

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Prisider: Great tidings come to us today: The Son of God is born. Let us lift our hearts and prayers to God, whose love for humanity knows no bounds.

- ☺ For the Church, that through what we say and do we may continue to bear witness to Jesus' presence in our midst, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**
- ☺ For our leaders, that they may see the face of Jesus in the people who place their trust in them, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**
- ☺ That the birth we celebrate today may continue to lead to the salvation of the world, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**
- ☺ That nations, groups, and peoples at war with each other may realize their common humanity with those they oppose, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**
- ☺ For those who have to go without, due to a lack of freedom, well-being, or material resources, that they may find a way to feel the hope that this day offers, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**
- ☺ For the children of the world, that they may retain the hope, joy, and excitement of this season as they mature, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**
- ☺ For those who have died, that they may join the heavenly host in proclaiming God's glory, especially Margaret Myhra and Richard Kovac and Pete Kabat, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**
- ☺ For the prayers of our baskets, Dora, Ted & Terry Nolan, the needs of St. Joseph & St. Stephen Parishes, our Diocesan Appeal and the continued success of our Renovation projects, we pray;
▶ **Jesus, we pray to you.**

(Pause for silent intentions to be offered from the heart.)

Prisider: Loving God, today we celebrate the birth of your Son, your gift beyond compare. Hear these our prayers we lift to you and graciously grant them through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior for ever and ever.

ALL: AMEN.

Family Blessing (following Communion)

Christmas

December 25, 2017

Mass Intentions:

†Dora, Ted & Terry Nolan



PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, you reconcile the world to yourself:
Lord have mercy. **.....Lord have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, you are the Prince of Peace:
Christ have mercy. **....Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, you are the way that leads to everlasting life:
Lord have mercy. **.....Lord have mercy.**

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer: you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the Lord restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the Lord comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

#55, Gather - Psalm 128
Blest Are Those Who Love You

A reading from the first letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in the last days, he has spoken to us through the Son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my son; this day I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me"? And again when he leads the first-born into the world, he says, "Let all the angels of God worship him."

The Word of the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. Any who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
PRAISE TO YOU LORD, JESUS CHRIST!

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death, and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.