



The Jesus Stories of Christmastime

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Every year, pundits lament the glitter of our commercialized Christmases. Beneath all such trappings, however, our cultural Christmases are really disguised and unrecognized celebrations of God-made-flesh.

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse" is really the story of a Santa-type God who slips into our lives with great generosity, though we seldom notice as we go through life half asleep. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" is about a misfit reindeer with a "wrong-colored" nose who is rejected by the other reindeer and not welcomed into their games. But then he becomes the means of saving a foggy Christmas Eve with his shining light of a nose. Rudolph is like the stone rejected by the builders that becomes the cornerstone—Jesus, who saves us not only at Christmas but all year long. Frosty the Snowman brings happiness to boys and girls for a time, but then he begins to melt, only to promise he'll come again another day—all a hint of the hope offered by Jesus, who continues to come in resurrection and life. And Ebenezer Scrooge, whose withered and crusty spirit is transformed into generosity and love in *A Christmas Carol*, all without his ever realizing what is taking place until, of course, it happens. Then he proclaims he will honor Christmas in his heart the whole year long—a transformation that God brings about in each of us.

Christmas celebrates God-made-flesh in Jesus, something that took place then and echoes now for all of time and in all of life. ●

Reflect

How do you experience God-made-flesh during these Christmas days?





Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
212 S. Main St. PO Box 159
Cherry, IL 61317-0159
Phone 815-894-2006
Office Email
HolyTSP@gmail.com

Pastor of the Three Churches
Fr. Thaddeus Tran

Main Office: Holy Trinity Rectory
Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger
Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
Phone 815-663-6201
Email
thomasmore32@gmail.com

Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Events at St Thomas More
Rav Group taking orders now.
Call 815-252-2215 to place an order

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



9:30 am - 10:30 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, December 25th - Merry Christmas
Sunday, January 1st - Happy New Year
CCD new email address is holytrinitycherry@gmail.com
Reminder: ALL parents/guardians need to be signed up for BCR Alerts!

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of December 26, 2022

Monday	12/26			+ No Mass
Tuesday	12/27	9:00 am	STM	+ Peter Fiocchi
Wednesday	12/28	5:30 pm	HT	+ Michael Campbell
Thursday	12/29	9:00 am	HT	+ Doug Samolinski
Friday	12/30	9:00 am	STM	+ Kathy Sondgeroth

Mass Intentions for the weekend of December 31, 2022 - January 1, 2023

Saturday	12/31	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Dennis & Lori Domkuski
Sunday	1/1	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Daisy Kopek
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Dorothy Stouffer
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ No Mass

Growing Disciples - Important Notice

Dear Leaders of Growing Disciples teams, there will be a meeting to view the diocesan webinar. Each team of our three churches are required to submit recommendations to the Bishop as soon as we receive the needed forms from the Bishop's office. Please call the church office to indicate date and time preferences for the above meeting.

2023 Church Collection Envelopes

We have been advised by the company which handles our church envelopes that there has been a delay in shipping. We should be receiving them soon and will have them in the back of all the churches as soon as possible.

Christmas Flower Donations in Memory of...

Holy Trinity

Charlie & Hazel Keutzer
Michael Campbell
Joyce Gillan
Mimi Mautino
Alan Hahn
Wayne Pinter
Bill Pozzi Sr

St Thomas More

Frank & Mary Domkuski Sr
Robert Sobin
Louis & Anna Guerrini
Richard & Kevin Guerrini
Bruce Batten
Ugasco & Guerrini Family
Betty Newhalfen

St Patrick

Leonel Pommier Family
William McDonald Family
Stouffer Family
Flanagan Family
Janelle Beattie Geiger
William Bonnell
Jim Smith
Joseph Klein Family
Fonderoli Family
Tony Taylor
Dave & Angela Miller
Lilly & Lucy Galloway
Meyer Family
Deceased Members of Bacidore Family
Deceased Members of Walther Family
Louis Pierard Family



LATEST OFFERING'S

WEEKEND DEC 18TH

HT - \$717.00

SP - \$844.00

STM - \$1,229.00



CONFESSIONS

THE NEXT CONFESSIONS
WILL BE SAT, DEC 31ST
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT
ST THOMAS MORE
IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

I haven't been to Mass in a long time, but lately I feel drawn to come again. Can you help me better understand the Mass?

Welcome home! To learn more about the Mass, you might consider participating in your parish's program for those who are thinking about joining the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, we can offer five principles that form the foundation for what happens at Mass.

Participation rather than passive attendance: Mass is a time of prayerful activity—listening intently, praying fervently, reflecting quietly, singing and worshipping joyfully.

Gratitude for God's mercy as we acknowledge our sinfulness: There are several occasions during Mass when we are called to acknowledge that we sin, but also that mercy and forgiveness are offered freely to all who acknowledge their imperfections and sinful behavior.

Word and sacrament: The liturgy comprises the Liturgy of the Word (penitential act, Scripture readings, homily, and prayers of the faithful) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (presentation of gifts, eucharistic prayer, and Communion rite). Both are important.

Christ's Real Presence: Under the forms of bread and wine (the Eucharist), the Real Presence of Christ retains a prominent place in the Mass. Christ is also present—in different ways—in the words of Scripture, in the presence of the priest, and in the assembly gathered in his name.

A celebration of family and community: Jesus fostered a sense of family among his disciples. Parish liturgies should be a time when young and old, rich and poor, families and single people join together to experience unity in Christ Jesus. ●



SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The great mystery of our faith is shown in this simple sign of the Nativity scene....God loves us to the point of sharing our humanity and our lives. He never leaves us alone; he accompanies us with his hidden, but not invisible, presence. In all circumstances, in joy as in pain, he is the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

HOMILY, SHRINE OF GRECCIO, RIETE, ITALY, DECEMBER 1, 2019

MONDAY

December 26
St. Stephen,
First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10;
7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

TUESDAY

December 27
St. John,
Apostle and
Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1–4
Jn 20:1a, 2–8

WEDNESDAY

December 28
Holy Innocents,
Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5–2:2
Mt 2:13–18

THURSDAY

December 29
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:3–11
Lk 2:22–35

FRIDAY

December 30
Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and
Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Col 3:12–21 or
Col 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

SATURDAY

December 31
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:18–21
Jn 1:1–18

SUNDAY

January 1, 2023
Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God
Nm 6:22–27
Gal 4:4–7
Lk 2:16–21

Daybreaks inspires during our Church's holiest seasons.

Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections and prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Daeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.