

Merry Christmas

祝聖誕快樂

“God Is Always With Us”

主與我們同在

Nativity of the Lord

What we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God.

(Tit. 2:12)

For our salvation God gave us everything He had – He gave us His only Son, Jesus.

How do we say 'Thank you' for a gift like that?

Recognizing the magnitude of God's gift, this Christmas should change the orientation of our lives. Christmas calls us to make stewardship a way of life.

聖誕節

教導我們棄絕不虔敬的生活，和世俗的貪慾，有節制地，公正地、虔敬地在今世生活。(弟鐸書 2：12)

爲了我們的救援，天主給了我們祂全部所有的 祂給了我們祂的唯一聖子，耶穌。對於這樣貴重的禮物，我們應當如何來感謝呢？在今年的聖誕節，認識天主這一偉大的禮物，將會改變我們生活的導向。聖誕節是呼叫我們度一個聖善的生活

New Year Mass Schedule

Dec 31 Saturday (New Year's Eve

Thanksgiving Mass)

5:00 p.m. Mandarin Mass

Jan 1 Sunday (New Year's Mass)

Mass as usual

慶祝新年彌撒時間表

12月31日 星期六

(除夕-歲末謝主彌撒)

晚上 5 時國語彌撒

1月1日星期日(元旦求恩彌撒)

彌撒時間照常

Pope World Mission and

Prayers intension

January General and

Missionary Intention

General Intention: Victims of Natural Disasters.

That the victims of natural disasters may

receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.

Missionary Intention: Dedication to Peace.

That the dedication of Christians to peace may bear witness to the name of Christ before all men and women of good will.

Theme Sharing

Christmas: Mass During the Day

The Reindeer Gospel

Santa's most popular reindeer by far is Rudolf, Rudolf, the red-nosed reindeer. Here is his story as told in music by Johnny Marks:

Rudolf, the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw him, you would even say it glows. All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.

They never let poor Rudolf play in any reindeer games. Then one foggy Christmas eve Santa came to say: "Rudolf with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?" Then all the reindeer loved him as they shouted out with glee: "Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer, you'll go down in history!" The story of Rudolf, is the story of salvation. It is our story both as individuals and as the human family. In our own case it is not Santa who saves us but the Child Jesus.

To begin with, Rudolf was a misfit.

Compared to the image of the ideal reindeer we can say that something was definitely wrong with him. What is more, he was not in any position to help himself. So are we all, misfits, as the Bible tells us. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). Like lost sheep we are not in a position to help ourselves. Rudolf could not help himself. All that his fellow reindeer did was to make things worse for him. Only one person could help him, Santa, the messenger from heaven.

Today we celebrate the birth of the Messenger from heaven. As we read in today's gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 14). He comes to liberate us from the human predicament, our sinfulness. For it is sin that mars and disfigures the beautiful image of God that we all are. Sin turns us into a despicable Rudolf, the red-nosed reindeer. But the heavenly Messenger comes, not to take away the red nose but to declare to us

the Good News that we are acceptable to God even with the red nose. Rudolf's red nose was a defect. But Santa chose him precisely on account of that. The heavenly Messenger has the ability to turn the defects and red noses of our tainted humanity into assets for the service of God. Jesus is this heavenly messenger.

What makes the reindeer gospel so poignant is that Santa does not use his magic wand to heal Rudolf of his red nose defect. He let him go on with the red nose even as his chosen reindeer. Certainly Rudolf would have wanted nothing so much as to be a normal reindeer like all the rest. Similarly Jesus does not simply make us good men and women, rather he makes us into people who can use all their strengths and defects to the service and the glory of God. This is the proof to us that it is not by our own will power that we are able to become children of God. It is by God's grace, by God's unmerited and unconditional love of us. As God tells St Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

How does the grace of God achieve this transformation in us? God's grace works two things in us: enlightenment and empowerment. "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17 God's truth enlightens us and God's grace empowers us. God's truth enlightens us to see ourselves and our world in a new light. It is a word that brings reassurance, affirmation and hope. You can imagine how Rudolf felt when he heard the words of Santa, "Rudolf with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?" That is why we call it the Good News. It is news that is liberating and empowering. It empowers us by changing our former disposition of insecurity, despair and hopelessness into that of blessed assurance, new hope and enthusiasm in the Lord's service.

