



The angel Gabriel was sent from
God to a town of Galilee called
Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed
to a man named Joseph...and the
virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:26-27

THE ANNUNCIATION: HENRY OSGOOD TANNER, WINDSOR, CANADA

Wondering Why

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The old axiom goes: if you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans. All too often the vision God has for us takes us in quite varying directions. The stories of King David and of Mary echo such realities. David, who wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant so God would not need to live in a tent, had his plans nixed, only to be reminded that it is *God* who does the building in life and not David. And Mary, who found herself confused over how she might conceive, was asked to simply trust and place her life in the hands of God. Both said "yes."

There are always times when the unfolding path of God for us may unsettle us: the complexities of immigrants at our doorstep, the changing demographics of our cities, the need to close or merge parishes, the upheavals of our personal lives. We find ourselves asking why without receiving any answers. Each time there is no answer, consider it an invitation to trust in a power greater than ourselves.

Not all rhythms of life are necessarily caused by the hand of God, but then one can never be sure. Who is to say where and how and through whom God works? Christmas comes as a reminder that God's love and presence still unfolds in varied and new ways, always giving birth again and again to the divine made flesh in our lives. The mystery of the Incarnation points to this truth: God is present in all of life. ●

Reflect

Have you ever had your plans unsettled in a way that turned out, in the end, to be a gift from God?



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
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Cherry, IL 61317-0159
Phone 815-894-2006
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Pastor of the Three Churches
Fr. Thaddeus Tran

Main Office: Holy Trinity Rectory
Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger
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Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
Phone 815-663-6201
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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
To place your order, call 815-252-2215.
Leave name, phone number, & your order
Ravs/Tort are \$8.00/bag

St. Patrick Catholic Church
106 Church St.
Arlington, IL 61312
Phone 815-894-2006
Mail: PO Box 159 Cherry IL 61317

Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, December 24th - No Class / Christmas Break
Sunday, December 31st - No Class / Christmas Break

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 25, 2023

Monday	12/25	9:30 am	HT	† Bill Pozzi Sr.
Tuesday	12/26	9:00 am	STM	† No Mass
Wednesday	12/27	5:30 pm	HT	† No Mass
Thursday	12/28	9:00 am	HT	† Michael Campbell
Friday	12/29	9:00 am	STM	† Doug Samolinski

Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 30-31, 2023

Saturday	12/30	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Carolyn Bradner
Sunday	12/31	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Norma Templeton
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† For the Parishioners
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† New Year's Eve - No Mass

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S EMBODIED LOVE

For centuries, the Israelites had prayed for a Messiah. They prayed for the Savior and every time there was a bad moment in their history, they believed it would be opportune for Him to come to rescue them from that hardship.

God in His love became human because He wanted to save us – a promise that was made when the first disobedience occurred. We recognized the selfishness of humanity from the very first moment of our sinning. God again showed his love for us, not only in creating us, but by promising that He would come to earth as man – something that is just unbelievable. He did not just come to be our companion – He came to save us. That redemption is what the Incarnation is all about.

So when we call him God with us, Emmanuel, He is just not present as a little baby. He is with us in the Eucharist. He is with us in flesh and blood, not only for us to adore, but for us to partake.

Such a central part of the Nativity story is the embodied nature of Christ's love. In coming to earth, Christ made God's love visible in an entirely new way. That is why traditions like putting up a creche in your house can be such a wonderful reminder of Christ's Incarnation.

That is really what the miracle of the Incarnation is: "God becoming tangible to us as humans," feeling what we feel, experiencing human life in all its joys and sorrows. And we need to know that as a people to go on to express our faith. The beautiful mystery of the Incarnation may be difficult to explain, but we can make it known to others by loving them – by embodying the love of Christ, just as He embodied love in becoming incarnate for us. *(Excerpted from nationalshrine.org)*

✿ merry christmas ✿

Christmas Flower Donations In Memory Of...

Holy Trinity

Michael Campbell
Laura Coppock
Mary Ann Dunteman
Jeryllyn Dunteman
Joyce, Rose, & Earl Gillan
Alan Hahn
James & Ellen Hermann
Rita Hoscheid
Charlie & Hazel Keutzer
Wayne Pinter
Helen Harms
Theresa VanFleet
The Pozzi & Rutoski Families

St Patrick

Bartoli & Goryl Family
Janelle Beattie Geiger & Joseph Beattie
Ivie Bonnell Family
Fonderoli & Pierard Family
The Flanagan Family
The Stouffer Family
Jim Smith

St Thomas Moore

Mike Bacidore
John Balma
Hart & Brust Families
Frank & Mary Domkuski
Darlene Krueger
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Maggio Sr.
Betty Newhallphen
Alicia Remus, Vince Remus,
Betty & Ron Stariha
Angelo & Vi Pozzi
Brad & Jackie Ratkiewicz
Julie Taliani
Nina Tunget (Weisheit)



LATEST OFFERING'S

DEC 17TH WEEKEND

HT – \$ 908.00
HUMAN DEVELOP \$8 | RETIRE \$63
SP – \$ 412.00
SEMINARIAN \$20
STM – \$1,117.00



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE
SAT. DEC 30TH
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT
ST PATRICK
IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

The Bible talks about Jesus' brothers and sisters. Is there scriptural proof that Jesus was Mary's only child?

The Catholic Church's position is that Mary had only one child; her son called Jesus. Yet there are at least ten scriptural references to "the brothers of Jesus" or to his "sisters" (see Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3, and Luke 8:19-21).

The difficulty is that the meaning of the term "brothers" (translated from the Greek *adelphos*) isn't restricted to the sharing of a parent. On the contrary, it may not only refer to other relatives, including cousins, but also to close relationships, such as disciples. This is not unlike how we might refer to "brothers in arms" as those who fought in a war together, or a religious order of brothers or sisters.

Recall, too, that Jesus and his disciples spoke Aramaic, and there is no equivalent for the meaning of "cousins" as we know it in that language. Instead, the word for brother or sister was used when referring to cousins. Thus, when St. Jerome (*circa* 340-420) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Church Latin, he considered "the brothers of Jesus" as cousins, not siblings. After all, it would have been the rightful responsibility of these male relatives of Jesus to take care of Mary when Jesus died. Yet Jesus entrusts his mother to the care of his beloved disciple John (John 19:26). ●



ST. JOHN AND CHILD, 650 (ARTIST UNKNOWN)

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
December 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i> Is 52:7-10 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14	December 26 <i>St. Stephen, the First Martyr</i> Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Mt 10:17-22	December 27 <i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> 1 Jn 1:1-4 Jn 20:1a, 2-8	December 28 <i>Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i> 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Mt 2:13-18	December 29 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:3-11 Lk 2:22-35	December 30 <i>Christmas Weekday</i> 1 Jn 2:12-17 Lk 2:36-40	December 31 <i>Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask our Lady for a grace...that she kindle our enthusiasm for the ideal of holiness which is not a matter of holy cards and images, but is about living what happens each day, humbly and joyfully...with our eyes fixed on God and the neighbor we meet.

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 8, 2021