

## Christmas Vigil Mass

What's in a name? How important is your name? We have a long list of names in 1<sup>st</sup> reading tonight.  
Has anyone ever asked you what your name means?

Do you know what your name means?

When your parents found out they were going to have a baby, they spent a lot of time choosing a name. They may have looked through a book that gives the meaning of names. I looked up a few names to see what they meant. (You might like to look up the meaning of the names).

John is a very popular name for boys and Joan or Joanna for girls. Their name means "God's gracious gift."

Have you ever known anyone named Daniel or Danielle? Their name means "God is my judge."

I have known quite a few boys named Michael and girls named Michaela. That is a great name that means "one who is like God." One of the angels in the Bible was named Michael.

Roger – Famous Spear      Robert – Bright Fame      Emily – To Excel

Evelyn – Beautiful Bird      Fred – Peace Ruler      Gabrielle – God is my strength      Peter - Rock

When Mary and Joseph found out that they were going to have a baby, they didn't have to go to the library and get a book to choose his name. In fact, they didn't choose his name at all. God sent an angel to tell Mary and Joseph, "You will have a son, and you will call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sin." You see, the **name Jesus means "the Lord saves."** God loved us so much that he sent his only Son to die on the cross to save us from our sin. The Bible tells us that there is no other name that can save us.

What's in a name? If the name is Jesus, there is salvation!

- It's the message of Acts  
Acts says that God brought forth a SAVIOR – Jesus  
I don't care who you are, what you've done, how many times you did it – you can be FREE  
Jesus took your sin      It was nailed on the cross with Jesus      We are redeemed

### **The reason Jesus comes at Christmas is EASTER**

#### **We are redeemed**

We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus is born.

We rejoice at Christmas, because Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

We rejoice at Christmas because Jesus has delivered us

Jesus has claimed a people as His own – and here we are.

- So for us – PSALM 89 has new meaning
  - Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord
    - I have made a covenant with my chosen . . .

Alleluia – Jesus is born

Alleluia – Jesus is risen

Alleluia – We are His chosen people, a royal priesthood – Alleluia!

If you're not sure if you're part of that family call me – YOU ARE

Jesus is born this day to bring salvation to creation – to each one of us – let us rejoice and be glad!