Like Rudolf before Santa, let us today listen to the Message that the Child Jesus brings us, let us commit ourselves into his service without looking back, even when we do not know where the journey will lead us, knowing one thing for sure: that the grace of God will supply the strength we need for the long journey of faith ahead. "For to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12). By Fr Munachi Ezeogu

Parish Activities

Philippines Floods Appeal – The Catholic Diocese of Calgary is participating in the appeal for aid in the southern region of the Philippines by forwarding all donated funds to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Development and Peace is currently accepting donations towards humanitarian aid in the region.

Donations can be made as follows:

- Directly to Development and Peace by telephone (1-888-234-8533) or online at www.devp.org

- Parishioners can donate cash or make your cheque payable to OLPH, earmarked "D&P - Philippines Floods" put it in an envelope (with your collection envelope number OR name and address marked) and drop it into the Sunday Mass collection basket. The amount will be added to your year-end donation tax receipt issued by the parish.

- by sending a cheque payable to the RC Diocese of Calgary, earmarked "D&P - Philippines Floods" and sent to the Pastoral Centre at 120 17th Ave S.W., Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and compassion! "

2012 Chinese New Year Banquet Performance/Talent Show

Fundraising

In an effort to increase donations for the project of handicapped washroom and the addition to parish reception area, there would be a sponsored Performance/Talent Show during the Banquet, to be performed by our Priests and Sisters, as well as other parishioners. Catholic Family Fellowship will take on the responsibility of lining up the necessary sponsorship fees for the program to go ahead. They are already starting to take up sponsorships, and parishioners who are interested in supporting this meaningful event, please contact Simon Lau (Tel: 403-472-0002) for further details. Your support in this project is greatly appreciated.

Together in Action



"WE HAVE THIS HOPE, A SURE AND STEADFAST ANCHOR OF THE SOUL" (Hebrews 6:19)

The target of our 2011 Diocesan's Appeal campaign is \$50,000. Donation envelopes can be picked up from both the front and the

side entrances. As of November 22, our campaign has received a total of \$45,255. Let's continue to take action now to respond to Christ's love and sacrifice for the salvation of mankind.

Diocese & Other News

Life and Family Resource Centre (LFRC)

Transitions – a 15-week program for those newly separated/divorced. New program will start on Monday, January 23, 2012. For more information or registration call 403-218-5504.

Project Rachel offers a journey of healing and reconciliation for people suffering distress from a past abortion experience. Two options are available: individual counseling or a small group retreat. For more information call Project Rachel at 218-5506 or toll-free 1-877-597-3223.

Social Support Group at Catholic Family Service - an ongoing social support group for men and women that focuses on bringing people together who would like to make connections to others and develop self-confidence in building relationships. New members are welcome the first Tuesday of every month. Meetings are Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., located at the Catholic Family Service office at 250-707 10 Ave SW. Fees are set on a sliding fee scale. Call 403.233.2360 to register or for more information.

For Life & Family ministries, programs and events please visit our website at www.calgarydiocese.ca, or call 403-218-5504 for more information.

St. Mary's High School

Open House

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

The evening will Showcase:

- Academics
- International Baccalaureate
- Extended French
- Athletics
- Fine Arts
- International Languages

Parents and students also have an opportunity to meet our dynamic staff and tour our school facilities.

Also, St. Mary's High School Information Evening

Tuesday, January 17, 2012. 7:00 pm

News & Others

Christmas Tree explanation

The tree, a spruce from the Zakarpattia region, was lit up today. It is just over 100 feet tall and is decorated with 2,500 silver- and gold-colored ornaments.

