

December 24-25, 2021  
Christmas Eve/Christmas Day  
Isaiah 9:1-6                      Titus 2:11-14                      Luke 2:1-14

**If ever there has been a people WAITING for CHRISTMAS...** it has been us!! For the better part of 2020 and all our 2021's, as Covid enfolded us, we have wrestled with confusion, isolation, fear, loss, sickness, quarantines, unemployment and the myriad of other affectations associated with the virus. As people of FAITH we have prayed...we have been cancelled...we have been restricted to the outdoors...we have been allowed back inside with PRECAUTIONS and THIS CHRISTMAS we can finally gather to welcome and celebrate the recommitment of Jesus to **ALWAYS BE WITH US...**...EVEN THROUGHOUT our pandemics! As we become familiar with whom we have individually become, with whom our PARISH FAMILY has become, let us also recognize that JESUS has never strayed from our sides. It his grace, his love, his promise to never stray from us that has sustained us when everything in our lives was wobbling and uncertain. This Christmas, surrounded with color, scent, carols and ample RELIEF...open your heart to receive Mary's newborn son. Introduce yourself and **welcome him anew**. When everything else in our world was in turmoil or confusion, Jesus remained constant...serene, loving and welcoming. He cares not about our individual backgrounds, ethnicities, orientations, determinations, fractures or mistakes...the newborn Child Jesus simply is seeking arms to hold him, hearts to welcome him, voices to soothe him and souls in which he may forever dwell. **Allow YOUR HEART, YOUR SOUL, to be YOUR Christmas gift to Jesus...**and be amazed at what he will do with the rest of your life!!!

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you; we bless you; we adore you; we glorify you; we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten son, Lord God, lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer, you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm Response:

'Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.'

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest.

**Our Father**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

**Thank you for depositing this SINGLE USAGE Worship Aid in one of the WHITE trash receptacles at the back of the Hall.**

**THANK YOU**

**On Saturday**, Christmas Day, there is a **Christmas Day Mass at 10am** but **there are no Confessions on Saturday afternoon** and **NO 5:00pm SATURDAY evening MASS**. On **Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**, Masses to celebrate the Holy Family are at **8am, 10am and 12 Noon** (yes, the noon Mass is now officially reinstated!) Next weekend, on **Friday, January 31**, there is **no 8:30am Mass but there will be a 5:00pm Mass to inaugurate the New Year and honor, Mary, the Mother of God**. On Saturday morning, **January 1<sup>st</sup>**, **Mass will be at 10am** with confessions at 3:30pm and the normal Saturday 5pm Mass celebrating the Epiphany and the usual Masses on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> will be at 8am, 10am and 12Noon, also celebrating the Epiphany.

**THANK YOU** for celebrating Christmas Eve/Christmas Day with our Santa Clara Community. Like everywhere else in the world, we have been sorely tested for the last 20 months. Despite the travails that have isolated hundreds and thousands, despite the sickness that enfeebled many, despite the covid-caused deaths that have wrenched us with grief...we are surviving. As you gather with family and friends, make sure you **LOOK** at the people with whom you gather. They are **STILL HERE**, still **WITH YOU**...and **YOU WITH THEM**. **WE** are more precious than any of the brightly wrapped presents beneath our trees. Touch hands, touch faces, kiss upon each other's cheeks...remember what was once so casual and recognize the treasures they are. Enjoy this evening, this day **FULLY**. It is **NOT** just any old Christmas...it is a Christmas when we get to emerge from our hide-away's, from our homes, from our isolation...and bid each other well. Bake some cookies or enjoy some egg nog...stay in your pajamas...or wrap yourself snugly in your bathrobe...it is **CHRISTMAS**...Christ has renewed his Father's promise to never abandon any of us...open your heart to the Child who is changing the world....after 2000 years, the world is not yet perfect, but Jesus is never going to renege on his promise...he is among us, within us. Much is still broken in our world, in our Church, in our families, in our hopes and dreams...but **JESUS** is once again committing himself to us...to **YOU**...to **ME**! Merry Christmas to you and those you love...and please remember, **YOU ARE LOVED**...on Christmas and always! **FKB**

