

*And suddenly there was a multitude
of the heavenly host with the angel,
praising God and saying:*

**“GLORY TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST.”**

Luke 2:13-14

December 25, 2022 • Christmas

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It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

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Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Today's Readings: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb. 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18

PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
Deacon John Erdag

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. **Please come again!***

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Mike Stephens. Suzanne DiCarlo. Kathy Bower. John & Nitja McGrane. Pat Schmeier. Ethan Cowles. Cayla Goodson. Ruth & David Barber. Msgr. Ron Diegel. Richard & Dottie Schuetz. Tom Fabitz. Jodie Woods. Doris Hoffman. Yolanda Boyd. Wanda & George Duke. Jean Hamilton. Kathleen Fleming. Jaye Anderson. Greg Mooney. Garry Fetsch. Karee Haney. Charlie Parker. Jacob Stephens. Elise Sugg. Avery Boultinghouse. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially Eldon Boyd, husband of Yolanda Boyd, 1082 West Holly Trail, Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SICK.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community: Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 12/24 John Virgil Walter+ (M/M Hodges)
Sun. 12/25 Parishioners & HLR Community
Tues. 12/27 Jerry Hauck (Ellis Family)
Wed. 12/28 No Mass
Thurs. 12/29 No Mass
Fri. 12/30 No Mass
Sat. 12/31 Parishioners & their families

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the year of 2021
 Expenditures \$ 3,666
 Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,799
 Attendance: 12/17 Sat: 60 12/18 Sun: 67

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

December Second Collections:

3rd & 4th: "Building & Maintenance Fund."
 10th & 11th: "Retirement Fund for Religious."
 24th & 25th: "Caring for Priests Collection."



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2023 Collection Envelopes are available. Please pick up in the Narthex. They are in alphabetical order. If you cannot find your envelopes notify the church office. If you prefer to have your tithing sent from your bank, please notify Bridget @ holy.spirit2@yahoo.com or 903-769-3235

CHRISTMAS AS "CHRIST'S MASS" THE MANGER AND THE EUCHARIST

Dr. Michael Barber

Christmas as "Christ's Mass": The Manger and the Eucharist by Dr. Michael Barber

Dr. Michael Barber explains the extraordinary connection between Christmas and the Eucharist, coining the great solemnity as "Christ's Mass."

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



Pope's Intention for December:



For volunteer not-for-profit organizations. We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Monday: St. Stephen; Kwanzaa begins
Tuesday: St. John
Wednesday: The Holy Innocents
Thursday: St. Thomas Becket; Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord
Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Saturday: St. Sylvester I; New Year's Eve/Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, you will need to be compliant on your ethics and integrity training with VIRTUS. Please notify our contact person to get signed up contact person Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or justin.mahaffey@icloud.com

Legion of Mary—Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749.** If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

DECEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Sat., Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Mass 5:00pm

Sun., Dec. 25th: Christmas Day Mass 9:00am. No coffee & Donuts

Tues., Dec. 27th: 9:00am Mass. No Adoration. Come and join **Fr. Mike celebrating his 14th Ordination Anniversary.**

Wed., Dec. 28th through Fri., 30th: No Mass during this time. Church Office closed

Sat., Dec. 31st: 5:00pm Mass New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2023 NEWS & EVENTS

Sun., Jan. 1: 9:00am Mass New Year's Day. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass.

Tues., Jan. 3rd: 9:00am Mass. No Adoration.

Wed., Jan. 4th—Fri., Jan. 6th: 9:00am Mass.

Sun., Jan. 8th: 9:00am Mass. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass.

Tues., Jan. 10th: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

Wed., Jan. 11th—Fri., Jan. 13th: 9:00am Mass.

Thurs., Jan. 12th: K of C Meeting 7:00pm in St. Jude's Hall

Sun., Jan. 15th: 9:00am Mass. Coffee/Donuts after Mass.

Tues., Jan. 17th: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

Wed., Jan. 18th—Fri., Jan. 20th: 9:00am Mass.

Fri., Jan. 20th: K of C Fish Fry— St. Jude's Hall. Watch your bulletin for more information.



***ANGEL
GIVING
TREE***

Thanking all those who participated in the Angel Giving Tree. We had another successful year due to your generous donations, in giving to these precious children. They will be smiling on Christmas morning.

God Bless to all!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Through your kind donations we were able to fill 18 Christmas food boxes. Weighing approximately 25—30 lbs each including a \$ 20.00 Walmart gift card to purchase a ham or turkey. The Christmas boxes were delivered on Friday, Dec. 16th.

We're still feeding 15 families on a weekly basis.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all!

