
Rosemarie Nocera
Deceased Family of Hirt &
Bunting Family
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Aitken
Ms. Mechelina Geddrie
MacArthur, Meehan &
England Families
Mrs. Jennie Zigrest
Corrigan & Hawkins Family
Deacon & Mrs. Nilo DeLeon
Mr. & Mrs. John Seylar
Edward & Marie Terribile,
Don & Theresa Rienzo,
Rosanne Levine
Richard Huhn & Mary Dragonetti

Dr. & Mrs. Paul Carpentier
Carpenter Family, Frers Family
& Cognato Family
Mr. William Thomson
Lucille & Philip Barthold
& Philip Jr.
Mr. Daniel Henery
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Zitani
Lucille Loodus
Joseph C. Capo, II
Joe Catuosco
Leonard & Gertrude Parine
Kenneth Meyer
Eugene & Lois Parine
Martha Wills, Frances Parine
John P. Caparella
Deceased Ambrosino &
Carrano Family Members
John Sureau
Mrs. Marcelle Crudele
Deceased Members of Angeloro
& Caiati Families
Eileen Okurowski
Fred Henning
Ms. Katherine Raineri
Rega / Costanza
Ms. Eileen Martin
Rosemary & Charles Clancy
Mr. & Mrs. R. Valonis
Mr. Kevin Cruze
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Livecchi
James M. Folks, Sr.
Julius Dempsey
Mrs. Angela MacDermott
Mr. Frank Isopo
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Danowski
Deceased Members of the Colletti &
Guarino Families
Joseph & Anne Malloy
Joseph Horan
Fr. Joe, Fr. Pat, Fr. Bill Sheen
Domenick & Jean Paladino
Deceased Members of
the Ferguson Family
Maureen & Dorothy Fero
Mary & Al Dorrington
Esther & Clyde Sisson
Mr. Gregg Corrigan
Carolyn Wissing
Thomas Brando
Mr. Hubert Lieberz
Jessie Esposito
Al Esposito
Jessica Toleno
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Sciaruto
Ms. Theresa Kramer
All the people who have touched my
life since birth
Bill Mace & Peter Roache
Connie Vela

Deceased Members of Neuman &
Matthews Families
John Gargaro, Fedele & Anne Aita
Mr. & Mrs. John Cea
Mr. & Mrs. Mauricio Lopez
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mockler
Ireneo DeLeon
Consolacion DeLeon
Raymindo Herrera
Edward Feeney
Giuseppe Mazzacappa
Anthony M. Rao
Christine Pascale
Caroline Sullivan
Pat & Jim Koehler
Aquino Basilio & Family
Stanley Renkas
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Vandenburg
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lamb
Mr. Terence Moore
Mr. & Mrs. David Paprocky
Dowling, Petrone & Kelly Families
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Costantino
Deceased Members of Brusca &
Bronkhurst Family
Vincent McGuire
Grandmother Mary Radosti
Bonnie Guagnini, Theresa Mante,
Ruth Guagnini
Polik, Macari &
Hotrovich Families
Carole Gallagher
Lanfair & Ruvolo Families
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Walas
Lawrence & Elaine Stehl
Umberto Fioravanti
Madeline Hopper
Bruce Ferland
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Benavides
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Yagarich
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Montesanto
Mrs. Martha Carlin
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Raynor
John R. Gallo
Deceased members of DiMino &
McKeefery Families
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Mascolo
James D. Sheehan
The Ciccarello /Sierra Families
Ahern-Duggan Families
Alan R. Doran
Kennedy & Sullivan Family
Maryellen Ranzie
Joseph A. Taylor
Al Welton
Robert Aziz
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lavelle
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kilkelly
Eugene Langan & Edwin Lucie

Mrs. Elena Nunez
Edwin & Blanche Ramirez
Al Eppers, Gerry Eppers
Dominic & Martha Sapracione
Those that we miss and love.
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Pappas
Mr. & Mrs. William Clifford
Janet Bruekner
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Niewinski
Mr. & Mrs. M. Furia
Mr. & Mrs. J. Punzi &
All Deceased Family Members
Elefante / Surace Families
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Razzan
Elizabeth Duckman
Mr. & Mrs. Paradiso
Anthony Peluso
Mr. & Mrs. DeCotis
Ann & Tom Kavanaugh
Alan Kittner
Fredrick F. Zimmerman, Jr.
All Deceased Military
Mylo Manno & Billy Farley
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Balestri
Mr. & Mrs. David Neal
John & Teresa Nikl
Ray & Joan Udris
Joseph Lehmann, Sr.
Pedro de Roxas
Florence Delfin
Deceased Members of Herr Family
Robert Beck
Steven Perone
Mr. & Mrs. John Sehn
Deceased members of Giuffr  &
Pezzuti Families
Peter Lynch
Oma & Opa Gries
Mr. & Mrs. Curt Cosentino
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Melia
Richard Tomasulo
Virginia & John Cruse
Edward White
Keane & Foley Family
Ellen Finn
Mrs. Collette Hopkins
Ms. Veronica Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McLoughlin
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Willis
Guider & Heartt Families
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mai
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Meyer
Magliocco & Corsa Family
Mr. & Mrs. John Piropatto
John Shillitto
The Steffonson Family
Carmen Cajigal
Lee & Finnegan Family
The James McNamara Family

Mr. & Mrs. James Betrouty
Michael & Jean Kaminski
Anthony Rao & James Boyle
Peter DeJesus
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Deluca
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Troiano
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Muller
M. Dolores Beckerman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bovasso
Jeanne & Joseph Zoccali
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Franzone
Stephanie Morrissey
Peter Rooney
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hulse
Pasquale Sgambati
Margaret Nangano
John P. Lilly
Mrs. Jane Lally
Mrs. Elsie Koch
Culpepper Family
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sixsmith
James Teague, Dona Teague
All our lost Family Members
Mr. Robrt Govier &
Ms. Susan Solomonik
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gal
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Manziak
Patricia & James Alcers
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Hill
Gertrude Donnelly
Mr. & Mrs. George Haarstick
Ms. Julie Magee
Carmen & Marylou
Ms. Joan Meyer
Our Parents
Ms. Jacquelin Tripp
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Avella
Dominick Stabile
Mr. Richard German
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kenney
James O'Brien, Evelyn Wessels
Cathleen O'Brien
John & Rose Rickey
Mr. & Mrs. William Sheehan
Jack, Laura, Steven, Jackie
Dawsons, Joe, Laura, Laurie
Campisi, Lena Sperlazza
Mr. Peter Silvestri
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Dellauniversita
Joseph A. Kelly, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Haggerty
Mr. Raymond Okurowski
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Perri
Mr. & Mrs. Vincenzo Russo
Howard Swicord
Mr. & Mrs. William Marchuk
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hannon
Jennie Uhland
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Piscola

Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Bosinski
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Carboni
Marie Conti
Richard Collins
Mr. & Mrs. James Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. John Barone
Evelyn & Ed Carlin
Rosalie & Joseph Pacini
Masi Family
Jose O. Taveras
Mr. Joseph Rohan
Mrs. Janet McQueeney
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rendine
Mr. Michael Poveromo
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lehmann
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mirro
Proscia Family, Lombardi Family
Nicholas V. Proscia, Mary, Salvatore,
& Joseph
Ms. Nancy Peragine
Mrs. Carole Civile &
Mr. Timothy Keegan

**Christmas Flower Offerings
received after December 12th
will be published
in subsequent bulletins.**

Candy Cane Priest

A Catholic priest from the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, invented the machine that shapes candy canes. Candy maker Bob McCormack (founder of Bob's Candies in Albany, Georgia) had begun making candy canes for his children in the 1920's. The process was tedious. Twisting could only be done by hand and the breakage often ran up to 22 percent of production. Perplexed as to what to do, Bob turned to his wife Anna Louise's brother, Fr. Gregory Harding Keller, for suggestions.



Fr. Keller had been dubbed the "family genius" because of his fascination for how things worked. As a student, he fixed the organ at the North American College in Rome. During summer vacations, he would travel to Albany and work at the candy factory. Fr. Keller listened to his brother-in-law's predicament. Within six months, he had perfected the Keller Machine which twisted soft candy into spiral striping and cut the sticks in precise lengths.

Born May 24, 1895, in Little Rock, Fr. Keller studied for the priesthood in Rome, where he was ordained. He returned to Little Rock and served in parishes there for 36 years. Fr. Keller gained national attention as a contestant on the popular TV show, "What's My Line" in the 1960's. He was the inventor priest.



O Holy Night

Originally, "O Holy Night" was written as a poem by French wine merchant and poet Placide Cappeau (1808-1877). Inspired by the Gospel of Luke, he wrote these famous lines in honor of the renovation of a church organ in Roquemaure, France. Later, Cappeau's friend and composer, Adolphe Adams, put the words to song. "O Holy Night" was performed for the first time on Christmas Eve by opera singer Emily Laurie at the church in Roquemaure. The lyrics were translated into English in 1855 by American minister and publisher John Sullivan Dwight.

