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St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB

Responsorial Psalm 24: "May the Lord come in; he is king of glory."

Visiting the Sick: Please let us know who is ill, at home or in hospital so that we can visit and offer the sacraments.

St. Theresa's Parish News:

If anyone has any personal petitions, you can place them in the box at the back of the church. They will not be individually read but prayed for generally.

St. Theresa's Finance Report 2019 Month of December

REVENUES:		EXPENSES:	
Dec 1 collection	\$984.00	Hydro	\$501.00
Dec 8 collection	\$825.00	Cemetery subdivision expenses	\$407.38
Cemetery plot sales	\$3,000.00	Parish potluck supplies	\$21.99
Dec 15 collection	\$850.00	SGG remittance	\$870.00
		Postage & Church supplies	\$25.28
		Archdiocese 1/4ly assessment	\$1,492.50
Year To Date Revenues	\$75,560.92	Year To Date Expenses	\$74,934.06

For a donation envelope set contact Raymond Lysyshin at 204-859-2409 or 204-859-2134

St. Joseph The Worker Parish News:

Consider this your invitation to join together to help decorate our church for Christmas on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join. Any question please phone Bev Roszell, 204-773-3998.

Parishioners please pick up:

-your 2019 parish donation envelopes – are now available for pickup at the back of the church, **please do not use these until the new year!**

Thank you to:

- The children who are attending children's liturgy. Children's liturgy will resume on January 12th. Merry Christmas and see you all in the new year! Enjoy your holidays, Glenda.
- All our parish children in St. Theresa's & St. Joseph's for the coins they put in the treasure chest each Sunday.
- Knights of Columbus for the beautiful parish "Keep Christ in Christmas" sign posted by the street of St. Joseph The Worker parish!
- Grant Roszell who continues to update our parish website!

Mass Intentions For The Week:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Saturday Dec.. 21 7:30 p.m. Russell: Sister Myriann req. Mike, Glenda & Family
 - Sunday Dec. 22 9:00 a.m. Russell: For all Parishioners req. Father Paul
11:00 a.m. Rossburn: +Laurence Osadec
req David Woychyshyn & Family
 - Monday Dec. 23 **No Mass**
 - Tuesday Dec. 24 6:00 p.m. **Russell:** *Christmas Eve – Nativity of the Lord*
+Felix & Joyce Mushumanski
req. Julian and Sandra & Family
8:00 p.m. **Russell:** *Christmas Eve – Nativity of the Lord*
+Ben Schmidt req. Bev, Jim & Family
 - Wed. Dec. 25 11:00 a.m. Rossburn: *Christmas Day – Nativity of the Lord*
+Melvin Bart req. Mary Kaskiw & family
- No Masses - Thursday, December 26th & Friday, December 27**

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- Saturday Dec 28 7:30 p.m. Russell: Special intentions req. Simone
- Sunday Dec 29 9:00 a.m. Russell: For all Parishioners req. Father Paul
11:00 a.m. Rossburn: +Michael Sobie req. Bernadine Brown
- Monday Dec. 30 **No Mass**
- Tuesday Dec. 31 7:30 p.m. **Russell:** *New Year's Eve – Solemnity Mary, the Holy Mother of God*
For sick & shut-ins req. Simone
- Wed. Jan. 1 9:00 a.m. **Russell:** *New Year's Day - Solemnity Mary, the Holy Mother of God – World Day of Peace*
For all Parishioners req. Father Paul
11:00 a.m. **Rossburn:** *New Year's Day - Solemnity Mary, the Holy Mother of God – World Day of Peace*
+Melvin Bart req. Mary Kaskiw & family

Parish Volunteer Opportunity

A group from our parish is planning to drive to Brandon, assisting the "Helping Hands Soup Kitchen", to serve those in need, Wednesday, January 29th. We will leave Russell at 8:30 am. and return in the afternoon. This is an opportunity for ministry of service with Social Justice, and for parishioners to work together. If you have questions/those interested, please call Deacon Darin Douglas or Carlene Douglas, 532-2157 (Hm.). Numbers of individuals going, needs to be known before Sun Jan. 19th.

1 Peter 4: 10-11 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Dear Padre,

Why did early Christians begin celebrating Christmas on December 25th?

Placing Christmas near the winter solstice can be traced to pagan celebrations in Christianity's early years. The celebration of Christmas in December began in Rome as a Christian response to a civil festival honoring the sun god Sol.

