



Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born;  
let us rejoice.

Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life.

The fear of death has been swallowed up;  
life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy;  
all share the same reason for rejoicing.

Our Lord, victor over sin and death,  
finding no man free from sin, came to free us all.

*St. Leo the Great*

Parish of St. Michael the Archangel

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Monsignor Bernard Rossi, Pastor

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# Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord



**December 25, 2019**  
**NATIVITY OF THE LORD**



**“To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
who is the Christ, the Lord.”**

We welcome Jesus into our hearts and homes, and in His name we open our hearts to one another, growing as the community of faith, the family of God. In the name of Jesus we extend a special welcome to those visiting us.

The parish expresses its deep gratitude to all those who have contributed to the beauty and glory of the Liturgy and the church for this Feast: the choirs, the organists, the lectors, the ushers, the altar servers, the Youth Group, those who cleaned the church, prepared the linens and sacred vessels, decorated the church with flowers, and set up the Crib.

We thank Father Swinkels for his ongoing presence among us. We wish him and all our former assistants a happy and holy Christmas.

Special thanks to those who prepared and delivered the sixty-three hampers, and to you for your unfailing generosity to the poor. Your charity gives significant witness and is a sure sign of God With Us.

Father DePaul and I express our deep gratitude for all your kindness and support, especially at this time of year. The Midnight Mass is offered for you, your intentions, and for your loved ones, living and dead.

The whole octave of Christmas, December 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, is celebrated as one Feast. Friday of this week is not a penitential day. You are encouraged to continue your thanksgiving for the birth of our Saviour by attending daily Mass.

**SAINT STEPHEN'S DAY:** Mass on Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.

**HOLY HOUR:** For the closing of the year and the welcoming of 2020, there will be a Holy Hour on New Year's Eve from 11:00 p.m., followed by a reception in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome.

**JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>:** The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, is a Holy Day of obligation. The anticipated Mass for this Feast is at **5:00 p.m.** on December 31<sup>st</sup>, rather than the usual 7:00. The schedule of Masses for January 1<sup>st</sup> is 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 5:00 p.m.

**BIRTHRIGHT:** We have a tradition at Saint Michael's of leaving gifts for mothers and their children by the Crib over the Christmas Season. We ask that you remember these women and babies again this year. Clothes, toys, blankets and sleepers are all greatly appreciated.

**PROJECT ADVANCE:** Thanks to all those who have contributed to the 2019 Project Advance campaign. A reminder that any additional contributions must be received by the parish by next Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, in order to be receipted for this calendar year.

We are united in prayer at this time with all those less fortunate than ourselves: the sick, the dying, the lonely, the homeless, those who mourn or who have lost loved ones recently, those who are denied their basic freedoms, and those who doubt the goodness of God. May we, by our faith, offer His comfort and strength to friends and strangers alike, and thus hope to merit the Kingdom of Heaven.