



Welcome to our Celebration of Our Lord's Birth

Tonight we will begin with a Festival of Lessons and Carols

Opening Song: *Once in Royal David's City*

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| <p>1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby,
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little Child.</p> | <p>2. He came down to earth from
heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and
lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.</p> | <p>3. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above:
And He leads His children on,
To the place where He is gone.</p> |
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Opening Prayer

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:1-15 "I will put enmity between your offspring and her offspring"

Prayer by Celebrant

Song: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

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| <p>1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.</p> | <p><i>Refrain</i>
Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel.
To you shall come
Emmanuel</p> | <p>2. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe</p> |
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Second Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 "On him the spirit of the Lord rests."

Prayer by Celebrant

Song: *Silent Night*

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| <p>1. Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace</p> | <p>2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born</p> |
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Third Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 "Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son."

Prayer by Celebrant

Song: *The First Noel*

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| <p>1. The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!</p> | <p>2. They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel</p> |
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Fourth Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12 "We saw his star and have come to do the king homage."

Prayer by Celebrant

Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain, / Over the hills and everywhere / Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born. / While shepherds kept their watching / Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens / There shone a holy light. / Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born / And God sent us salvation / That blessed Christmas morn.*

Fifth Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Prayer by Celebrant

The Blessing of the Christmas Tree
(switching on the lights of the tree)

The Blessing of the Christmas Manger
(placing the baby in the manger)

Entrance Hymn for the Mass of the Nativity: *Oh Come All Ye Faithful*

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| <p>1. O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O Come ye, O come ye
To Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him,
Born the King of Angels.</p> | <p><i>Refrain:</i>
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!</p> | <p>2. Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens
Of heaven above
Glory to God,
In the highest heavens</p> |
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Introduction to the Mass and Proclamation of the Birth of Christ (sung)

The Gloria followed by the opening prayer of the Mass

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7 "A son is given to us."

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 95 (sung)

Refrain: **Today our Saviour is born / Today our savior is bo-~~rn~~ / This is the day
This is the day / Ch-rist our savior is born**

New Testament Reading: Letter of St. Paul to Titus 2:11-15.

"God's grace has been revealed to the whole human race"

Gospel Acclamation (sung)

Sing allelu-ia / Si-ng allelu-ia / Si-ng all-elu / Si-ng all-elu / Sing allelu-ia
I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.
Sing allelu-ia / Si-ng allelu-ia / Si-ng all-elu / Si-ng all-elu / Sing allelu-ia

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14. "Today a Saviour has been born to you."

Creed followed by Prayers of the Faithful

Offertory (Instrumental Solo)

Eucharistic Prayer I

Communion Rite

Lamb of God (sung)

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

O Holy Night (solo)

*Chorus: Fall on your knees / Oh hear the angels voices / Oh ni-ght divine
Oh night, when Christ was born / Oh ni-ght div-ine, / Oh night, / Oh night divine.*

When A Child Is Born

1. A ray of hope flickers in the sky
A tiny star lights up way up high
All across the land dawns a brand new morn
This comes to pass when a child is born

2. A silent wish sails the seven seas
The winds of change whisper in the trees
And the walls of doubt crumble tossed and torn
This comes to pass, when a child is born

3. A rosy dawn settles all around
You got the feel, you're on solid ground
For a spell or two no one seems forlorn
This comes to pass, when a child is born

Spoken: And all of this happens, because the world is waiting. Waiting for one child; Black-white-yellow, no one knows... but a child that will grow up and turn tears to laughter, hate to love, war to peace and everyone to everyone's neighbor, and misery and suffering will be words to be forgotten forever.

4. It's all a dream and illusion now,
It must come true sometime soon somehow,
All across the land dawns a brand new morn,
This comes to pass when a child is born.

Final Hymn: *Silent Night*

1. Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia"
Christ the Savior is born.
Christ the Savior is born.

3. Silent night, Holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Post-Communion Reflection

1. Away in a manger
Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my bedside 'til morning is nigh.

3. Be near me Lord Jesus,
I ask thee to stay.
Close by me forever,
And love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children,
In thy tender care.
And fit them for heaven,
To live with thee there.

Christmas Prayers 2009

In every part of our Christmas days, joyful or otherwise, we can turn to God in prayer.

These are suggested prayers for a variety of situations.
Use them or create prayers from your own heart to meet your own needs.

Prayer as I reflect on all the people you place in my life today.

I think about my family, my relatives, the neighbours, people with whom we will spend this day. Dear Jesus, as I look at their faces and remember their stories, there are feelings of gratitude and some fear and anxiety. Thank you for these loved ones and please forgive me for the ways I have been less than accepting and loving. Please heal the wounds, division and conflicts that stand between us and help me to remember how dearly you love them. I only want to remember that you have come to save us all.

Celebrating Christmas after the loss of a loved one.

God of compassion, there is such a hole in my heart! Today should be a day of joy, but I feel only the emptiness and loss of someone so beloved. While the world celebrates around me, I remember Christmas celebrations of the past and I long to have my loved one with me. I bring my sorrows to you, Lord, like some odd gift of the magi and dump them at your feet. In my blind tears I wonder if anyone can possibly understand the depth of my sadness. Yes, you can. You sent your son to be *with* us in our deepest sorrows and I know that even though I might not feel it at this minute, you are here with me, grieving with me, caring for me in my sadness and loving me. Dearest lord, help me to turn to the one I miss so much today and speak. Help me heal the loss of our parting and help me not to regret the things I didn't say. Sorrow tears at my heart, but today I ask that my loss soften my heart and make me more compassionate with everyone I meet.

Prayer before Christmas Dinner.

God of all gifts, we thank you for the many ways you have blessed us this day. We are grateful each of those who are gathered around this table. We ask you to bless us and our food and to bless those we love who are not with us today. In our gratitude and love, we remember your humble birth into our lives and pray for those who are without enough to eat. We remember the stable in which you were born and pray for those who have no place to live. We remember your challenging message of caring and giving and we pray for peace in families and nations throughout the world. We bless you and give you thanks in your Spirit who brings our hearts to life the Christmas Day and forever. Amen.

Going to work on Christmas Day.

Loving God, on this sacred day, I am going to work. There is something special about working on Christmas, when so many others are home with loved ones. My work today might even have a wondrous sense of service and necessity. But it doesn't always feel noble and inside me there is a struggle: I wish I could stay home. Help me to feel missioned by you today. Let me recognize the unique way my co-workers and I are called to serve our brothers and sisters. Let me take just a moment in this quiet to feel your deep love for me. May I carry that sense of peace with me as the light of your love, shining on everyone I come in contact with today. Thank you.

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Father Hasson extends greetings and blessings to all parishioners and friends at home and abroad for the Christmas season and the New Year

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