

My Dear Parishioners,

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you and to your families! How blessed we are to celebrate, believe and receive the Gift of God, the Son of God, Jesus, the Word Made Flesh for Our Salvation!

This year, at Christmas Masses, we are happy to distribute a book entitled Beautiful Eucharist by Matthew Kelly. Beautiful Eucharist is a wonderful collection of reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives. I hope you enjoy this short little book and even more, consider the LIFE CHANGING reality of Emmanuel, God-With Us, Jesus in the Manger and in the Eucharist.



We know that the word Bethlehem means "House of Bread". We know too that Jesus was laid in a manger which was the food trough for animals. We know that Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life and gave Himself as food at the Last Supper. And we know that the Eucharist is Christ's Greatest Gift.

This year, gathered around our home manger scenes or the manger in Church, let us marvel at the Gift of God! It was 800 years ago, that Deacon and Saint, Francis of Assisi first set up a manger scene. I share the account of that 1223 Christmas Night as recorded by St. Bonaventure:

It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the Nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor king; and being unable to utter His name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem.

A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an infant marvellously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

St. Patrick Parish

Rosary

Sunday Evenings

7:00 PM

via Zoom



THERE WILL BE NO PARISH ZOOM ROSARY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 OR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31. BLESSINGS TO YOU & YOUR FAMILY DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Friday, December 22 - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Monday, December 25 - CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26 - Friday, December 29 -

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Monday, January 1 - CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2 - CLOSED

Wednesday, January 3 - Normal Office Hours

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!