The Romans celebrated the sun climbing into the northern skies, signaling the lengthening days after the cold winter nights. On December 25, 274, Aurelian proclaimed the sun god principal patron of the empire. Christmas originated when this sun cult was strongest. Christians wouldn't go to the temple to pay homage to a sun god. They believed in the one true God, and God's only son made human, Jesus Christ.

It's almost as if Christians substituted "son" for "sun" and celebrated the birth of the son of justice into this world. The parallels are uncanny. As the extending sunlight broke night's grip and softened the cold sting on the world, so Jesus' coming broke the long reign of sin and darkness. Jesus was the true son, the light and life of the world, the reason for renewed hope.

Narrow fundamentalists fail to understand that Christmas is more than a birthday celebration of the *day* Christ was born. It's wider in scope, celebrating the reality that Jesus was born human. It's not the *when* but the *what* that we celebrate. So, Jesus' precise birthdate doesn't matter. What matters is that Jesus was truly born human—like us in all things but sin. For this we celebrate.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

We need, then, to open our hearts to the true light, Jesus Christ. He is the light that can illumine life and turn our darkness into light; the light of goodness that conquers evil; the light of the love that overcomes hatred; the light of the life that triumphs over death.

—ADDRESS TO VATICAN CURIA, DECEMBER 21, 2018

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Tuesday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
Sir 35:1–12
Mk 10:28–31

Wednesday

DECEMBER 25
Christmas
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

DECEMBER 29
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14
Col 3:12–21 or
Col 3:12–17
Mt 2:13–15, 19–23

Good News!

December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
Is 7:10–14; Rom 1:1–7; Mt 1:18–24

The Incarnation means that God is one of us. He is made of our flesh and blood; he laughs, sings, and loves people. Though we believe he is God, he is still one of us. We can choose him to be on our team, trusting that he will play to win.

When identifying ourselves, we normally tell others what we do. Societies like the one to which Jesus belonged usually identified themselves by tracing ancestry. As Isaiah tells us today, Jesus belonged to the house of David. Paul says that he was of David "according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3). The Gospel identifies Joseph as a "son of David" (Matthew 1:20). Since Jesus was considered Joseph's legal son, he also was a "son of David." Joseph is told that the child will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us" (Matthew 1:23). Thus, Incarnation means God is with us in a unique way in this man who is one of us. The Incarnation also gives extraordinary dignity to material creation, of which we are all a part and of which he is a part as well, for he is one of us. In other words, Emmanuel (God with us) is a child of earth.

Like Joseph, we cannot fully comprehend what has happened. We can only stand with him in awe as this wondrous mystery unfolds before us. As we await Christmas, we wait for him to appear. When he comes, we will be amazed to see that he is really one of us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2019

The Most Reverend Richard Gagnon,
(our Parishes) Archbishop of Winnipeg

These mysteries of the life of Jesus, mysteries of our faith and indeed of the life of every believer, take on a beautiful significance when read in light of reconciliation. Reconciliation means embracing another, the coming together of those estranged. It begins by seeing and hearing anew, undergoing a profound change, turning from past ways and turning to the Lord and to others in new ways.

Christmas is the powerful sign and grace-filled opportunity of reconciliation: between heaven and earth; among family members, friends and colleagues; not only in our homes and churches but throughout our communities and world. The story of salvation is how God can change the human heart, how the Lord came down from heaven to reconcile the world to himself. The Prologue to the Gospel of John reminds us reconciliation is God's initiative and is life-giving: in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (Jn 1: 4-5)

Reconciliation is both interior and exterior, personal and social - changing one's own heart and reaching out to others. The community of faith, to be a community of reconciliation, must provide encouragement for both internal reflection and external action. In order to take things to heart like Mary, who is the Mother and model of the Church, the community needs to be an authentic witness to reconciliation. It must connect and be concerned with the lives and experiences of people. Saint Paul reminds the Church and its members that theirs is the ministry of reconciliation. We read in 2 Corinthians 5:18,19, "**All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**" Reconciliation, as an essential dimension to human dignity and human relationships, means reaching out to all who are in situations of division, exploitation, marginalization and rejection. For Canadians in the present day, the ministry and message of reconciliation in a specific way impacts on Indigenous realities, on questions relating to earth as our common home, and on the indignities done to human life and the human person.