

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr.52 (3474) December 24th - 25th, 2022

CHRISTMAS - A



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.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

- 9 a.m. for Brough, Cernauskas' & Pranckevicius'
deceased family members (S.Brough & D.Pranaitis)
- 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners
for peace in Ukraine and the world
†Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas (St.George parish, Rochester, NY)
request Lord's blessings for family and friends (GJ)
†Alfonas Stanevicius (5th anniv.) (Stanevicius family)
†Kazimieras Grigaravicius (granddaughters and families)
†Elena and Jurgis Krakauskas (Jonuska family)
†Juozas and Ona Gataveckas (D.Berius)
†Marija and Bronius Matusevicius and deceased family members (family)
†Marius Lelenas (Victoria)
for Vanagas' and Kazlauskas' deceased family members (A.S.Vanagas)

2023

January 1st

NEW YEAR

9 a.m. Mass

(in EN)

11 a.m. Mass

(in LT)

Office hours during
the Holidays

December 26-27

CLOSED

December 30

OPEN

9 a.m. - 12 noon

January 2, 2023

CLOSED

Cantors of the Masses:

9 AM - *Gintas and Kristina Pabedinskas*

11 AM - *Aleksa, Lina and Lile Vadauskas,*

Indre Viskontas

organist - Ilona Beres

HOLY MASSES

December 26th - January 1st, 2023

MONDAY (December 26): 7 p.m. †Leokadija Nevulis (O.Dirmantas);

TUESDAY (December 27): 7 p.m. living and deceased benefactors;

WEDNESDAY (December 28): 7 p.m. †Valentinas and Marija Indris (R.Indris);

THURSDAY (December 29): 7 p.m. †Vida Sukys (G.Matukas); †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas (GJ);

FRIDAY: (December 30): 7 p.m. †Liudas and Markus Matukas (G.Matukas); †Petras Kuncevicus and Richard Houlihan (B.Kuncevicus);

SATURDAY (December 31): 9 a.m. request Lord's blessings for Eugenijus (mother); 4 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas (B.Tamosiunas);

SUNDAY (January 1st, 2023 - New Year): 9 a.m. †Antanas and Antanina Dunauskas (daughter Onute); 11 a.m. living and deceased parishioners; †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas ("Kretinga"); †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas (S.Gruchalla & I.Matus); †Algis Vaisnoras (1st anniv.) (I.Vaisnoras & Oleka family); †Stasys Prakapas (family); †Inocentas Jurcevicus (family); †Ilona Smalenskas (V.Puzeris); †Vytautas Miniota (A.Jurcevicus); †Marius Lelenas (Victoria); request grace of health for Irma and Gitana (GK) .

Capital Fund - \$ 336,570

*R.Shames, R.Girdauskas, R.A.Sileika,
E.V.Stuikys - \$ 5,000*

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Collections of December 18th

55 envelopes - \$ 6,140

No envelopes - \$ 130.90

Direct deposit - \$ 1,185

For soup kitchens in Lithuania - \$ 6,965

Support to UKRAINE - \$ 7,100

THANK you for your generosity



Camp "KRETINGA"
wishes everyone
a Blessed Christmas
and Happy 2023 New Year!
Camp "Kretinga" 2023:

English speaking July 2nd - 15th;
Lithuanian speaking July 16th - 30th



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



THANK YOU to ALL who contribute
to the **FOOD DRIVE** and we
wish you Lord's blessings ...
Merry Christmas and Happy 2023!

Labdara - The Parish Committee for Charitable Causes

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS DURING THIS
DIFFICULT TIME. EVERY DONATION HELPS WITH
MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCH AND THE PARISH...**

**YOUR 2023 CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPES -
ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.**

A request regarding donor's envelopes – Please ensure that **all** the **information** requested on the donor's envelope is **completed**: your first and last name, current address, envelope number (if you are not using a personalized envelope, but a generic one).

We also urge parishioners to promptly **notify** the church office of a **change of address** in order to ensure the timely delivery of tax receipts at year-end.

PLEASE DON'T wait until the last week of December to transfer, bring or send donations to the Parish.

You can donate to the parish
and for parish causes through:
envelopes

eTransfers (email: resparish@prisikelimas.ca ;

Q: What is the name of the parish?

