



*For unto us
a child is born,*

..... HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Wonderful Counsellor,
THE MIGHTY GOD
THE EVERLASTING FATHER,
The Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6





"Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests." (St. Luke 2:14)

"Populus, qui ambulabat in tenebris, vidit lucem magnam" - "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Isaiah 9:1). Every year we listen again these words of the prophet Isaiah in the moving context of the liturgical re-evocation of Christ's Birth. Every year these words take on new meaning and cause us to relive the atmosphere of expectation and hope, of amazement and joy typical of Christmas.

To the people, oppressed and suffering, who walked in darkness, there appeared "a great light." A truly "great" light indeed, because the light which radiates from the humility of the crib is the light of the new creation. If the first creation began with light, how much more splendid and great is the light which inaugurates the new creation: it is God Himself made man!

Christmas is an event of light, it is the feast of light: in the Child of Bethlehem the primordial light once more shines in humanity's heaven and dissipates the clouds of sin. The radiance of God's definitive triumph appears on the horizon of history in order to offer a new future of hope to a pilgrim people.

Long awaited, the splendor of the new Day at last shines forth. The Messiah is born, Emmanuel, God-with-us! He is born, Who was announced by the prophets of old and long invoked by all "who dwelt in the land of gloom." In the silence and darkness of the night, the light becomes a word and message of hope.

Praise and thanks be to God - up to this time, He keeps us people on the right way towards Him. He guides us always though the certainty faith does seem to clash with the way things are today! If we listen to the relentless news headlines, these words of light and hope may seem like words from a dream. But that is precisely the challenge of faith, which makes this proclamation at once comforting and demanding. It makes us feel that we are wrapped in the tender love of God, while at the same time it commits us to a practical love of God and of our neighbor.

The only Begotten Son of the Father has been revealed as an offer of salvation in every corner of the earth, at every time in history. The Child who is named- Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father, Prince of Peace (Is. 9:5) is born for every man and woman. He brings with Him the answer which can calm our fears and reinvigorate our hope.

Yes, with the Birth of Christ, our trust in the redemptive power of the Word made flesh is confirmed. When darkness and evil seem to prevail, Christ tells us once more: Fear not! By his coming into the world he has vanquished the power of evil, freed us from the slavery of death and brought us back to the banquet of life. In haste we must once more set out on our journey. With joy we must leave the cave of Bethlehem in order to recount everywhere the marvel which we have witnessed long, long time ago - the Birth of our Savior and Creator. We have encountered light and life! In him, love has been bestowed upon us. May this reality be upon us always. We pray for each other, we pray for those who have gone astray that they will return to Christ! All of us should come and open to Him the doors of our history! We come to worship the Son of the Virgin Mary who descended among us, on the night prepared for down the centuries.

Christmas without Christ in the center is meaningless, without Christ all the rejoicing, all our external manifestations are pointless. This is what Christmas should be, for this is what Christmas is all about. May our Christmas be measured on the love, care and concern of Christ for all of us....May our Christmas be truly merry and grace-filled, joyous and peaceful. Venite, adoremus! (Come, let us adore!)

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A PROSPEROUS, PEACEFUL & GRACE-FILLED NEW YEAR TO ALL OF US... GOD BLESS !

In Deum,
Fr Benjie, OSA

Celebrating Christmas: Consider joining us in the Christmas Season as we celebrate the many aspects of the mystery of the birth of Christ. The season is composed of the following feasts: Feast of the Nativity (Dec 25), Feast of the Holy Family (Dec 30), Feast of Mary the Mother of God (Jan 1), Feast of the Epiphany (Jan 6), and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (Jan 13).

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass. They are also to abstain from such work or business that would inhibit the worship to be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day or the due relaxation of mind and body. (Can 1247)

In Canada there are two holydays of obligation: January 1, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

December 25, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Catholic Women's League: Meetings 2nd Tues of month Jan.8, 2019 - 7pm

Knights of Columbus: Meetings—to be announced. Check the bulletin board for updates.

Youth Group: Gr 6&7— Is there anyone interested in leading this group?

Bible Study: Every Tues. at 10:15am (Parish Centre)

Faith Study: Every 2nd Monday.
Next meeting Jan.14, 2019 - 7pm

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24: 5pm Family Mass

Dec. 24: 10pm "Midnight" Mass

Christmas Day

Dec. 25: 9am

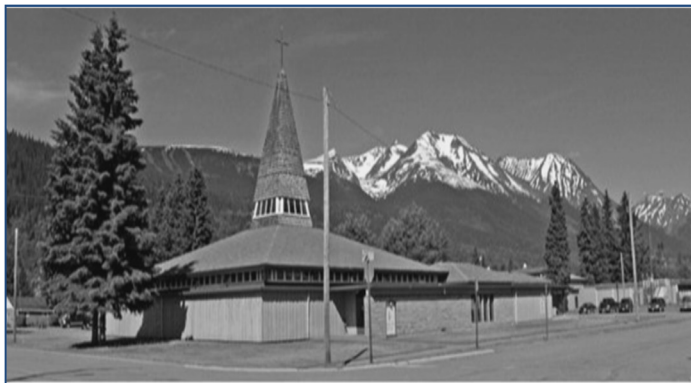
Holy Family

Sat. Dec 30: 5pm

Sun. Dec 31: 9am

Mary, Mother of God

Tues. Jan 1: 9am



St. Joseph's Parish

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Pastor: Fr Benjie Gamos OSA

(Rectory Phone) 250-847-3175

Office Hours: Wed. to Fri. 10am - 2pm

MASS TIMES

Saturdays 5 PM

Sundays 9 AM

For week day Masses and Sacraments and other concerns, please call the Parish Office.

CHURCH GROUPS

Knights of Columbus (Fr. Callaly Council 7973)
Catholic Women's League

St. Joseph's Catholic School

School Principal: Rosemary McKenzie

Website: www.stjosephschool.ca

Phone: 250-847-9414

Youth Group:

Children, Youth and Family Programs

Camp Morice; Children and Family Camps
Diocesan Youth Office; DYC, University Chaplaincy
(Contact the Parish Office)



St. Anthony's Parish

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Houston, B.C.
V0J 1Z2

Phone: (250) 845-2841

Fax: (250) 845-2823

e-mail: houston.parish@gmail.com

Office Hours: by appointment

Visit to the sick: by appointment

Pastoral Visitations (home visits):
by appointment

MASS TIMES

Sundays 11:30 AM

No weekday Masses

For Sacraments and other concerns, please call the Parish Office.

CALENDAR OF FEASTS

December 30th - Feast of the Holy Family The *Feast of the Holy Family* is a liturgical celebration in the Catholic Church in honor of Jesus, his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph, as a family. The primary purpose of this feast is to present the Holy Family as a model for Christian families.

January 1st - Feast of Mary the Mother of God This wonderful title, Mary, the Mother of God, "*Theotokos*", reveals a profound truth not only about Mary, but about each one of us. We are now invited into the very relationship that she had with her Son. We can become "God-bearers" and bring Him to all those whom we encounter in our few short days under the sun.

March 6th - Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent The seventh Wednesday before Easter and the first day of Lent, on which many Christians receive a mark of ashes on the forehead as a token of penitence and mortality.

April 21st - Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ's rising from the dead (His Resurrection) after His crucifixion which took place on what we now term Good Friday.

June 9th - Pentecost is a feast on which we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. It is the birthday of the Church, the community of the followers of Christ enlivened by the Spirit.

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THANK YOU

for your continued support to our Diocese and its ministries.

We wish you
a joyful celebration of Christmas and a blessed New Year!

from

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