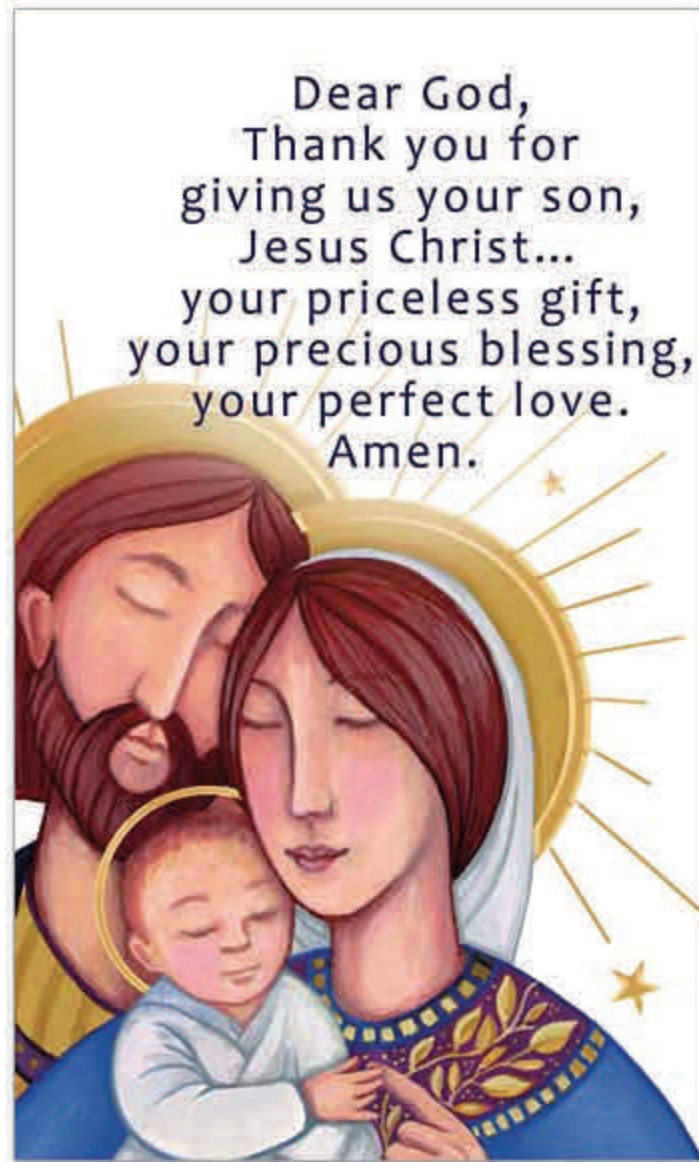


Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year!



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Nativity Scenes



According to tradition, Francis of Assisi began the practice of using manglers at Christmas time. Sometimes called the “Saint of the Incarnation,” Francis believed that of all the ways God has revealed his love, none is more total and tangible than the Incarnation of his Son. So it isn’t surprising that for the midnight Mass, Christmas 1223, in a cave in Greccio, Italy, Francis presented a living re-enactment of the nativity scene. This visual and creative— and apparently first-commemoration of Christ’s birth has now become traditional. *Creche* is a French word meaning manger or crib. - The Catholic Source Book



The Three Nativity Gifts Matthew 2:11

Gold, for the royalty of Jesus
Frankincense, for the divinity of Jesus
Myrrh, for the Passion of death of Jesus

The Three Wise Men who came to seek and honor the infant Jesus were Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior



POINSETTIA- THE MEXICAN “Flower of the Holy Night”

Dr. Joel Poinsett was U.S. ambassador to Mexico in the early 1800s. In 1829 when he returned home, he brought with him a plant that the Mexican people called “flower of the Holy Night.” We call it the poinsettia, after Dr. Poinsett, and use it as a favorite Christmas plant.

It has a fable origin: Long ago, on Christmas Eve, a poor child made his way to Church in great sadness because he had no gift to offer the Christ child. Not daring to enter the church, he knelt humbly on the ground outside and prayed, tearfully telling the Lord of his great desire to offer a gift. Unwilling to approach with empty hands, he finally rose only to behold springing up at his feet a plant with dazzling red, spectacular blooms. This was the answer to his prayers. These blossoms he took to the feet of the Christ child.

