



# ST. JOSEPH

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST



1875



CONSECRATED TO ST. JOSEPH, SENT TO PROCLAIM CHRIST



• 2025

## THE HOUSE OF CHRISTMAS

G. K. Chesterton

Step softly, under snow or rain,  
To find the place where men can pray;  
The way is all so very plain  
That we may lose the way.

Oh, we have learnt to peer and pore  
On tortured puzzles from our youth,  
We know all labyrinthine lore,  
We are the three wise men of yore,  
And we know all things but the truth.

We have gone round and round the hill  
And lost the wood among the trees,  
And learnt long names for every ill,  
And served the mad gods, naming still  
The furies the Eumenides.

The gods of violence took the veil  
Of vision and philosophy,  
The Serpent that brought all men bale,  
He bites his own accursed tail,  
And calls himself Eternity.

Go humbly... it has hailed and snowed...  
With voices low and lanterns lit;  
So very simple is the road,  
That we may stray from it.

The world grows terrible and white,  
And blinding white the breaking day;  
We walk bewildered in the light,  
For something is too large for sight,  
And something much too plain to say.

The Child that was ere worlds begun  
(...We need but walk a little way,  
We need but see a latch undone...)  
The Child that played with moon and sun  
Is playing with a little hay.

The house from which the  
heavens are fed,  
The old strange house that is our own,  
Where trick of words are never said,  
And Mercy is as plain as bread,  
And Honour is as hard as stone.

Go humbly, humble are the skies,  
And low and large and fierce the Star;  
So very near the Manger lies  
That we may travel far.

Hark! Laughter like a lion wakes  
To roar to the resounding plain.  
And the whole heaven shouts and shakes,  
For God Himself is born again,  
And we are little children walking  
Through the snow and rain.

## THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST - DECEMBER 25, 2025

**Merry Christmas!** Whether you are a lifelong parishioner or a visiting guest, we are so happy to celebrate the **Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ** with you! May our Lord fill your heart with the true joy of His peace as we rejoice together in the birth of the Savior. If this is your first time here at St. Joseph's or if you are recently returning, we would love to welcome you back every weekend, throughout the full **Christmas season** and beyond!

As it took us four long weeks of Advent to reach **Christmas Day**, may we not forget that our celebration has only just now begun! The joy of **Christmas** cannot be contained in a single day, but is instead, in the life of the Church, a season within itself. I encourage you, keep the tree up! Let the Christmas lights shine! Listen to Christmas music! **CHRIST IS BORN!** What more reason do we need to continue celebrating? **Rejoice, for the Savior is born!**

Our **Christmas celebrations** are made more **joyous** by your presence here! This year is perhaps even more special as we conclude our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, marking not only a milestone in our parish history, but also a renewed call to welcome Christ into our parish, our families, and our hearts. Looking ahead to the months to come, this **Christmas** also finds us on the threshold of renewal.

With major renovations set to begin, we give thanks for the generations who have handed on the faith to us and entrust this next chapter of our parish to the Lord who is born anew among us. We prayerfully ask the Christ-child to guide our parish through this time of transition, that all we do may serve His glory and strengthen the faith of generations yet to come.

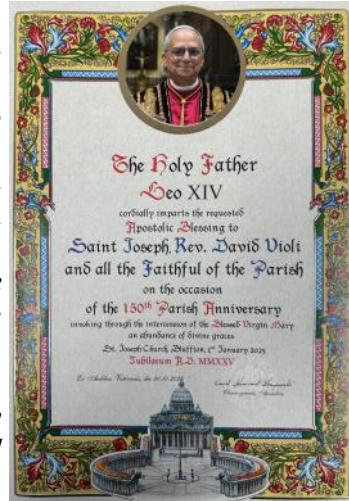
~Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David

### A PAPAL BLESSING TO MARK OUR ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Shortly after arriving at St. Joseph's in 2018, I had the opportunity to travel to Rome for the diaconate ordination of now-Fr. Spenser St. Louis, a priest of our diocese. As a part of that trip, I passed through St. Anne's Gate into the Vatican City State and found the Vatican's Office of Papal Charities. Through this office, the Faithful can request a papal blessing from the Pope for major events in one's life or in the life of the Church.