This tree, said the Holy Father, is "a significant symbol of Christ's nativity because, with its evergreen boughs, it reminds us of enduring life. The spruce is also a sign of popular religiosity in your country, and of the Christian roots of your culture. My hope is that these roots may increasingly reinforce your national unity, favoring the promotion of authentic shared values. Over the centuries your nation has been a crossroads of different cultures, a meeting point for the spiritual richness of East and West. By tenaciously adhering to the values of the faith, may it continue to respond to this unique vocation."

The tree and nativity scene, Benedict XVI went on, "are elements of that typically Christmas atmosphere which is part of our communities' spiritual heritage; a climate impregnated with religiosity and family intimacy that we must seek to conserve, even in modern societies where consumerism and the search for material goods sometimes seem to prevail." "Christmas is a Christian feast," he stated, "and its symbols are important references to the great mystery of the incarnation and birth of Jesus, which the liturgy constantly re-evokes. The Creator of the universe, by becoming a child, came among us to share our journey; He became small to enter the heart of man and renew it with His love. Let us prepare ourselves to welcome Him with faith."

Weekly Activities

Mon 26

Catholic Family Fellowship & Pastrol Care Team Party

Time: 6:00p.m.-10:00 pm

Place: OLPH Church Upper Hall

Saturday 31

New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Mass

5:00 p.m Mandarin Mass

Legion of Mary (meeting)

(Immaculate Heart of Mary Praesidium)

Time: 9:45a.m.

Place: K of C Room at OLPH Church

Sunday Jan 1

Jan 1 Sunday (New Year's Mass)

Mass as usual

RCIA Mandarin Group Potluck Gathering

Time: 12:30p.m.-2:30pm

Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

Imitating Christ

Chapter 15: Done In Charity

Works Done In Charity

NEVER do evil for anything in the world, or for the love of any man. For one who is in need, however, a good work may at times be purposely left undone or changed for a better one. This is not the omission of a good deed but rather its improvement.

To Be Continued

The Christmas Characters

The Christmas Characters

We're in the midst of our Christmas Conspiracy series looking at the real meaning of Christmas and thought this week we would look at what we can learn about from the Christmas Characters.

Mary

Mary was a teenager due to be married to a poor carpenter named Joseph. Imagine how she felt when she was told she was pregnant, as a virgin outside of marriage! What must it have been like to tell Joseph and her family and somehow get them to believe that an angel told her that she was carrying the child of God.

Joseph

Joseph had just proposed to Mary and then found out she was pregnant – and he knew he had nothing to do with it! Now he could have publicly embarrassed Mary, which might have even resulted in her being stoned. An angel came to Joseph and explained what was happening – this would have been hard to understand – but Joseph was obedient to what God was telling him, regardless of the consequences.

The Shepherds

Shepherds lived on the outskirts of the community. Usually they were not welcome – maybe because they smelt like sheep! They were the outsiders, the unlovables. This is who God chose to tell first, that His Son had been born. From this we know that God

loves the outsiders, he values them and so should we.

What's cool is that once the shepherds had met Jesus they responded by telling everyone they could – sound familiar... Go into the world and tell the story of Jesus...

Magi

The wise men must have been very influential because they got an audience with King Herod. He tried to use them to ultimately kill Jesus but when they encountered the real King they risked their lives by not doing what Herod had asked for.

What we learn from the wise men is about their generosity. They travelled massive distances just at the prospect of meeting Jesus and when they did they gave extravagantly.

Simeon & Anna

Simeon and Anna were old. They had been promised by God that they would meet the Messiah before they died. They never gave up in believing God's promise which was eventually fulfilled in their life time.

So what gift does God want from us at Christmas?

