

## **“O Come Let Us Adore Him.”**

An open letter answering concerns about Christmas Masses from your priests and the parish council (Fr. Michael, Fr. Joseph, Deacon Jim Moat, Jeri Moat, Ken Rozas, Lee Reynolds, and Tim Pulliam)

The following short statement was posted in the bulletin on July 17:

### **“More Mass Options for Christmas**

Recently, our parish council met with Fr. Joseph and Fr. Michael to discuss our Christmas Masses. The decision was unanimous that we should move our Christmas Eve Mass from Winter Park Ski Resort to St. Bernard of Montjoux Church in Fraser. Obviously, we will offer multiple Masses to accommodate our visitors. Several reasons were given for this move: (1) “We want to welcome visitors to ‘our home’ where God dwells”; (2) the celebration of Mass should have a more reverential setting; and lastly (3) the local parishioners want more options for Mass times.”

### **Quick Reflections**

1. The three kings and their caravan of about 200 people traveled a month following the mystic star in order to find the newborn King, Jesus.

2. Jesus was born in an intimate setting. We want people to have an intimate “Bethlehem experience” in our church.

3. The Last Supper, which was the first Mass, was an intimate experience.

4. Church law (canon 932.1) states that Mass is supposed to be celebrated in a sacred space using a consecrated altar.

5. The Mass is to be majestic. Here is a quote from the Council of Trent: “The Sacrifice [of the Mass] is celebrated with many solemn rites and ceremonies, none of which should be deemed useless or superfluous. On the contrary, all of them tend to display the majesty of this august Sacrifice, and to excite the faithful when beholding these saving mysteries, to contemplate the divine things which lie concealed in the Eucharistic Sacrifice.”

Think: The King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Savior of the world deserves to be worshipped in a sacred space.

In a reverent atmosphere, using a sacred altar, and where Jesus is present in the Tabernacle, the whole congregation—priest and people—will be more prayerful and more Divine graces will flow.

6. People usually enter the Catholic Church (Holy Mother Church) by one of two doors. The two doors are intelligence and beauty. Many scholars and intellectuals find the truth and enter the door of intelligence. The second door of beauty is open to anyone. People especially enter the second door when

they have childlike wonder. Our goal is to make our churches beautiful and our Masses beautiful. The homily feeds the intellect (mind) and the will (heart).

7. Please understand this was not a quick decision. It has been in the works for years with prayer and discussion.

### **Objections to the Move**

There have been about five objections to this move. So let’s look at them objectively. They are in no particular order.

**Objection 1.** “If we don’t have Mass at the ski lodge, some people won’t come.” Answer: Possibly. We will pray that they receive the gift of faith and abandon any motives of convenience and entitlement. God is a gentleman and does not force Himself on anyone. He invites us creatures to follow Him, the Creator, every day. So faith also involves human effort to come to Him. Jesus suffered and then died on a cross for three hours for love of us. Will we love Him back and come to Him?!

**Objection 2.** “People will be disappointed with the Church.” Answer: Why? Is it because they want convenience? There could be a negative attitude called “invictus,” which means “I want a relationship with God on my terms, not on His terms or His Church’s terms.”

**Objection 3.** “People who are non-Catholic or who don’t come to Mass regularly won’t get evangelized.” Answer: This is similar to objection 1. We will pray for them to come. Since you are on God’s “salvation team,” you can invite them to drive seven minutes to the church.

**Objection 4.** “Some people don’t have a ride.” Answer: We presume that the ski lodge has good will and loves Jesus. We can work with the ski lodge and the town to provide bussing to the church. We can afford to pay for some bussing. Or local parishioners could volunteer to drive, welcoming strangers to “our home.”

Also, we can advertise with the ski lodge and town to let people know way in advance that five Masses will be offered close by in our local church.

**Objection 5.** “This Mass at the resort fits in with our family activity day.” Answer: Our mission is to provide holy Masses in a church. Below you will see the Mass schedule. People have many options so that they can attend activities at the ski lodge and come to worship God a few minutes down the road.

### **Tentative Mass Times at St. Bernard**

Christmas Eve: 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.

Christmas Day: 7 a.m., 9 a.m.

### **St. Louis' Letter to His Son**

[St. Louis was born in 1214 and became the king of France when he was only 22 years old. He married and became the father of 11 children. He wrote the below letter to one of his son. We encourage all fathers to write letters similar to this one to their children.]