Legend of St Joseph's Staff

When Mary was 14, so the legend goes, the high priest gathered the young women of marriageable age and told them that they should prepare for marriage. Mary said that she could not because she had dedicated herself to the Lord. The high priest did not want to dissolve her vow, but neither did he want to start a new custom that Jewish women should not marry. With other elders, he prayed for a solution. Since, according to the legend, Mary was a descendant of David, they decreed that all men of the line of David of marriageable age should gather and bring their favorite walking stick to the altar. If a flower should spring from one of these, this man would be the one to whom Mary was given. Joseph was an older man and did not want to participate, so he did not bring a walking stick. One by one, staffs were brought to the altar but nothing happened. So the priest demanded that the "missing walking staff" be brought forward. Joseph went and got his, and when it was brought to the altar, a dove perched on top of it. It was clear that he was to be Mary's husband.



The Legend of the Poinsettia

The brilliant red leaves of the Poinsettia are a common decoration at this time of year. Its association with Christmas began many years ago when the story developed of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift for the Christ Child at Christmas. Her cousin Pedro told her that even the most humble gift given in love is a welcomed present. So, Pepita gathered a handful of weeds into a small bouquet. As she laid it at the foot of the crèche, it burst into blooms of red. From that day on, the Poinsettia has also been known as the *Flor de Nochebuena*, or Flower of the Holy Night (Christmas Eve).

Christmas Tree Origins

The German and English immigrants brought the Paradise Tree, or Christmas Tree, to Canada, the United States and South and Central America. Fruits, nuts, flowers and lighted candles adorned the early Christmas trees but, with all of the decorations, many of the trees sagged and drooped due to the weight of the decorations. Ingenuity prevailed as German glassblowers began to produce lightweight glass balls and decorations to replace the heavier natural decorations. The lights and decorations were symbols of the joy and the light of Christmas and at the top of the tree was placed a star that was symbolic of the “Star of the East” that led the Wise Men to the manger.



Another legend surrounds the use of the Pine Tree as the Christmas tree. When the Holy Family was pursued by the soldiers of Herod, many plants offered them shelter. When Mary was too weary to travel any longer, the Family stopped at the edge of the forest to rest. A gnarled and withered old pine tree that had grown hollow from its many years invited the family to rest within its trunk. When the Holy Family did so, the branches closed around them and hid them from the soldiers who sought their presence. When the soldiers had passed, the Holy Family left. When they did, the Christ Child blessed the pine tree and the imprint of the Infant Jesus' hand was left forever in the fruit of the tree, the pine cone. If a pine cone is cut lengthwise, the little hand of Jesus can still be seen.

When you and your family place and decorate your tree this year, you might want to thank God for the true meaning of the Christmas tree: *eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.*



St. Teresa of Calcutta

Christmas held special meaning for Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who once said that her work with the poor began on Christmas Day in 1948.

A priest had come to India to spend the holiday with Mother Teresa, While he was visiting, there was a knock at the door. When the sisters opened the door, they found a small basket on the doorstep. Perhaps it is a benefactor donating food for Christmas, one sister exclaimed.

But when Mother Teresa opened the basket, she began to smile. “Jesus has arrived.” In the basket was a sleeping baby boy, left to be cared for by the sisters. Mother Teresa picked the infant up. “Look, now we can say that our Christmas is complete. Baby Jesus has come to us. We must thank God for this wonderful gift.”

Did You Know...

In biblical times, cakes were made with wheat flour and water, then sweetened with honey. Honey doughnuts were made into animal shapes and fried in olive oil. Locusts (grasshoppers) were dried in the sun, then mixed with honey and wheat flour before being baked into biscuits.

An early version of a Christmas ball ornament was made by wrapping a walnut in tin foil and hanging it with a piece of thread.

The popular Christmas Carol, *The Little Drummer Boy*, has been commercially recorded more than 200 times in at least seven languages and has been performed in a variety of genres, including rock, rap and easy-listening.

The word “wreath” comes from the old English word, “wriþen”, meaning “to twist.” In ancient times, wreaths were often placed on the heads of heroes, royalty or winning athletes.

Two of the gifts from the Wise Men were made from plants; both frankincense and myrrh are herbs that come from small trees. The bible says that the Magi came from the East. If they came from Persia, as some scholars think, the trip would have taken almost a year by camels and the Wise Men would have travelled more than 1,000 miles.