- our worship (Mary)
- our obedience – no matter what the consequences (Joseph)
- to love the unlovables (Shepherds)
- to be generous (Magi)
- to never give up on the promises God has made (Simeon & Anna)

This Christmas let's make sure we celebrate the main character – God with us – Jesus

Stories Faith Sharing

Manger Maker

I watched the manger maker,
And then I asked him why
The baby [Jesus](#) he was making
Had a tear in his eye.
He looked up at me with sadness,
His face was hard as stone
And answered me, seriously,
And in a petulant tone.
"Many children around our world,
Go to sleep at night in fear.
Alone they lie in the darkness
With not a parent near.
"Their stomachs remain empty,
And diseases they must endure,
While only those who are affluent
Have the needed cure.

"If this baby Jesus was able,
I think he would proclaim
To the adults around our world,
They have caused God's children pain.
"It is the little ones who suffer,
The innocent who pay
For the greed and hate the adults bring
Into their world each day."
I turned from him and headed home,
His words I knew were true.
I realized, but, was not surprised,
I had a tear in my eye too.

--Tim Neaverth

主日分享

聖誕節 天明彌撒

「在起初，已有聖言，聖言與天主同在，聖言就是天主」。一開始若望便把聖言與一切受造物分開。的確，我們主日信經所唸的：「祂在萬世之前，由聖父所生。祂是出自天主的天主，出自光明的光明，出自真天主的真天主。祂是聖父所生，而非聖父所造……」，便是若望要說的。天主聖言，在起初便誕生在永遠的天主聖父懷抱中了；因此福音中稱祂為父的獨生子。

敘述了聖言的永遠生命，若望便一步一步訴說聖言出現在宇宙與人類歷史中的三種形式。

「萬物是藉著祂造成的，凡受造物沒有一樣不是由祂造成的」；這是聖言第一種出現的形式。天主聖父藉著聖言創造世界。從此以後，在天地萬物中，尤其人類生命中，天主聖言臨在著。然而人類因了罪惡，拒絕光明；而整個世界也因此受了蒙蔽，並不認識聖言。

「祂來到自己的領域，自己的人卻沒有接受祂」；這是若望要說的第二種聖言臨於人類歷史的形式。天主把自己的思念，藉著聖言，啓示給了祂的子民；在祂的子民中，聖言臨在著。實在而論，梅瑟的法律也好，先知的宣講也好，後來的智慧傳承也好，都是天主的聖言。但是以色列民族，特殊地擁有天主聖言的民族，並沒有接受聖言。他們反抗，他們犯罪，破壞了與天主訂立的盟約。

「於是，聖言成了血肉，寄居在我們中間」；這是聖言的第三種形式。天主聖言，永遠地誕生在天父懷抱中；現

在祂誕生在歷史中，成了血肉的人，居住在我們中間；這是天主愛情的最高表現。宇宙萬物是藉著聖言而造成的，我們因而得以認識天主，但宇宙萬物並不是天主聖言，因此我們的認識不是完美的。在以色列歷史中間，因為它是聖言特殊興起的民族，因此他們可以認識天主的思念，但是祂最深的、最屬於自己的奧秘，並沒有完全在這部歷史中啓示出來。現在，聖言降生成人，在祂身上，天主向人類說了最完美、也是最末一句話——祂自己的聖言。我們在誕生人間的聖言、耶穌基督內，認識了天主的內心，天主的奧秘，天主自己，因為若望說：「聖言就是天主」。

今天我們慶祝耶穌聖誕，一方面欣賞路加福音的美麗樂章，白冷的天使歌聲，另一方面，也驚訝若望福音上窮永恆，下視救恩歷史的深奧思想。

教宗及福傳祈禱意向

一月祈禱及傳教意向：

祈禱意向：

為遭受自然災害的受害者祈禱。

為自然災害的受害者能在精神和物質上重建他們的信心及生活祈禱。

傳教意向：致力於和平。

願基督徒在所有人前能做基督和平的見證。

堂區活動

2012 堂區新春團拜晚宴

才藝表演籌款

為籌募興建傷殘人士洗手間及擴建聖堂接待大堂的經費，堂區 2012 年新春團拜晚宴上，神父及修女們、還有數位教友將表演才藝籌款。以上項目將由公教家庭負責，如欲支持這項有意義的籌款活動，請立即聯絡 Simon Lau 403-472-0002