At that time, I requested a special blessing for our parish by the late-Holy Father, Pope Francis I. During my travels this year, I once again traced this same path and requested a papal blessing from Pope Leo XIV this Christmas in honor of our parish's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This Papal Blessing to end our anniversary year marks the culmination of our anniversary celebrations and serves as a tangible sign of our communion with the Holy Father and the universal Church.

The Papal Blessing (*right*) reads as follows: *The Holy Father, Leo XIV, cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing to St. Joseph, Rev. David Violi, and all the Faithful of the Parish on the occasion of the 150th Parish Anniversary invoking through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary an abundance of divine graces.*



I would like to say thank you  
to the Adult Choir, Children's  
Choir, Cantors and Musicians for  
all the hard work you have done in  
preparation for our Lord's Nativity.

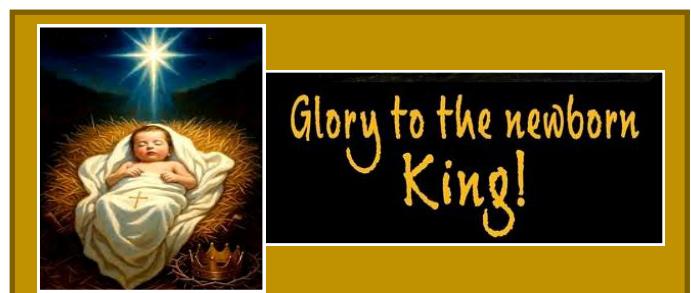
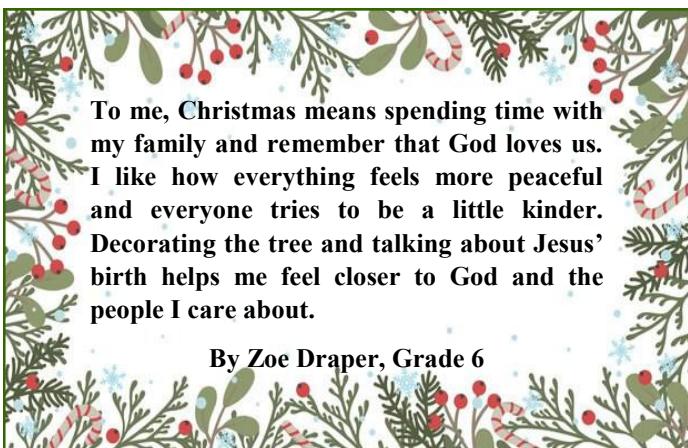
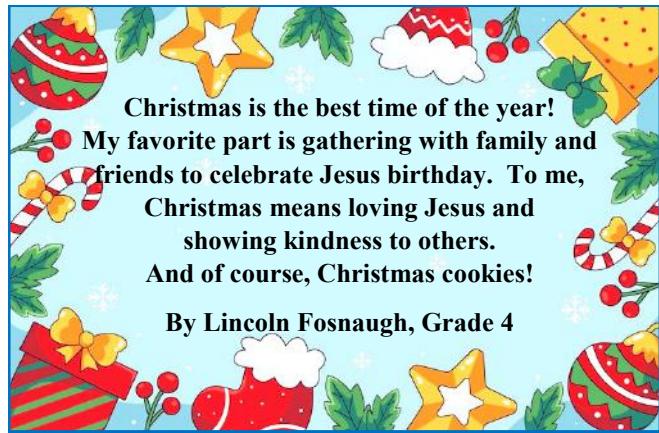
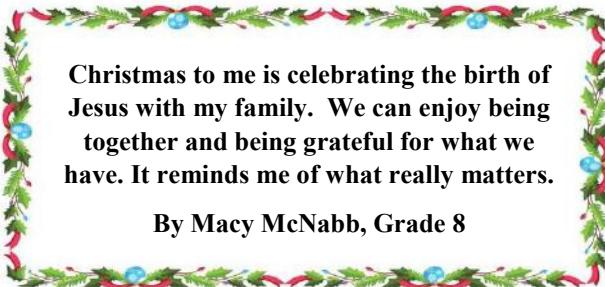
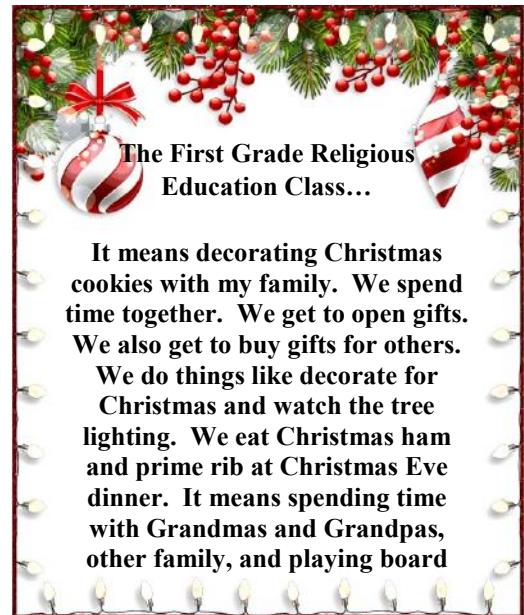
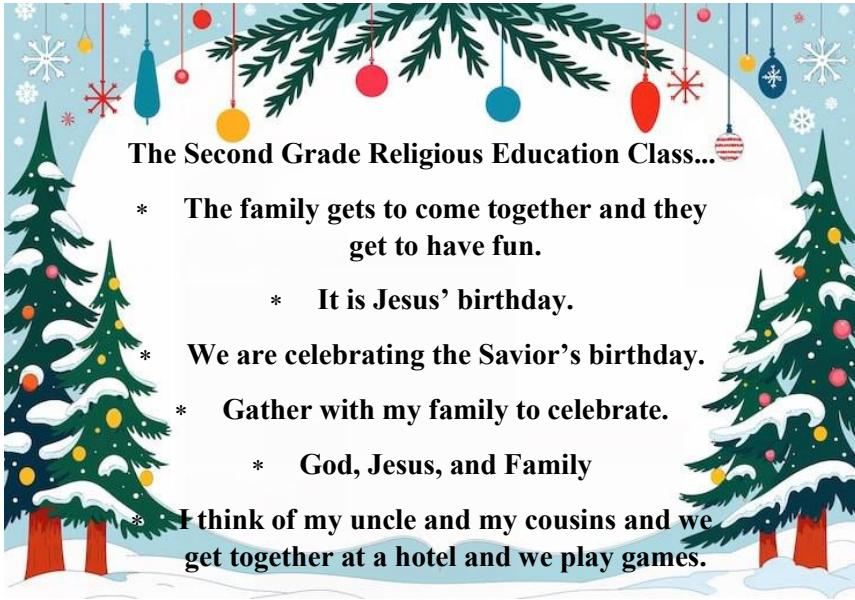
May Jesus bless you  
with His peace.  
Teresa

