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saint maurice

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Nativity of the Lord • December 25, 2011

Dear Padre

When is Jesus' birthday?

December 25, 2011

How do we know Jesus was born on December 25? I've checked my Bible, and I can't find any mention of the date.

Jimmy

Dear Jimmy,

You're right: The Bible doesn't say Jesus was born on December 25. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are the only Scriptures to give much detail about Christ's birth and infancy. They name the key political figures of the day, but not much else (Luke 1:5 and 2:1-2). Neither evangelist included specific information about the dates.

Dates were apparently not important to the earliest Christians. Besides, the first few generations of Christ's followers were far more interested in celebrating Christ's resurrection each Sunday, and eventually on Easter, than they were in celebrating his birth.

Christians started to associate December 25 with Christ's nativity centuries after the fact: the year 336 according to the earliest evidence. The most popular theory is that the Church chose to replace a popular pagan Roman sun festival celebrating the winter solstice (December 21 or 22) with a Christian feast that could overtake the pagan festival and use its sun imagery to speak of Christ as the unconquered "Sun of Righteousness."

Matthew Allman, CSsR
sundaybulletins@liguori.org

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Prayer Line

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Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, S.D.S.

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Don Benevides 860-871-0752

Secretary

Mrs. Theresa Ciscon

Office Hours - Mon., Tues., & Fri. - 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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Patricia Cinea 860-646-0564

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www.stmauricekofc.org

Website: saintmauricebolton.org

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.

Holy Days at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

If you are new in the Parish, please register and introduce yourself to the Pastor. The Parishioners wish to meet and serve you! Drop by at our Coffee Social or Pancake Breakfast after the Sunday Mass, both per the Calendar online or as announced inside the bulletin. We hope you will favor our Parish with your prayers, your presence, your talents and your financial assistance according to your means!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):

By appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Please call the rectory (860-643-4466) to arrange for a meeting with the Pastor.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Arrangements must start more than 6 months before marriage. Necessary interviews, a pre-cana course and plenty of paperwork is required. We strongly urge you to contact us to begin the Diocesan preparation course as soon as you are engaged to get the most out of it without rush.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

The Sacramental Guidelines define Church Membership in terms of Sunday Mass attendance and Church support. For membership verification and sponsorship certificate, registration and regular use of the envelope system are the only way we have of verifying this for you. Please notify us if there are changes in your address, marital status, etc., so that we may update your records.

VISITATION TO THE SICK:

We are most anxious to help anyone who is not able to celebrate Mass with us in Church due to illness, handicapped or age. If you wish the Sacraments, please call 860-643-4466.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



SATURDAY, DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 a.m. Mass offered for **+Marie Madore** request of her daughter and for **+Eva & John Wachowski** request of Irene Kehl

10:00 P.M. Mass offered for all parishioners

SUNDAY, DEC. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Mass offered for **+Jean, Helen, and Stefan Grybowicz** request of The Auger family

MONDAY, DEC. 26, NO MASS

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

9:00 a.m. Mass offered for Levi Fournier, request of The Fournier Family
NO CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

9:00 a.m. Mass offered for a Special intention, request of Sima Guth

THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION TODAY

THURSDAY, DEC. 29 NO MASS

FRIDAY, DEC. 30 NO MASS

NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY

SATURDAY, DEC. 31 Rosary before Mass

4:00 p.m. Mass offered for Arthur Kehl, request of Marty & Carol Zabielski

7:30 a.m. Mass offered for Connie Morelli, request of Gloria Holbrook

10:00 a.m. Mass offered for Frank Murphy, request of Mary Anne Murphy.

And a God filled New Year

2012



MY CHRISTMAS WISH AND MESSAGE

“Far into the night, at the coldest time of the year, in a chilly grotto, more suitable for a flock of beasts than for humans, the promised Messiah – Jesus – the savior of mankind, comes into the world in the fullness of time. There are none who clamor around him: only an ox and an ass lending their warmth to the newborn infant; with a humble woman, and a poor and tired man, in adoration beside him.

Nothing can be heard except the sobs and whimpers of the infant God. And by means of his crying and weeping he offers to the Divine justice the first ransom for our redemption.” (Excerpt from writing by St. Padre Pio)

Let us all, you and I, offer our hearts to Him who offered His life for us. May we give the warmth and love so necessary in this world today to all we meet. In this way, we will have come and adored Him.

A joyous, holy and loving Christmas and a prosperous New Year to each and everyone one of you.
God Bless you

+Fr. Wojciech

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY \$ 3,214
LAST YEAR'S OFFERTORY \$ 3,096**

“She wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Where is Jesus in your life? Have you made room for Him or is He still in the manger wrapped in rags? if we are living our lives like all the rest of the modern and commercial world, we may be leaving Jesus out. it might be time to pick up this Child and make Him a priority in our lives.

Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
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**MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.**

Christmas Message-2011

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Merry Christmas! May the peace of our Savior born this day in Bethlehem be with you and all whom you love! At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and the glory of the Lord fills us with great joy. The angels' greeting to the shepherds and their message announcing the good news of Jesus' Nativity are truly a joy to be shared by the whole people. (cf Luke 2:10-11)

The angels' message to the shepherds invites us, like it did them, to find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes; He is the Savior, Christ the Lord. The shepherds went to Bethlehem to see what the Lord had made known to them; we go to the Bethlehem of our parish Churches where we find our Savior in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. There we praise God for the gift of His only begotten Son. "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost but may have eternal life." (John 3:16). Why did God give us His Son? So that through Him the world – we – might be saved.

Christmas celebrates God's love for us and all that God has done and continues to do for us through His Son Jesus Christ. When we reflect on the gift of God's Son, we recognize the fullness of God's love and how life-giving His love is. It is the love God bestows on us at Christmas that gives a peace of mind and heart that the world can not give. Through the Father's love and the power of the Holy Spirit, we celebrate Christ's coming into our lives in many ways. Hearts hardened by sin rejoice in Jesus' gift of the Father's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our life of faith and the gift of God's love are nourished and strengthened when Christ comes to us in the Eucharist, the Sacrament of His Body and Blood.

This Christmas is our time to make known the good news of Jesus' presence in our lives and in the world. The sign that we give of His presence is the love we have for one another, our compassion and mercy for others, the prayers we offer for their well being, the help we give to those in need, and the kind words we speak. Jesus is best seen in us by the way in which we live, and love, and serve others!

This Christmas, make room for Jesus in your hearts, your homes, and your time. Allow God's love in Jesus Christ to re-create your very being so that in every word and deed you bring Jesus to others. Begin and end each day invoking His presence through prayer. The gift of God's love needs the nourishment of prayer, worship, and practice. His love must be lived and shared.

In this time of war and conflict, join me in praying for peace. In the words of a Collect from the Mass on Christmas Day, we pray that we may share in the divinity of Christ who humbled Himself to share in our humanity. Welcome Jesus anew into the world of your lives! Recognize His presence in others. For, the Savior has been born for each one of us! His birth is a joy to be shared with everyone!

Merry Christmas! Throughout 2012 may the blessings and grace of Christmas abide with you and all whom you love in Jesus' Name!

³
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Bishop of Norwich



Bishop of Norwich



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