A thirsty camel can drink 30 gallons of water in 13 minutes! When a camel does not eat, he uses the fat stored in his hump, so the hump slowly droops.

Christmas Around the World

- * “Hyvää Joulua!” In **Finland**, at about 5 or 6 o'clock, families go to the cemeteries to leave candles on the graves of loved ones who won't be there to celebrate Christmas any longer. Thousands of flickering lights, reflecting against the snow and trees, create a memorable scene. In addition, many Finns visit the sauna on Christmas Eve.
- * “Froehliche Weihnachten!” In **Germany**, families also celebrate St. Nicholas Day (December 6). On the eve of the feast, children leave shoes outside their bedroom doors hoping that St. Nicholas will fill them with treats.
- * “Merikurisumasu” In **Japan**, forget the Christmas goose, turkey, or roast. For many Japanese, Kentucky Fried Chicken is the traditional Christmas dinner. In fact, reservations must be made to eat at a KFC and, for take-out, the chicken is served in special holiday packaging.
- * “Boze Narodzenie!” In **Poland**, a traditional Christmas food is Oplatek—a piece of bread pressed with a holy picture on it. They share it with family and friends to wish them good things in the coming year and to forgive any hurts from the past year.
- * “Joyeux Noel!” In **France**, the crèche or Nativity scene is central in each home. The crèche includes little clay figures called santons which often times bear a strong resemblance to local dignitaries and characters. The main Christmas meal is called Le Revillion—the awakening—and is eaten after midnight Mass.
- * “Nollaig Shona Dhiut!” In **Ireland**, lighted red candles decorated with holly are placed in windows on Christmas Eve to guide Joseph and Mary in case they are seeking shelter. Children put out Christmas sacks instead of stockings and to refresh a travel-weary Santa, they leave mince pies and a bottle of Guinness.
- * “Buon Natale!” In **Italy**, children receive their gifts on January 6, the Epiphany. They are brought by a kind ugly witch called Befana. She rides a broom and is looking for the three Wise Men. It is said that they asked her to come along with them on their journey to visit the Christ child and she refused saying she was too busy. She regretted her decision and has been searching for the Baby ever since, leaving gifts at every house in case He is there.
- * “Feliz Navidad!” In **Venezuela**, and especially in the capital city of Caracas, it is customary to travel to Mass on roller skates! Indeed, so prevalent is the practice, that many roads in Caracas are closed until 8:00am to provide Christmas worshippers with a safe passage.
- * “Feliz Navidad!” In **Argentina**, it is very warm at Christmas. So, people place cotton balls on their Christmas trees to look like snow. On Christmas Eve, people light up and float “globos”, colorful tissue-paper balloons lit from inside and fireworks are heard everywhere.
- * “Srozhdestvom Kristovym!” In the **Ukraine**, the family places a loaf of bread with a candle in it in the middle of the table. The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world. Stalks of wheat are also scattered around the table to remind us of the manger where Jesus was born. In addition, Ukrainians like to throw an artificial spider and web on the tree as well. Legend has it that a poor woman could not afford to decorate her tree but during the night a spider covered her tree with a sparkling web.



THE NATIVITY SCENE

The Nativity Scene reminds us that CHRIST is the reason for the celebration of Christmas. In an increasingly secular world, let us boldly proclaim that God, the Father, sent us the first and greatest Christmas gift: JESUS CHRIST, Prince of Peace.

This tableau is to be placed in the FRONT WINDOW, or OTHER PROMINENT PLACE in your home, witnessing to WHOM and WHAT we believe in as Christians:

“For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that all who believe in Him may have eternal life.”