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email Bryan Todd at 972-672-4218 or toddtalk@hotmail.com
Thank you, to our Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team!

Grab your cowboy boots and join us at the **Baby Boot Scootin' Boogie Square Dance** on Sat., Jan. 7th, benefiting multiple ministries in the Diocese of Tyler. We are hosting a square dance at the beautiful Veritatis Splendor property in Winona. The talented Mr. Tim Tyl will be calling the dance. No experience necessary - Mr. Tyl will teach you as we go. For tickets & more info, see bootscootin'tyler.eventbrite.com.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Rev. Michael Snider



Christmas & New Year's Schedule

Sat., Dec. 24th: Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord
Christmas Eve Mass 5:00pm

Sun., Dec. 25th: The Nativity of the Lord
Holy Day of Obligation
Christmas Day Mass 9:00am

Sat., Dec. 31st: New Year's Eve 5:00pm Mass

Sun., Jan. 1st: New Year's Day 9:00am Mass

Msgr. Ron Diegel wishes to thank all of you for your continued prayers, cards and support. He prays that Jesus helps you to find happiness and saves you from every difficulty during this Christmas Season. Merry Christmas!

The Christmas Star (<http://www.classichistory.net/archives/christmas-star>)

The Christmas Star is associated with the story of the wise men and the birth of Jesus as told in the book of Matthew and is a prominent symbol around Christmastime. Christ's coming was foretold in Numbers 24:17, "There shall come a Star out of Jacob," and in Revelation 22:16 He is called "the bright and morning star."

The Birth of Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the rule of King Herod. Wise men traveled to Jerusalem saying, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship Him." When Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, as was all of Jerusalem. He gathered all of his priests and scribes together and demanded they find where Christ would be born. And they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea." Then Herod called his wise men and asked them what time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem to search for the child, telling them, "When ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." The wise men departed and followed the star in the east, following it to Bethlehem. They traveled until the star stood over the home of the young child, and then "rejoiced with exceeding joy." They came into the manger and saw the child with Mary, his mother, and fell down and worshiped him. They opened their treasures to him, presenting him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they parted into their own country another way. When the three wise men had departed, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt." Joseph, Mary, and the young child fled to Egypt by night and remained there until the death of King Herod. An angel again appeared in a dream to Joseph saying, "Arise and take the young child and his mother and go into the land of Israel. For they are dead that sought the young child's life." Joseph took his family to Galilee and settled in the town of Nazareth.

The Star

Through the centuries there have been many discussions as to what the Christmas Star really was. Some conclude that it is only a myth. Others conclude that it is a verifiable historical event. The Greek word, generally translated as 'star' (αστερα - astera/astra ... we get 'astronomy') can also mean planet or could refer to other objects such as a comet. Roman historian Cassius Dio observed a comet over Rome for several days in 12 BC. Since the actual date of Christ's birth is not known, He may have been born several years earlier than believed. At this date, Halley's Comet was slightly north of 2 stars, Castor and Pollux, which passed through the zenith over Bethlehem. Therefore, the comet would have been directly over Bethlehem as well.

Johannes Kepler's Stella Nova – Johannes Kepler was one of the greatest scientists of the Renaissance, and one of the first to note this phenomenon. His discovery of the laws of planetary motion was one of the foundation stones of the Scientific Revolution. Yet he saw no inconsistency between science and religion and was eager to use his mathematical genius to determine the correct birth date of Jesus. In the years 1604-1605, a supernova appeared in the constellation Ophiuchus. This generated considerable discussion in Europe. Kepler kept a detailed record of his observations on the star. In the preceding year, December 17, 1603, he had also witnessed a conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn, with Mars moving into the vicinity soon after. This is known as the 'great conjunction' and occurs every 19.86 years. The supernova appeared in the vicinity of these planets. Kepler calculated that a similar conjunction had occurred in the year 7 BC. On that occasion it had been a much more rare triple conjunction, one that only occurs every 793 years. Modern calculations indicate that the planets appeared approximately twice the moon's diameter from each other in the sky, and therefore would not appear as one star. For this reason, Kepler made it quite clear in his writings that the Star of Bethlehem was most likely a new star, a supernova. *A supernova is an exploding star.* For someone on Earth, it could have appeared nearly as bright as the moon, all concentrated in one point in the sky. This is bright enough to cast shadows at night, and to be visible in the daytime sky. Peak brightness for this kind of phenomena lasts for 7 to 14 days, with the star remaining visible for months. The search for a scientific explanation for the star is ongoing. It may have been a supernova, or a miracle of its own. The Star of Bethlehem is something that may never be explained beyond what we are told in the Bible. The star is used to this day around Christmastime as a symbol of Christ's coming into our world.

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