Since then, the “flower of the Holy Night” has spread through the whole country, blooming each year at Christmas with such glorious abandon that the very sight of it fills believers with the spirit of this season of the Savior’s birth. - The Catholic Source Book.

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

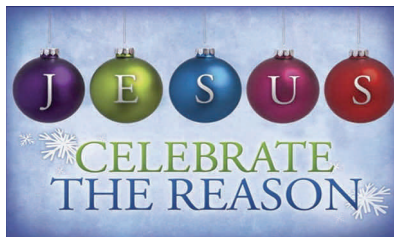
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!



*Merry Christmas
and A Blessed
New Year!*



★
FOR
unto us a
Child^{is born,}
unto us a Son^{is given;}
is given; and the government
will be upon *His* shoulder. And
His name will be called
Wonderful
MIGHTY GOD
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE
ISAIAH
9:6



What Christmas Means To Me...

Christmas is not all about gifts; it's about family. Some think it's all about what they get and not giving to someone in need of food and money. Don't give people sass or rudeness...say thanks, and appreciate that they got something for you.

Some people don't get things for Christmas, they just stay with family. And just remember, it's all about family and Jesus being born. So, be thankful on Christmas and give instead of being greedy of getting.

Your Friend,
Alex Mechling- Grade 4

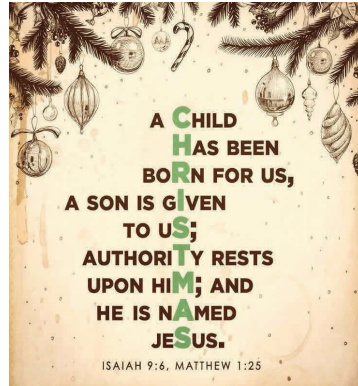
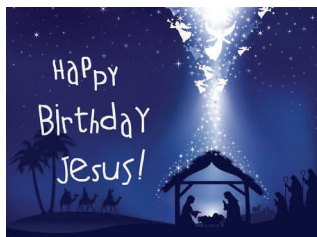


For me Christmas means the joy of family, the joy of generosity, and the joy of Christ.

Sam Witwer, Grade 12

Some people say that they can't wait till Christmas because of all the presents. Well let me just tell you that Christmas is NOT about the presents. If Jesus was never on this earth then we wouldn't have Christmas at all. He opened the gates of heaven and that is the best gift of all. To me Christmas is about the family and Jesus is part of that family. In my family we treat Christmas more of a birthday party for Jesus more than how many presents can I get thing. To me at Christmas time it makes me happy to give than to get and I like to give a lot more than to get. So to mainly wrap it up I think to me Christmas means family and a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Thank you for reading this,
Cassie Coyne, Grade 5



*For me Christmas has always been about this:
contemplating the visit of God to his people.*

POPE FRANCIS

What Christmas Means to Me...
By Emma Roembke – Grade 6

To me Christmas means Jesus' birth. It means celebrating all He has given us, all that He has done for us, and all that He thinks about us. It means spending time with family, and practicing our family traditions.



8th Grade Confirmation Class What Christmas means to ME...

- A time to give. A time to celebrate Jesus with your friends and family.
- A time to help people and celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- A time to celebrate Jesus. A time to be thankful for what you have, make the best of it, and help with those who have it bad.
- A time for family to come together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
- A time to celebrate with friends and family; also, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



The older I get the more thankful for Christmas I become. As my siblings start their own lives and move away, the less I am able to see them. Christmas brings all of us together in celebration most years. Beyond the family celebrations, I connect with God more and more as each Christmas comes. My faith in His everlasting loves strengthens and grows. I feel God all around me, but especially during Christmas time. To me, Christmas means the love of God and family.

Oriana Makowski, Grade 12



Gabby Hoffacker, Grade 1
says Christmas for her means...

It means "special" to me because it is Jesus' birthday. Christmas is all about spending time with my family.



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It's a child, not a
choice...
Abortion does not make
you "un-pregnant", it
makes you the mother
of a dead child.

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in uniform...
past, present and future,



Thank you and
God Bless You!

Before you speak...

THINK!

T - is it true?
h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?



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come to you
without leaving
happier.

-Mother Teresa