A: Resurrection; (indicating to whom the donation is addressed) or on the **parish site** www.prisikelimas.ca/give.

Also, you can donate through **banks** -
RCU and Parama by direct deposit.

PLEASE NOTE: Writing Cheques payable to **Resurrection Parish** in the **MEMO** write the charitable purpose: Donation to Parish or Mass.

Writing Cheques payable to **Franciscan Fathers** in the **MEMO** write the charitable purpose: Capital Fund, Renovation fund, Monastery, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda.

Pope to Vatican employees: Always confide in the Lord and build peace

<...>Serenity is given to us by confiding in God's help - The Pope remarked that this serenity is given to us by our faith in God and by entrusting ourselves to His help, as Mary and Joseph did when giving birth to Jesus in Bethlehem.



“I wish you this: that each one of you has faith in God and that in families there is the simplicity of entrusting themselves to His help, to pray to Him and to thank Him.”

The Pope wished peace of mind, especially for children and young people who have been particularly affected by the closures and limitations imposed by the COVID-19 crisis.

Be witnesses and artisans of peace - A second wish Pope Francis expressed was that we all may be “witnesses and artisans of peace”. “At this moment in the history of the world, we are called to feel more strongly the responsibility of each one doing his or her part to build peace,” he said, noting that this responsibility is particularly relevant for those who work for the Holy See.

Dear Lithuanians and friends around the World,

Monsignor Edmond Putrimas' unexpected passing has stunned all of us. For so many he was a friend or companion, a patient teacher, an understanding and consoling person.

We all know that Monsignor always planned his time to the last detail. He had already prepared his Christmas letter to be shared with Lithuanian communities worldwide. This Christmas letter will now be his final message for all of us.

Christmas is the season of hope and proclaims that God never leaves us alone. I wish to assure you, that the responsibilities and work that were part of Monsignor Putrimas' duties – that is, the pastoral care of Lithuanians around the world – will continue. You will not be left alone.

Archbishop Gintaras Grušas, Lithuanian Bishops Conference, president

Monsignor Edmond J. Putrimas' final Christmas Message, December 2022

“(Joseph) rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <...> Because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazarean” (Mt. 2: 21-23).

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With this letter I share my Christmas greeting with you.

In the words of this Gospel message, we learn how the Holy Family once had to avoid persecution by fleeing to Egypt and then returned home. This passage speaks of a physical return to one's home. However, no matter where we live in this world, we are always able to return to our roots, to cherish our identity and our cultural heritage.

During his visit to Lithuania, Pope Francis invited everyone to remember the history of their nation and their individual families; to show interest in the stories of their parents and grandparents, to gain some of their wisdom. Christmas presents a perfect opportunity to sit around a common table and converse about Lithuania, about faith and to remember the old Christmas traditions. It is most important to share an encouraging message with young people and young families, that, although they may live elsewhere, they should not forget their Lithuanian identity.

For our Lithuanian identity to stay vibrant, we must thank all the Lithuanian communities around the world that work towards that goal: a sincere thank you to the families and members of Lithuanian parishes and missions, to the Saturday school teachers who volunteer their time to help strengthen the Lithuanian roots and keep alive the spoken language of their students. I thank the many priests and religious brothers and sisters who share the truths of the Catholic Church, evangelizing the younger generations. These most important pillars of our Lithuanian identity help us to form Lithuanian “islands“ where we live and where we can feel at home.

During the Christmas season, let us wish one another peace. Gathered around the Christmas table, let us be united in the spirit of forgiveness and hope. Let us also not forget our brothers and sisters in Ukraine during their time of need.

Monsignor Edmond J. Putrimas, Lithuanian Bishops Conference Delegate for Lithuanian Catholics Abroad

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.” /Lk 2, 15-17/

Let us, during Christmastime, on the Holy Night, while guarding our families, parish, our homes and homeland, hasten again and again, to discover the twinkling hope of Everlasting Life in the Divine Child. And in His tenderness, may we again experience the strength of faith in the Redeeming Lord's outpouring of Mercy for us, His outstretched hands, ever offering the gift of Redeemed Life, the love shown to one's neighbour..

Blessings of the Newborn Lord descend upon you.

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.



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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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