

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 52 (3579) December 24th - 25th, 2024

CHRISTMAS



The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this Gospel is not an Infancy Narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel begins at the beginning, as it were, and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words, "In the beginning . . .," echo the opening verse of the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. However, John's Gospel highlights that this was the divine intention from the very beginning, from the moment of Creation.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel are introduced. These themes are presented as dualities: light/darkness, truth/falsehood, life/death, and belief/unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel—the motif of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify about Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will themselves testify to his identity with God as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms seems particularly appropriate as we celebrate the feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children. (loyolapress.com)

"Almighty God and Father of light, your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of dawn, that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace." (dailyscripture.net) †R.R.

The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

9 a.m. †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas

11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners
for peace in Ukraine and the world

for Judvytis', Dackus' and Vydmantas' living and deceased family members (GJ)

†Marija and Bronius Matusевичius, Matusевичius' & Petrulis'
deceased family members (family)

†Ieva and Vincas Jonuska (Jonuska family)

†Elena and Jurgis Krakauskas (Jonuska family)

†Danute and Antanas Damasius (daughter and granddaughter)
for living and deceased family members (Daiva)

2025

January 1st

NEW YEAR

9 a.m. Mass

(in EN)

11 a.m. Mass

(in LT)

**Office hours during
the Holidays**

December 24

OPEN

9 a.m. - 12 noon

December 25-26

CLOSED

December 31

OPEN

9 a.m. - 12 noon

January 1, 2025

CLOSED



Cantors of the Masses:

10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass:

Audra Stanevicius-Mills, Daiva Stanevicius-Mills, Evelina Verbyla, Tadas MacPherson, Olivija Neumann, Juste Ross, Sofija Sirutis, Saule Harris
“kanklininkės” - Aleksa, Jacintha and Tessa Dirmantas Groen in’t Woud
Christmas choir
organist Ilona Beres

Christmas Mass:

9 a.m. - *Gintas Pabedinskas*
11 a.m. - *Aleksa, Lina and Lile Vadauskas*
organist - Ilona Beres

Pope: Look at the Child, Lift Your Eyes to the Star of Bethlehem

On the occasion of Christmas, the Pope wished, "To everyone and to each of you, I say: look at the Child, look at the star. This newborn child is hope. He has brought hope." According to Pope Francis, the hope brought by the Child of Bethlehem and the light of the Star of Bethlehem are the messages of this Christmas.



"I wish everyone that the Lord may grant you the tenderness of a child, so that we do not lose our human gentleness, and that the Star of Bethlehem may illuminate our lives," said the Pope. "By lifting our eyes to the star, like the wise men from the East, we will know where the path lies. By looking at the Child, we will understand what our hearts should be like. This is my wish. Dear ones, each of you, look at the Child and lift your eyes to the star. I wish you a good and holy Christmas. May the Lord bless you and may the Mother of God protect you." (jm / Vatican News)

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." /Lk 2, 10 - 12/
May the God who awaits us lead you and your family along the paths of life with the Christmas star, through the outstretched hands of the newborn Child.



May He bless you with peace, joy, and mercy, and touch you with Faith, Hope, and Love.
Your Franciscan Fathers and all the ordained Clergy serving our Parish extend
Christmas greetings to all our parishioners on the occasion of Christ's birth.

THANK YOU to ALL who helped with Rummage sales and contribute to the FOOD DRIVE and we wish you Lord's blessings ... Merry Christmas and Happy 2025!



Labdara - The Parish Committee for Charitable Causes

Camp "KRETINGA" wishes everyone
a Blessed Christmas and Happy 2023 New Year!
Camp "Kretinga" 2025: English speaking July 6th - 19th;
Lithuanian speaking July 20th - August 2nd



"Ausra" Sports Club wishes you and yours all
the very best during this Christmas Season.