~ John 3:16

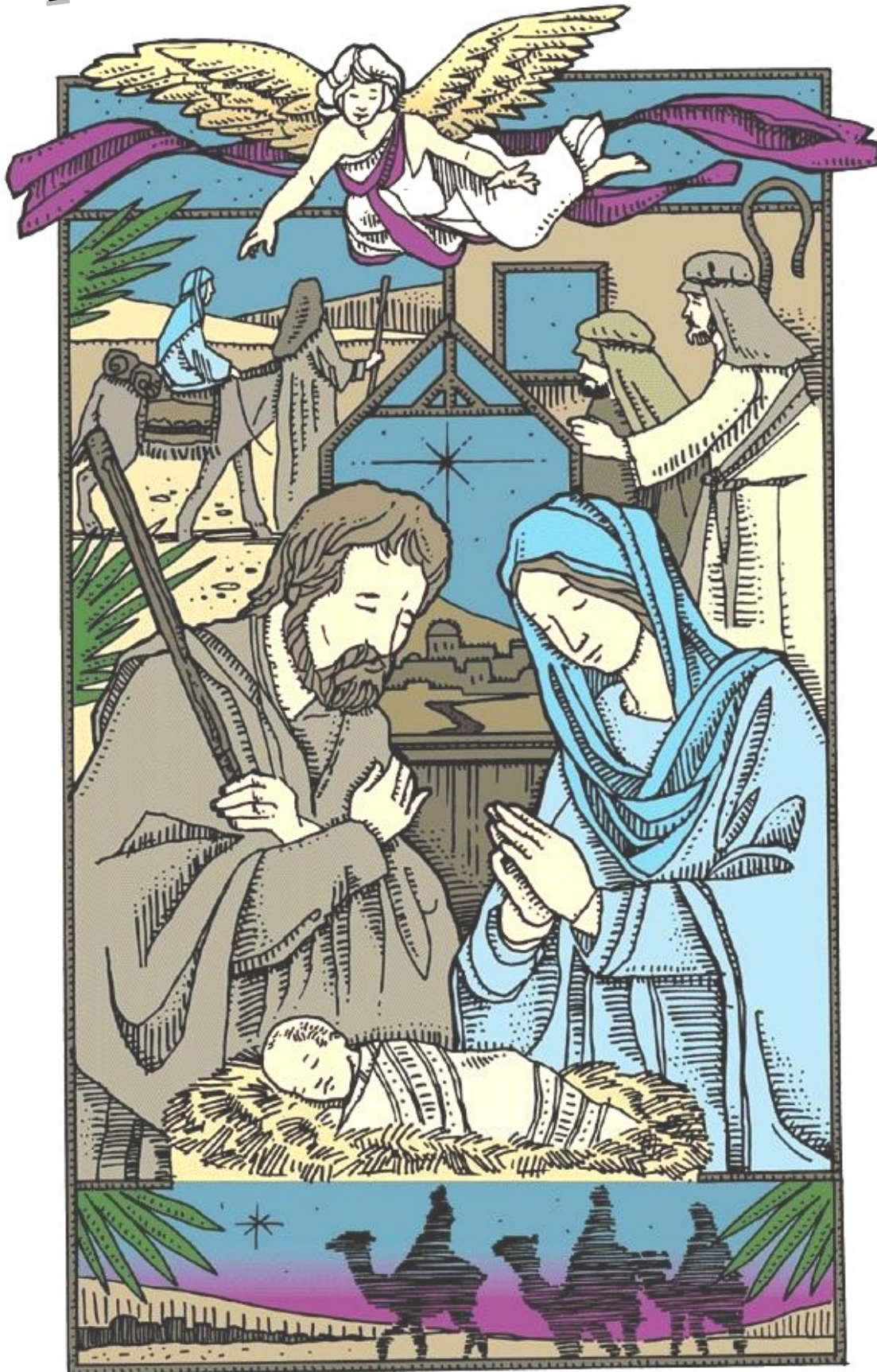
We ask that you display this NATIVITY scene until SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022, THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD. This marks the official end of the Christmas season. Let us do our part to keep Christ in Christmas!

Share The Light Of Christ

On one gentle night
Under one star so bright
The LIGHT of the World was born!
May the love and peace that was born that night
be with you and your loved ones at Christmas and always.

The Family Ministry Committee

Keep **CHRIST** in **CHRISTMAS**



Sharing the Gospel

Long ago, God promised to send a Savior into the world. So when Jesus was finally born in Bethlehem, the angels praised God. The angels shared God's great news with the shepherds, so they could find Jesus and praise God, too.



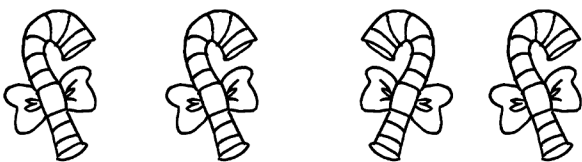
Mission for the Week



You can praise God like the angels did. Go Christmas caroling together as a family. Sing all of your favorite songs together.

Puzzle

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way. Then color in all the pictures.



©LPI

Prayer



Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus into the world. I want to praise You like the angels did.

Something

to Draw

Draw a picture of the angels sharing the news with some very surprised shepherds.

