

### The Nativity Scene and Simplicity and Humility

In 1223 for Christmas, in order to try to experience Christ's birth on a deeper level, St. Francis of Assisi had a nativity scene created in a cave in the town of Greccio. He had a real ox and ass placed in a living crèche. Francis said, "I wish to evoke remembrance of the child quite realistically, how he was born in Bethlehem, and of all the hardship he must have endured in his childhood. I would like to see with my bodily eyes how it was, to lie in a manger and to sleep on hay between an ox and ass."

Where did St. Francis get the idea of the ox and the ass? From the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 1:3 states: "The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people does not understand." All of us—humans and animals—lacked understanding and reason, after the fall of Adam and Eve. However, the Christ-child in the crib opened the eyes of understanding to all. The animals recognize God. They follow their nature. Now we must follow our true nature. What is our true nature? St. John Vianney gives us a simple answer. He said, "The other day—the little birds were singing in the woods. I began to weep. Poor little creatures, I thought within myself, the good God has made you to sing, and you sing. Yet man, who was created that he might love God, loves Him not!" Our true nature is to love God. How do we do this? We pray daily, throughout the day. We study and follow His commandments. We get to Mass every week and worship as a community. We repent of our sins in the confessional. We help and love our neighbor. We take care of the poor.

The animals recognized Christ. Do you recognize Christ? Or are you like Herod, who wanted to have great power in this world? Do we rationalize our faith, saying, "I have my own spirituality and I don't need the Catholic Church"? There are people who think they are too sophisticated for the simplicity of Christ and the Church He founded.

Who does recognize Jesus and God's plan? The simple and the humble: people like Joseph, Mary, the Magi, and the shepherds. Do we recognize Him? Are we simple and humble?

### Christmas (Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord)

#### **Thursday, December 24** (Christmas Eve)

- Winter Park Ski Lodge (West Portal), 6 p.m. R Davlin
- St. Ignatius, 4 p.m. [Fr. Michael intention]
- St. Anne, 7:30 p.m. [John and Carolyn Murphy]

#### **Friday, December 25**

- St. Bernard, 7 a.m. [+James Davlin]
- Our Lady of the Snow, 9:30 a.m. [Church volunteers]
- St. Peter, 10 a.m. [Fr. Joseph intention]

### Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

#### **Thursday, December 31** (Vigil Masses)

- St. Ignatius, 4 p.m.
- St. Anne, 5 p.m.
- St. Bernard, 7:30 p.m.

#### **Friday, January 1, 2016**

- Our Lady of the Snow, 9:30 a.m.
- St. Peter, 10 a.m.

### Collection Envelopes are Available in the Churches

If you do not see your envelopes, please call the office and speak to Angela: 887-0032.

### Air Force Academy Cadet Choir coming Jan 8-10

We need families to house the cadets on Friday and Saturday nights. They will sing at St. Anne (Sat) and then at Our Lady (Sun). Please call Angela: 887-0032.

### Office Holy Season Closures

The office will be closed on Thursdays, December 24 and December 31, so that all of us can prepare for the Holy Days.

### Calendar of Events

**-Jan 10 (Sun).** Spanish Mass at Our Lady at 1 p.m.

**-Jan 14 (Thur).** Fr. Joseph speaks on death and dying at Fraser Valley Library in the evening.

**-Feb 14 (Sun).** Spanish Mass at Our Lady at 1 p.m.

**-Mar 13 (Sun).** Spanish Mass at Our Lady at 1 p.m.

**-Apr 10 (Sun).** Spanish Mass at Our Lady at 1 p.m.

#### Mass Collections, December 12 – 13

St. Anne	\$ 2445
St. Bernard	1422
Our Lady of the Snow	3348
St. Peter	621
St. Ignatius	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7881</b>

#### Vocations Prayer Calendar; November/December

*Please pray for our seminarians every day.*

**Sat--**Connor Lyle & Cristian Rivera

**Sun--**Daniel Silva & Daniel Wolbach

**Mon--**Joseph Goodwin & Justin Doerr

**Tue--**Nicolas Nunez & Patricio Chuquimarca

**Wed--**Phuoc (Joe) Bui & Red Braz

**Thu--**Adam Bradshaw & Adrian Hernandez

**Fri--**Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

#### Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

**KEY:** StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Dec 19, StA, 5 p.m., Stephen and Ann Collings

-Sat, Dec 19, StB, 7:30 p.m., Jo Creath intention

-Sun, Dec 20, StB, 7 a.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Dec 20, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Dan and Diane Bielski

Weekday Masses (see extra Masses listed in bold)

-Mon, Dec 21, StA, 8:30 a.m., Jo Creath intention

-Tue, Dec 22, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Los Amigos staff

-Wed, Dec 23, StB, 8:30 a.m., Barry/Aimee Kroneberger

**-Thu-Fri:** See Christmas Mass schedule to the left

#### Mass Intentions and Schedule for StI and StP

**KEY:** StI = St. Ignatius (Walden); StP = St. Peter

-Sat, Dec 19, StI, 4 p.m., Mark and Debbie Goulette

-Sun, Dec 20, StP, 10 a.m., Parishioners and visitors