





*Angels we have heard on high Sweetly
singing o'er the plains, And the mountains
in reply Echo back their joyous strains.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your
joyous strains prolong? Say what may the
tidings be Which inspire your
heavenly song.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose
birth the angels sing. Come, adore on
bended knee Christ, the Lord, the
new-born King.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Thank you for your kindness!
'Thank You' to everyone who sent a Christmas
card, made homemade cookies and candy, gave
gift cards and Christmas gifts. May you receive
God's abundant blessings and the desires of your
heart in the coming new year.
Merry Christmas!
Michelle



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas! As we enter this Christmas season, may the peace and joy of Jesus Christ be with you and your families and remain with you forever! This Christmas will, for most of us, be quite different than previous years. Yet, the reason we celebrate remains the same: *"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord"* (Luke 2:11).

During these times, my mind keeps wandering back to the words of Pope Francis' *Urbi et Orbi* in March. Given all that has occurred in the world, that this is truly *"a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others."* What a beautiful sentiment to take into this Christmas season!

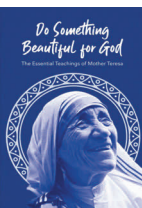
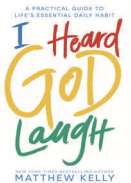
As we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, may we seek out what is truly important in this life. Through the love of family and friends, may we come to encounter the love of God. May we know His peace and joy at every moment and may it lead us joyously into this New Year!

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David



As is our parish tradition, St. Joseph's offers a gift to every parish family (and all those joining us this weekend!) as a part of our Christmas and Easter celebrations. This **Christmas**, thanks to the assistance of the **St. Joseph Women's Group**, we are able to gift the entire parish two books: *I Heard God Laugh: A Practical Guide to Life's Essential Daily Habit* and *Do Something Beautiful for God: The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa*.

I Heard God Laugh is the newest book from Dynamic Catholic's Matthew Kelly. In this quick read, Kelly offers a variety of insights into the necessity of the spiritual life and challenges the reader to ensure that they are nurturing and feeding their soul.

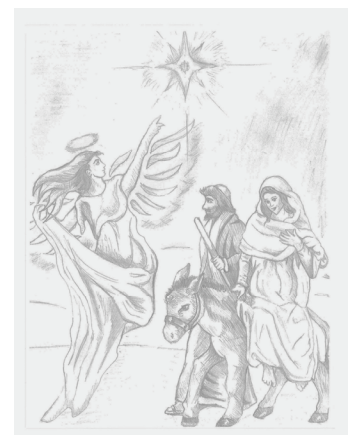


Do Something Beautiful for God offers a brief biography of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. The remainder of the book offers a different quote from Mother Teresa for each day of the calendar year to be used in prayerful meditation. These quotes can be used as the spiritual nourishment that Matthew Kelly speaks of in *I Heard God Laugh*.

We hope you find these books useful and the insights they offer to be spiritual nourishing as we celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and prepare to enter into a New Year!

OUR BULLETIN COVER

A very special THANK YOU to Andrew Hartman, Grade 12, for sharing your God-given talent with us through this beautiful bulletin cover.





What Christmas Means To Me...

Christmas means so many things to me. One thing that means a lot is spending time with my family. We put up the tree and ornaments, make cookies, and on Christmas Eve, we always drive around and look at the lights after Church. I love seeing my family's faces when they open up the gifts I give to them. But the thing that means the most to me is that it is Jesus' birthday. Anna Hartman - Grade 4

What Christmas means to me, is getting ready to take a nap on Christmas Eve so when it's time for the Christmas Vigil Mass I'm not tired.

It's the frantically trying to get grades up before the end of the semester. It's the Church getting all decorated and giving off the warm.

It's seeing friends and family that you don't always get to see.

Brendan McCorkle - Grade 12

What Christmas Means to Me - By Josephine Andrews, Grade 6

There are a lot of things that make Christmas well, Christmas. Of course, there's the presents, "Santa Claus" and the smells of dinner wafting from the kitchen, decorating the tree, the smell of the crisp cool air. But what it really means to me is being together as a family. It also means caring and giving to those who can't care for themselves. It's the day Jesus was born in that little stable in Bethlehem. The way he sacrificed himself for us inspires me to sacrifice what I can for others, especially during the Christmas season. So what Christmas means to me is, caring, loving, family and friends, caroling, cooking, and going to Mass on Christmas Eve together as a family to go celebrate Jesus' birth. That's what Christmas means to me.



There are so many things I think about when it comes to Christmas. The first thing I think about is Jesus' birth! While my family and I are in the car on our way to my grandma's house. We sing happy birthday to him. Second, being with my family! I love being with my family. On Christmas Eve my little brother usually sleeps in my sister or my room. Last, I think about the faces I will see when people open the gifts I have got for them! Every December my family except my mom all go shopping together to look for present for her! Christmas is my favorite holiday, and time of year because all the special meaning it has! Addison Roembke - Grade 7



There is no doubt Christmas is a wonderful time of year. It's a time to share joy and gifts with family and friends. Christmas is a unique and festive season which brings us closer to each other through parties, celebrations, and fun traditions. For most of us Christmas this year, in the midst of the pandemic, is going to look a little different than normal. With social distancing and recommended restrictions on group gatherings, Christmas may be a little less exciting, a little quieter, and a little lonelier than usual. Some may see this as a dreadful way to spend the Christmas time, but I will embrace it. Embrace the isolation and use it as a time to reflect and be reverent during the Advent season. The pandemic gives you the perfect opportunity to be around your immediate family members and to simply slow down on a season which would typically be hectic.

Use this time of being alone, to be in the silence and darkness to remember God came into the world to be like you, so you could be more like him. Remember he lives in you always and calls out to you in the silence. Christmas means to me a time of spreading joy and having fun, but most important for me, it's a time to reflect and grow closer to God. Christmas this year may not be the one you're familiar to, or even the Christmas you want, but it may be the most important. Justin Mayer - Grade 12



I like Christmas. It is Jesus' birthday. We get to see our family. I get to play with my cousin. Grandma makes cookies. We go to Mass on Christmas Eve. I stay up really late. Santa comes and we got a Lego train. Mom and I shop for presents for the tree at Church. I really like Christmas. Lucas Streeter - Grade 2

What Christmas means to me is a day to celebrate the day Jesus was born. I like to celebrate Christmas by spreading joy. Olivia Hoffacker - Grade 2



*May God bless you
at Christmas and always.*

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h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?

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Us!