誠意多謝你的慷慨支持！

援助菲律賓水災災民

菲律賓現正面臨嚴重的水災。加拿大天主教推動發展及和平組織 (The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace) 現正發起募捐，作為緊急援助菲律賓水災之用。請大家慷慨解囊！捐款方法：

一直接用電話聯絡加拿大天主教推動發展及和平組織 1-888-234-8533 或上網 www.devp.org

一請以現金或支票抬頭“OLPH”，附註“D&P - Philippines Floods”，放入信封內(請寫上捐獻 信封號碼，或 姓名及地址)，然後放進主日奉獻籃內。捐款數目將加入堂區發給你的年終捐獻報稅收條總額內。

一直接寄支票到教區中心，支票抬頭“D&P - Philippines Floods”

地址：120 17th Ave S.W., Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

願你的慷慨及愛心獲得天主豐厚的祝福！

教區公益金，齊來獻愛心



「我們拿這希望，當作靈魂的安全而又堅固的錨，深深地拋入帳幔的內部 (希伯來

書第六章十九節)

2011 年教區公益金「讓我們一起來行動(TIA)」，籌募經已展開。本堂今年的目標是\$50,000 元，捐款信封可在聖堂入口處拿取。截至十一月二十二日，捐款已累積至\$45,255 元。

活動一週

星期一 26

公教家庭及牧靈關愛組聖誕聯歡會

時間：上午 6 時至下午 10 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期六 31

(除夕-歲末謝主彌撒)

晚上 5 時國語彌撒

聖母軍

(聖母軍聖母無玷聖心支團)

時間：9 時 45 分(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

星期日 1月1日

1月1日(元旦求恩彌撒)

彌撒時間照常

成人慕道班(國語)聚會-potluck

時間：下午 12 時 30 分至

2 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

新聞及其他

聖誕樹的真義

教宗本篤十六世接見贈送聖誕樹的烏克蘭代表時表示：在我們團體的精神資產中，聖誕樹和馬槽是傳統上過聖誕節的基本要素，傳遞宗教性與和睦家庭的氛圍。在消費主義和物質利益掛帥的今日社會中，我們應該保持這樣的傳統。教宗說：「聖誕樹對基督聖誕是很有意義的象徵，因為它的枝幹萬年常青，終生常綠。在歐洲，杉樹也是人民的宗教情感、文化中蘊含基督信仰根基的記號。」

接著，教宗邀請大家以信德妥善準備迎接生作嬰孩的造物主。教宗說：「在將臨期間，教會邀請我們加強靈修祈禱，加強與基督的關係，為救主的降生做好準備。我們的時代需要信仰熱誠、聖善的基督徒。」

教宗也提醒我們默想童貞聖母瑪利亞，她「聆聽、觀看、保守、默觀並祈禱」，她是「典型和嚮導」。教宗說：「多麼需要重新培養對祈禱的興趣！我們要留意，別讓生活匆忙的節奏，阻礙我們深入內心，面對住在我們心中、令人驚嘆的天主奧蹟。」

(梵蒂岡電台訊)

師主篇

第十五章、因愛德而工作

不論為了何事，或者為了愛任何人，永遠都不能作惡；然而有時候為了別人的需要，善事可以為此而不作，或者捨而作更好的善事。如此，並非善事的省缺，而是善事之增益。

靈修小故事

聖誕節就是愛和捨己的故事

國王紆尊降貴，迎娶灰姑娘為后；天主子化身為人，顯示聖誕節真義。

灰姑娘的故事

童話故事中的「灰姑娘，身份卑微，每天辛苦工作，遇上了白馬王子」結果一夕攀上枝頭變鳳凰。人生旅途，勞苦艱辛，作美夢的機會不多。故事裡灰姑娘的際遇不會常常發生，卻是人人喜歡，人人渴望作的美夢。聖誕節的「灰姑娘故事」卻不同，因為我們每個人都可以成為碰到白馬王子的「灰姑娘」。

