



Matthew
1:21

Andrew
Hartman



Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head

The stars in the sky
Look down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes

I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
'Til morning is nigh

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me, I pray

Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to Heaven
To live with Thee there

Thanking God for You And Wishing You His abundant blessings this Christmas!

A heartfelt 'Thank You' to everyone who sent a Christmas card, made homemade cookies and candy, gave gift cards and Christmas gifts. I am truly blessed! May you receive God's abundant blessings and the desires of your hearts in the coming new year.

Merry Christmas!
Michelle



Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a very Blessed Christmas and a Holy and Happy New Year! You are one of my most treasured blessings. Your acceptance, kindness and generosity to me shown through your many daily encounters and your Christmas cards, goodies and gifts are most appreciated. I consider myself one of the luckiest people in the world to be able to minister among and with you. God bless and keep you all in His Love,
Sr. Rose Clare



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

To all those visiting with us this Christmastide, welcome to St. Joseph's! Today, we join together as one parish family celebrating that message of great joy given to the shepherds in the fields so long ago: *Today, in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord!* This message has continued to spread from age to age and is meant to touch every human heart, filling us with faith, hope, and love.

Our Christmas joy is so great that it cannot be contained in a single day. Christmas is not over, but has only just begun! Our celebrations continue over the next two weeks as we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord (January 5th) and His Baptism (January 12th). May we open our hearts to welcome the Christ Child throughout this season and allow His peace to reign in our lives.

FROM ALL OF US HERE AT ST. JOSEPH'S

May the grace and blessing of Christmas be with you! May the Christ Child always light your way! May God's holy angels guide you and keep you safe each and every day!

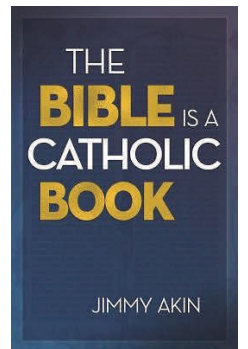
Faithfully in the love of the Christ Child, Fr. David



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, we are gifting Jimmy Akin's *The Bible is a Catholic Book*, copies of which are available in the narthex.

Jimmy Akin is a convert to the Faith and, over the past 25 years, has become a well-known author and is also a weekly guest on the global radio program *Catholic Answers Live*. In this quick-paced book, he provides wonderful and biblical-based insights into the inspired and historical development of the Sacred Scriptures.

Over the past months, I've had many parishioners remark how they desire to have a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. (*These remarks prompted our Advent Bible Study.*) I hope that, through this gift, each of us can gain a deeper understanding of the Sacred Scriptures and our Church, who our Lord Himself has entrusted to safe-guard and interpret the Sacred Scriptures. Throughout January, we will offer a **four-week book study of *The Bible is a Catholic Book*, starting Thursday, January 9th, from 7-8 PM in the Parish Conference Room.**



OUR BULLETIN COVER

A very special THANK YOU to Andrew Hartman, Grade 11, for sharing your God-given talent with us through this beautiful bulletin cover of Our Blessed Mother Mary and her son, Jesus. May you continue to use your talents for all to enjoy!



What Christmas Means To Me...

When I was younger and was asked 'What Christmas means to me' I would probably say something like opening gifts and the food. Even today there are many people who think of Christmas as candy canes, family dinners, friends, parties, and much more, but sometimes they overlook the true meaning of Christmas; it is the Lord's birthday.

Christmas does not mean you cannot give gifts or believe in Santa Claus and Rudolph. By all means you can still have those wonderful traditions, what I am saying is that to me Christmas means more than wrapping a pair of warm Christmas socks your grandma gives you or the Mexican apple salad I eat ever year. To me Christmas is about a new beginning, starting over a new year of a stronger journey in our Catholic Faith. What I mean by this is when we go to confession God forgives our sins and by what I believe is that when God gave us his only begotten son he was giving us a heads up like, "Okay guys I have given you my only begotten son and when he dies I am giving you the key to heaven. You have time to start preparing for when he dies to prove to me that you are worthy to have a spot in heaven." I believe he is telling us that since he has given us his only son we need to prepare for his arrival not so much as St. Nicholas.

To me Christmas has many meanings, for instance family, because God gave us his only begotten son Jesus. Another one is faith, faith to me is believing in something you have never seen. I believe that during Christmas we need to keep joyous, hopeful, and true to our faith in Christ. Christmas to me means staying true to our faith and families and having hope of the messiah's birth. Jacqueline Mayer- Grade 7



Christmas is the day Jesus was born.

I like to celebrate his birthday spending time with my family.

Parker Christal- Grade 3

What does Christmas Means to Me?

Christmas brings an opportunity to spend quality time with my friends and family, especially those who I do not get to see very often. It allows me to have a greater sense of appreciation for those that love and care for me. Above all, Christmas serves as a reminder to be appreciative of all the wonderful things that I take for granted in my life. - Clayton Vachon, Grade 12



Prayer for Families

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all
families.

Let Mary's openness to your
wondrous ways be an inspiration
to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with
a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircled the
Holy Family widen to embrace all
families.

For this we pray.
Amen.



Christmas is about Jesus, he
was born on Christmas Eve.
It's Jesus' Birthday. We also
get to be together with family.

Charlene Felger - Grade 1

What do Kindergartners think is important about Christmas?

Canaan Fosnaugh -

Christmas presents and being with
my family.

AnnaLynn Felger -

Presents and giving joy and happiness.

Santa Claus is the best!

Annie Herr -

Special presents.

Ainsley Wagner -

Getting presents and seeing people
love each other.

Jackson Felger -

Wanting a new train and it means to
be good.



What Christmas means to me...

Christmas means to me it brings me joy that makes
me happy and filled with joy. I'm happy about my
family gathering around and giving presents around
and it just gives me joy. Cooper Pearson - Grade 4

Blessed Christmas



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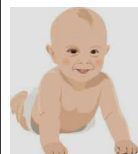
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Don't cry because
it's over
smile
because it happened.
-Dr. Seuss

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Spread *love*
everywhere you go.
Let no one ever
come to you
without leaving
happier.

-Mother Teresa

To our men and women
in uniform...
past, present and future,



Thank you and
God Bless You!

Before you speak...

THINK!

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