

*Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us,  
that we, made in your image,  
conform ourselves to it.*

*In our own strength  
we cannot imitate your majesty,  
power and wonder;  
nor is it fitting for us to try.*

*But your mercy  
reaches from the heavens,  
through the clouds,  
to the earth below.*

*You have come to us  
as a small child,  
but you have brought us  
the greatest of all gifts,  
the gift of eternal love.*

*Caress us with your tiny hands,  
embrace us with your tiny arms,  
and pierce our hearts  
with your soft, sweet cries.*

*Amen.*

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

**Parish of St. Michael the Archangel**

9387 Holmes Street, Burnaby

V3N 4C3

Monsignor Bernard Rossi, Pastor

Father Rodney Nootbos, In Residence







DECEMBER 25, 2023

## NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Merry Christmas! We welcome Jesus into our hearts and into our homes. May His presence be a source of comfort, a source of hope, a source of love, and a source of joy. May He build us into a true family of faith. In the name of Jesus, we extend our 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.

Thanks to your generosity, the parish was once again able to assist more than fifty individuals and families in need this Christmas with the distribution of grocery store gift cards and festive chocolates. Your charity gives significant witness and is a sure sign of God With Us.

Father Rodney 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.

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### WEEK AT A GLANCE

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#### Dec 26 Tuesday

❖ Saint Stephen, the first martyr  
9:00 a.m. Mass

#### Dec 27 Wednesday

❖ Saint John, apostle, evangelist  
7:00 a.m. Lauds  
7:15 a.m. Mass

#### Dec 28 Thursday

❖ The Holy Innocents, martyrs  
7:00 a.m. Lauds  
7:15 a.m. Mass

#### Dec 29 Friday

7:00 a.m. Lauds  
7:15 a.m. Mass

#### Dec 30 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Mass  
9:30 a.m. Rosary for Vocations

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.

We are united in prayer at this time with all those less fortunate than ourselves. May we, by our faith, offer His comfort and strength to friends and strangers alike, and thus hope to merit the Kingdom of Heaven.

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### HOLY HOUR

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For the closing of the year and the welcoming of 2024, 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.

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### JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>

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January 1<sup>st</sup>, The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, is a **holy day of obligation**. 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. Please note: there will not be an anticipated Mass for New Year's Day on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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### BURNABY CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTRE

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We have a tradition at Saint Michael's of leaving gifts for mothers and their children by the Crib over the Christmas Season and we ask that you remember these women and babies again this year. Clothes, toys, blankets, and sleepers are all greatly appreciated. All gifts must be received by Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

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### PROJECT ADVANCE

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Thanks to all those who have contributed to the 2023 Project Advance Campaign. Any additional contributions must be received by the parish **today** in order to be receipted for this calendar year.

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will."*

Luke 2:14