有一個國王，出巡的時候看到了一個女子，深深為她所吸引，非常喜歡她。

國王並沒有表明自己的身份，所以這女子並不知道他是國王，也不知道國王喜歡她。當國王發現自己已經愛上她，想娶她為王妃時，不禁開始煩惱。如果她願意嫁給自己，到底是愛王妃的妃冠，鑽石、珠寶，還是真的愛國王呢？國王思忖如何與她相處，如何與她接近，才能真正了解她的心意？想想看，如果由侍衛開路，帶著文武大臣，浩浩蕩蕩地直接下詔娶她，是既威風又容易，她也會非常感謝。只是這樣的娶親，好像只是把妃冠，鑽石，珠寶往她身上丟。當鑽石，珠寶，甚至后座，失去新奇不再有吸引時，她會不會回頭思戀過去的情人？遇到深愛的人，嚮往真正的愛情，權力和財富又幫不上忙，該怎樣辦呢？國王的問題可從聖經裡瞭解一下：

聖經裡比喻天主和人的關係，除了父子以外，也是夫妻：天主愛人，嚮往和人建立像夫妻一般恩愛的關係。但是天主如何接近人，如何瞭解人，如何與人相處，才能建立親密的關係呢？

天主決定以人的樣式，從童貞女瑪利亞出生在馬槽裡，用人的語言在世上與人溝通，也因此和人建立了永久親密的關係，這就是聖誕節的由來。因為祂在馬槽誕生，在世上為世人受難，被釘十字架，以致所有信祂，願意與祂親近的人，祂就答應從天上的居所進入祂的心裏，讓人隨時隨刻都可以與祂相處，自由地交談。

所以聖誕節的故事，就是天主愛我們，讓我們這頑固的灰姑娘能一日攀上枝頭變成鳳凰的故事。癡情的國王也在聖經裡找到了答案：要得到真正的愛情，不能靠威嚴，不能靠名份。要自己能屈身，和她過一樣的生活，從她的生活環境去了解她，也讓她了解你。經過這樣的階段，兩人相愛而結婚，就可能享有真正的愛情。

聖誕節不就是愛和捨己的故事嗎！

聖誕節的主角

聖誕節的主角～耶穌基督

降世時，客店借祂一把乾草；

基督沒有自己的墳墓，離世時，財主借祂一個石洞。

基督沒有存款，行神蹟用的餅魚，是

小孩子獻的；

基督沒有動產，當講壇用的漁船，是小村民借的。

基督沒有車子，進耶路撒冷時借了驢駒一頭；

基督沒有房子，告別的晚宴擺在別人的樓房。

一無所有是基督：沒有高帽和金冠，只有荊棘在頭上，

沒有戒指和手套，只有釘子在手上。

一無所留更是基督：

身外的全是借的，身內的全數盡傾；

借—是祂的記號；

給—卻是祂的人生！

耶穌基督來臨的真正意義蘊藏其內，願你我都能體驗到主的真愛。

Intercession 通功

Please join us to pray for

Mrs. Kwai Kun Yung Leung (Yvonne Fong's mother), she passed away on December 4, 2011 in Hong Kong.

Mrs. Maria Homoki (member of OLPH Senior Centre) who passed away on December 19, 2011

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in Peace.

通功

請為容梁桂芹女仕(Yvonne Fong 的母親)祈禱，她在 12 月 4 日在香港去世。

請為 Maria Homoki 女仕(松柏軒的會員)祈禱，她在 12 月 19 日去世。

願她們安息主懷並祈求主賜力量及安慰其家人!