With humble gratitude to everyone  
who sent a card or Christmas gift:

**Thank you!**

To my Parish Family, may God  
bless you and your family  
abundantly in the coming New year.  
Know of my continued prayers for  
you and your family.  
Michelle

# "What Christmas Means To Me..."



Christmas is a time to reflect on our past year with the Lord and what we want next year to look like. Christmas is about family and remembering the life of Jesus. It means remembering no love will ever be greater and he came in the humblest way possible. Christmas is a time to think about what we can give Jesus. Christmas in a way can be about the gifts but only if it is what you can give to the Lord. He has given us the best gift imaginable of forgiving our sins and the option of heaven. We can never repay that, but we can start to try. For me Christmas is reflecting on how I can do better by the Lord and how I can make him more proud of me. Christmas is a time to rejoice and be thankful for the sacrifice of God and be grateful for the people

He has placed into our lives and the blessings He has given us. Christmas is when I get to go to Midnight Mass and repeat my favorite tradition with the Lord. Christmas to me is a time I get to look back at all the blessings God has given me through this year that I didn't realize in the moment. By Ellie Coyne, Grade 11

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at all times and  
when necessary  
use words.**  
St. Francis of Assisi

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Before you speak....

T	H	I	N	K	!
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T - is it true?  
h - is it helpful?  
i - is it inspiring?  
n - is it necessary?  
k - is it kind?



"Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."  
- St. John Paul II