



Open wide your door to the one who comes.

Open your soul,
throw open the depths of your heart
to see the riches of simplicity,
the treasures of peace,
the sweetness of grace.
Open your heart and run
to meet the Sun of eternal light
that illuminates all men.

St. Ambrose of Milan

Parish of St. Michael the Archangel

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Monsignor Bernard Rossi, Pastor

Father DePaul Doan, Assistant



December 25, 2021 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 a community of faith, the family of God. This has been a difficult year for all of us. COVID-19 has caused so much grief, stress, and inconvenience, and it's not over. Then there have been the recent floods, with loss of life and property for many. We pray for all the victims, and all affected. We thank God for His protection and our safety, and we continue to exercise all necessary caution and care for one another.

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 you for your ongoing support of our food bank, through which we reach out to those less fortunate in our community year-round. Because of the pandemic, in place of the traditional Christmas hampers we distributed generous gift cards to more than fifty families and individuals.

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 25th to 31st, 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.

On Monday, December 27th, the Feast of Saint John the Apostle, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m.

BAPTISMS: We welcome Maria Marguerite Sergeev, baptized this weekend.

HOLY HOUR: For the closing of the year and the welcoming of 2022, there will be a Holy Hour on New Year's Eve at 11:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

JANUARY 1st: 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 31st, rather than the usual 7:00. The schedule of Masses for January 1st is 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 12:00 noon. There will not be an afternoon or evening Mass on New Year's Day.

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 2021 Project Advance campaign. A reminder that any additional contributions must be received by this Sunday, December 26th, in order to be receipted for this calendar year.

BOTTLE DROP-OFF: Please save your empty refundable bottles and cans for the next drop-off day which will be on Sunday, January 9th, 2022.

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.