

December 2019



What comes to mind when you recall your family’s Christmas traditions? Can you imagine the sights, smells, sounds and tastes that remind you of these precious memories of Christmas? The Advent wreath with its 4 candles to represent each of the weeks of preparing for Christmas; the Christmas tree decorated with keepsake ornaments and twinkling lights; the aroma and the tastes of fresh-baked cookies; and nostalgic Christmas music filling the air? **Possibly, the most important tradition of Christmas was the nativity set, a beautiful representation of the birth of Christ, which donned your home?**

Tim Nealeigh* shared with us his love for Christ and the importance of celebrating the birth of Christ. The nativity was always in both his home and church. Until one year he was attending a church with no nativity! **WHAT!?** **Tim saw a need and took action – we invite you to take action.** This Christmas you may make a gift to the Shrine in honor of the special people in your life who have everything they need. You may wish to save time shopping, and make your gift online or via US mail. **What a great gift for someone who needs nothing more than prayer! Celebrate Christmas with gifts of Shrine support in honor or memory of your loved ones.**

Tim recalls on a cold winter day in Chicago on his way to catch a train– there in a store window something caught his eye . . . a beautiful oversized nativity! “That would look perfect at church,” he thought. He gathered up what was two months’ salary at the time and purchased that nativity! Can you imagine two months’ salary for a nativity!? That very nativity was the beginning of Tim & Katheleen’s collection. They purchased some in their travels; they received some as gifts; and some nativities were even purchased online. At last count the Nealeighs had over 1700 nativities!



* You many know Tim Nealeigh as the Weaver at the Shrine’s Heritage Day Celebration or as the Shrine’s St. Nicholas.

(Over)

I would like to make a Christmas gift in Honor of a Loved One.

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed payable to: Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics

Name: _____

Charge my gift to:

Address: _____

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Phone: _____

Exp. Date _____ CVC (3 digits from back of card) _____

Email: _____

Acct. _____

Signature _____

Birthdays: ____/____/____ and ____/____/____

GIFT IN HONOR OF: _____

Ordination or Wedding Anniversary: ____/____/____

GIFT IN MEMORY OF: _____



Not only were the Nealeighs very generous to loan nativity sets to the Shrine each year, but they also took the time to plan a theme each year, to deliver and set up each piece. Then they would return to package up each piece and take them home. What a gift! They wanted to share their beautiful collection, which includes a variety of sizes, mediums and cultures. The Nealeighs touched many lives by sharing their nativities with others. You can touch lives for years to come by choosing to support the spiritual nourishment at the Shrine.

In 1875 Fr. Gartner needed a safe home for a Relic collection. He brought it to the Shrine for visitors/pilgrims like you. As the Nealeighs transition into a new home and another phase of life, they knew they needed to find a new home for their nativities. In 2019 the Nealeighs gifted their nativity collection to the Shrine for visitors/pilgrims like you as well.

Thank you to the Nealeighs for sharing their gifts (time, talent and treasure) with the Shrine. Thank YOU for the Shrine support you choose to give. **This Christmas please consider a gift to the Maria Stein Shrine in honor or memory of your loved ones who need nothing more than prayer.** You will be acknowledged for your gift and, if you wish, we will send a card to your loved one letting them know that you have honored them and they are being prayed for. Imagine the joy the Three Kings experienced when they offered gifts to the Christ Child! May it bring you the joy of Christmas to know that you can make the world a better place!

May Advent keep our hearts aflame with the Hope of Christmas,

Don Rosenbeck
President

Diana Russell
Director of Fund Development

P.S. Come and experience over 60 Nativities on display at the Shrine Dec 1 – Jan 13.

___ Yes, Please send a card to my/our loved one letting them know a gift was given to the Shrine in honor of them. Name and Address: _____

Please include my/our special intentions in the Shrine's daily prayers:
