

# The Nativity of the Lord

## December 25, 2011

*The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not  
overcome it.  
— John 1:5*



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### TODAY'S READING

**First Reading** — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

**Psalm** — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

**Gospel** — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]).

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### THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Sunday:	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 9:00 am – 4:00 pm CLOSED  
12:30 – 1:30 Lunch. CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY.**

**Rosary Dedication: December For the lives of children who  
are threatened by abortion.**

**This Week at Our Lady of Sorrow**

**Saturday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

2:30 – 3:30 Confessions

Vigil Mass, 5:00 pm

Music, 10:30 pm

Midnight Mass, 11:00 pm

**Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

Rosary, 7:35 am

Mass - 8 am(English)

Mass – 10:30 am(Spanish)

**Mon, Dec 26<sup>th</sup>**

Mass- 8:00 am

**Tuesday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup>**

Mass – 8:00 am

**Wed. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> Rectory Closed**

Legion of Mary, 4:30 pm LH

Mass – 6:30 pm,

RCIA, 7 pm KH

**Thurs. Dec 29<sup>th</sup>**

Mass– 9:00 am

**Friday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Service

**Saturday, Dec 31<sup>st</sup>**

2:30 – 3:30 Confessions

Mass – 4:00 pm

**Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup>**

Rosary, 7:35 am

Mass - 8 am

Mass – 10:30 am

Mass – 5:00 pm



**ST. STEPHEN**

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**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

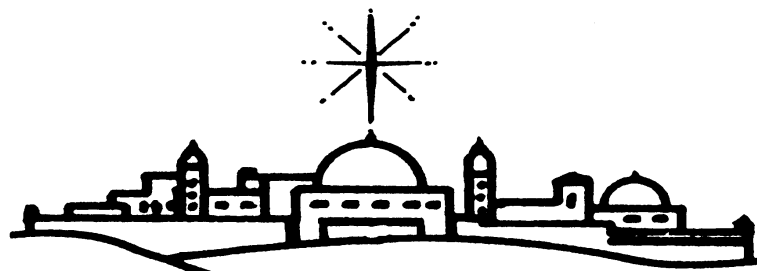
Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
Monday: St. Stephen  
Tuesday: St. John  
Wednesday: The Holy Innocents  
Thursday: St. Thomas Becket  
Friday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary,  
and Joseph  
Saturday: St. Sylvester I

**LOVE**

Let those who never loved before,  
love now:

Let those who always loved,  
love the more.

—Anonymous



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

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***Ministers & Altar Server***  
***Schedule for Dec 24 & 25 Christmas Eve & Christmas day***

	<b><u>5:00 PM</u></b>	<b><u>11:00 pm</u></b>	<b><u>8:00am (English)</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 am</u></b> <b>(Spanish)</b>
Communion	Deacon Henry F. Bursi P. Stavrum	Deacon Henry L. Hall	M. Hensley Deacon Henry	E. Roque/R.Roque
Reader:	M. Standridge	J. Hall	D. Gohman	J.Isabel/Maria Barrera
Altar Servers:	M. Najera A.Bowers J. Rivera	J. Sterling S.Roque A. Roque C. Sawicki	K. Hudson Al.Martini	A. Lopez A. Marquez E. Marquez

***Ministers & Altar Server***  
***Schedule Dec 31 & Jan1***

	<b><u>4:00 PM</u></b>	<b><u>8:00 am</u></b>	<b><u>10:30 am</u></b>	<b><u>5:00 pm</u></b>
Communion	E. Monroe G. Hooten	P. Stavrum C. Vasquez	B. Allard L. O'Donnell	E. Roque R. Roque
Reader:	C. Specht	J. Bish	R. Henderson	D. Marquez R. Roque
Altar Servers:	W. Solomon C. Sawicki	M. Najera A. Bower	D. Bailey C. Bailey	J. Rivera N. Villanueva

**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Therese Acklen, Fr. Jack Atkinson, Theresa Baker, Ann Balcom, Deacon Don Bennis, June Bennis, Rebecca Bethune, Ed Bisner, Deanna Bolgeo, Rena Bolgeo, Johnny Boletta, Roy Bridges, Thomas Brown, Carole Brunner, Trudi Collier, Jessica Mann Dean, Abraham Delgado, Danny Dunn, Elena Everroad, Rena Frazier, Theresa Greco, Eileen Haklitch, Ruth Hill, Raymond Hosse, John & Lisa Hutchison, Mike & Donna Jackson, Bill Johnson, Margaret Jones, Brad Kitts, Butsy Lanigan, Fr. Joe Lattus, Angelo Lobianco, Ericka Lopez, Robert Lutts, Jerry Lynn, Sadie Claire Lynn, Joseph Mangold, Rita McKenzie, Alex Mosby, Dewitt O'Brien, Waldyr Poilis, Nancy Pope, Dr. Cheryl Pearson, Ester Ralph, Bea Remmert, Mary Dorothy Scola, Jean Shemwell, Mona Stringfellow, Fr. Bryan Timby, Marie Torres, Vera Trudell, Henry VanNess, Maria Isabelle Vega, Mike Walsh, Victor Weirich, Helene Weiss, Lewis Wilkinson, Angie Wright .



**Stewardship of the Altar** – Flowers can be put on the Altar in memory of a loved one; a deceased couple of the departed of an entire family or in honor of someone's special anniversary, birthdays or other happy occasions or just to honor someone you think is special. Please contact Frances Bursi at 357-5874 or 634-1168.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sat. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass**  
Int. of Pastor

**Sat. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 11:00 pm Midnight Mass**  
Int. of Pastor

**Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am Christmas Day**  
Int. of Pastor

**Sunday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am Christmas Day**  
Int. of Pastor

**Monday Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am**  
Louise Macdonald+

**Tuesday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am**  
Veretta Monroe+

**Wednesday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm**  
Jerri Blakely+

**Thurs. Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am**  
Rose Sterenchak+

**Friday Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am**  
Communion Service

**Sat. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> 4:00 pm**  
Chris Mosby+

**Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day**  
People of Parish

**Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 10:30 am New Year's Day**  
Nanette Quinn+

**Sunday, Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 5:00 pm New Year's Day**  
Mary Timby+

**PARISHONERS IN NURSING HOME:**

**Dolores Bair  
Ava Maria Home  
St. Lukes  
2805 Charles Bryan Road, 38134**

**Ginger Shemwell  
King's Daughters & Sons  
3568 Appling Rd, room 144  
Bartlett, TN 38133**

**Jean Shemwell  
Millington Healthcare Center  
5081 Easley Ave, room 57  
Millington, TN 38053**

**Vera Trudell  
Grace Healthcare  
Room 306 A  
955 N. Germantown Pkwy  
Cordova, TN 38018**

**Henry Van Ness  
Spring Gate Healthcare  
3909 Covington Pike #302  
Bartlett, TN 38135, 371-3182**

**Helene Weiss  
St. Francis Nursing Home  
5959 Park Ave, room 328  
Memphis, TN 38119**

**Bishop Byrne Trivia "Knight":** Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 6:00 pm; St. Louis Parish, gym #1, at 203 S. White Station Rd., to benefit Bishop Byrne Middle and High School academic programs. Register Now! Download registration form and event flyer at [www.bishopbyrne.org](http://www.bishopbyrne.org) or call the school at 346-3060 for more information. Bishop Byrne alumni and friends encouraged to join us for a night of fun, friends, and lots of prizes!

**Women's Morning of Spirituality:** The second Women's Morning of Spirituality will be held at the Church of the Incarnation, 360 Bray Station Road in Collierville on Saturday, February 18, 2012. There will be keynote speakers from around the country, an opportunity to go to confession and the celebration of Mass. Last year more than 800 women from across the Diocese of Memphis participated. Don't get left in the tailwind of the Holy Spirit!

January 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Financial Report  
Weekend of 12/18/2011**

Envelopes	\$2,236.00
Loose Checks & cash	523.35
Christmas	70.00
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>2,829.35</b>
Church Budget for the week	<u>- 4,449.00</u>
Collection Diff for the week	\$ (1,619.65)
Collections Revenues Y-T-D	\$ <b>86,772.46</b>
Church Budget Y-T-D	<u>106,776.00</u>
Collections Deficit Y-T-D	\$ (20,003.54)



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**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

An old joke asks, “What time is Midnight Mass?” The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of “midnight” predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as “The Shepherds’ Mass,” and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus’ birth to focus on the key to the day’s celebration: John the Evangelist’s majestic theology of Christ’s identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you’re officially late! —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**OLS Centennial of Catholic Ministry:** Our Lady of Sorrows will be celebrating 100 years of Catholic ministry in the Frayser community throughout 2012. Our kick-off celebration will be on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, with Mass to be celebrated by Bishop J. Terry Steib followed by a catered dinner and dancing to a live band. Mark your calendars now! Reserve the date!

**First Communion & Confirmation Mass Attendance:** All OLS parishioners desiring to celebrate their First Holy Communion or Confirmation this Spring 2012 must meet the following criteria:

- Have been enrolled and an active participant in religious education for at least two full consecutive years at the time of the sacramental celebration;
- Participate in the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass;
- Receive a Mass attendance ticket from Fr. Timby following each Sunday liturgy and give it to their religion teacher for safe-keeping.

Those just beginning their sacramental preparation process must complete the following if they wish to receive First Holy Communion or Confirmation in Spring 2013:

- Be enrolled in and an active participant in religious education for at least two full consecutive years at the time of the sacramental celebration;
- Participate in the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass, even during summer months;
- Receive a Mass attendance ticket from Fr. Timby following each Sunday liturgy and give it to their religion teacher for safe-keeping.

**Church History, Part 2:** Our study of Church history will resume on Thursday, January 19 (9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.) and Sunday, January 22 (6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.). The textbook (*Epic: Church History*) remains the same. There is only a charge of \$3.00 for the textbook if a participant is new. Please call the Parish Office (353-1530) to register for this class which will take us from the Crusades to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and introduce us to the Borgias, St. Pope Pius V, Bl. Pope Pius IX, the two Vatican Councils and much, much more.

### CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Let's do something rather daring. Imagine, if you will, this day without carols, no child in the manger, no Christmas trees, presents, or fine, big meal. How would *you* celebrate? For the first three hundred years after Jesus' time Christian communities did little to mark the occasion of Jesus' birth,



although commemoration of Jesus' death and resurrection were given great prominence. It was relatively easy to ascribe a date to Easter, because it happened at the time of the Jewish Passover. However, the scriptures are silent about the date of Jesus' birth. After the Roman Empire stopped persecuting Christians, the church was free to add celebrations to its official calendar and finally settled on December 25 for Christmas. No one knows exactly why this date was chosen. Christmas became a more elaborate festival during the Middle Ages, but with the rise of Protestantism in England and Germany, the feast was suppressed. Puritans who came to America did not celebrate Christmas, calling it pagan and popish. Only in the nineteenth century, especially after Charles Dickens published his runaway best-seller *A Christmas Carol*, did people begin to observe Christmas again, but often more as a family festival than a religious event. In

one of today's readings, Saint Paul tells us what is at the heart of this day: "When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7). Now *that* is really something to celebrate! Copyright © 2011, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

**Christmas Liturgies:** OLS will celebrate her Christmas liturgies as follow:

Christmas Eve	
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.	Confessions
5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass (English)
10:30 p.m.	Music Program
11:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass (English)
Christmas Day	
8:00 a.m.	Mass (English)
10:30 am	Mass (Spanish)

**OLS Alumni?:** We are seeking the names addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of any and all who every graduated from or attend Our Lady of Sorrows School so we can invite them to our homecoming events planned for 2012. If you have children who attended OLS school please get the information to us by mail, telephone or email. Please do it even if you have supplied the information to us before because e lost a lot of data in recent years. Also, if you have friends and acquaintances who used to attend OLS Church but have moved away from the neighborhood, we are looking to contact them about our Big Homecoming events of 2012 so get out your Christmas card list, your address books, and work on your memories and sent the information to us ASAP by mail, telephone, or email. Thank you!

**OLSS “Reading Counts” Needs Help:** Our Lady of Sorrows School has a program called “Reading Counts” that encourages our students to read outside the classroom. For each book that a student reads the student earns points which are accumulated so they can choose a prize for the prize closet. Prizes range from small toys to larger toys and board games and stuffed animals. Our school needs help in replenishing the display case closet this Christmas. When you are out shopping for family and friends could you pick up an extra toy or two, a board game, a children’s book, or a stuffed animal to add to our collection? To get an idea of appropriate items just stop by the school anytime we are open or during PRE on Sunday mornings and someone can show you the “Reading Counts” display case. We LOVE visitors to the school!

**OLS School Registration:** Our Lady of Sorrows School will begin registering students for the 2012-2013 school year on Monday, January 9, 2012. The tuition rate is \$5,000 per student for all students. Substantial tuition grants will be available to all students, but students must be registered BEFORE they can apply for financial assistance. There is a registration fee of \$75 for new students and \$50 for returning students. There is a maximum registration fee of \$200 per family. Documents needed to complete registration are:

- 1) A copy of each child’s BIRTH CERTIFICATE, if not already on file;
- 2) If Catholic, a copy of each child’s BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE;
- 3) A current immunization record for each child, if not already on file
- 4) A statement of church affiliation or non-affiliation.

Please note, that all immunization records must be updated each year and should be done before the start of classes in

**Second Collections Religious Retirement Fund:** This weekend, the Second Collection will be for the support of Villa Vianney, the retirement home for our senior priests. Please be generous in helping the priests who have served us so well through the years to have a safe and comfortable place in which to live out the priesthood.

**Marriage Help:** Are you constantly fighting or do you shut down? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. The next program begins with a weekend retreat on February 24-26, 2012. Confidential information about this program and registration is available at: 901-262-6681 (Kathy & Frank phone #) or email: 3042@retrouville.org. Please visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com). Your marriage and family can be saved!

**Children’s Choir:** Practice for the Children’s Choir will begin on Sunday, January 8, 2012, at 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The choir will sing at the Spanish liturgy on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions. The choir is open to all children.