*My dearest son, my first instruction is that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your strength. Without this there is no salvation. Keep yourself, my son, from everything that you know displeases God, that is to say, from every mortal sin. You should permit yourself to be tormented by every kind of martyrdom before you would allow yourself to commit a mortal sin.*

*If the Lord has permitted you to have some trial, bear it willingly and with gratitude, considering that it has happened for your good and that perhaps you well deserved it. If the Lord bestows upon you any kind of prosperity, thank him humbly and see that you become no worse for it, either through vain pride or anything else, because you ought not to oppose God or offend him in the matter of his gifts.*

*Listen to the divine office with pleasure and devotion. As long as you are in church, be careful not to let your eyes wander and not to speak empty words, but pray to the Lord devoutly, either aloud or with the interior prayer of the heart.*

*Be kindhearted to the poor, the unfortunate and the afflicted. Give them as much help and consolation as you can. Thank God for all the benefits he has bestowed upon you, that you may be worthy to receive greater. Be just to your subjects, swaying neither to right nor left, but holding the line of justice. Always side with the poor rather than with the rich, until you are certain of the truth. See that all your subjects live in justice and peace, but especially those who have ecclesiastical rank and who belong to religious orders.*

*Be devout and obedient to our mother the Church of Rome and the Supreme Pontiff as your spiritual father. Work to remove all sin from your land, particularly blasphemies and heresies.*

*In conclusion, dearest son, I give you every blessing that a loving father can give a son. May the three Persons of the Holy Trinity and all the saints protect you from every evil. And may the Lord give you the grace to do his will so that he may be served and honored through you, that in the next life we may together come to see him, love him and praise him unceasingly. Amen.*

### **Religious Articles from the Holy Land**

The Bannoura family is offering unique religious handicrafts made from Holy Land olive wood after all

the Masses (StA, StB, OLS) on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. All Bethlehem Handicrafts products are created by Christian artisans from the wood of young pruned trees and tree trimmings from the Bethlehem area.

Because of the political situation in the Holy Land, commerce in and out of Bethlehem is extremely difficult. We are trying our best to maintain a Christian presence in the town where our Savior was born. Your purchases financially support the livelihood of artisans and their Christian families in Bethlehem.

As Joseph taught his Son faithfulness to the trade, so too has the Bannoura family remained faithful to their God and to this rich cultural heritage. They take great pride in this distinct and traditional art form. Your generous consideration for the livelihood of the peoples of Bethlehem is greatly appreciated. Please visit us at [www.bethlehemhandicrafts.com](http://www.bethlehemhandicrafts.com).



#### **Prayer before a Crucifix**

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus while before Your face I humbly kneel and, with burning soul, pray and beseech You to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity; true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment.

While I contemplate, with great love and tender pity, Your five most precious wounds, pondering over them within me and calling to mind the words which David, Your prophet, said to You, my Jesus: "They have pierced My hands and My feet, they have numbered all My bones."

### First Friday/Saturday (Sep 2-3) Mass at StP

#### Athletes Whose Faith Comes First

Simone Biles won many Olympic gold medals for the U.S.A. in Rio. Her grandparents Ron and Nellie adopted her because her drug-addicted mother knew she could not care for her and her siblings. Nellie gave her a Rosary for Church when she was little. Biles, the outstanding gymnast, attends Sunday Mass with her grandparents and regularly lights a candle to St. Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes, before big events.

Katie Ledecky also won many gold medals for the U.S.A. in Rio. This outstanding swimmer said, "My Catholic faith is very important to me. It always has been and it always will be. It is part of who I am and I feel comfortable practicing my faith. It helps me put things in perspective." She also said, "I do say a prayer or two before any race. The Hail Mary is a beautiful prayer and I find that it calms me."

The Fiji Men's Rugby team won their country's first ever gold medal, beating Great Britain 43-7. After the game, they locked arms and sang in both English and Fijian, "We have overcome/ By the blood of the Lamb/ And the Word of the Lord/ We have overcome."

#### Lay Sisters from the Convent of Saint Elizabeth in Minsk, Belarus

Our religious friends, Sister Anastasia and Sister Maria, came all the way from Belarus to sell religious articles at OLS to make money for their ministry.

Their convent began on August 22, 1999 with three women wanting to help the neglected. They now have 180 "mothers" (professed sisters at various levels) and about 400 lay sisters who serve the mentally and physically disabled. Sister Anastasia (left side in the picture) has a law degree and interpreter degree. She worked for seven years and then "gave it all up" to work with the disabled. Sister Maria has a degree in customs (importing, exporting, tariffs, documentation). She also worked for seven years and then decided to leave her job to work with the disabled. Praise God for the grace He gave them to build up His Kingdom!



### St. Peter Renovation Collection: \$48,130

Needed for all repairs: ~ \$120,000

### Pilgrimage with Archbishop Aquila to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Oct 27 – Nov 1, 2016

Archbishop Aquila invites you on pilgrimage with him to Mexico City for the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. There are limited spots available and reservations are still open until Sep 16. To confirm your place, contact Canterbury Pilgrimages today at **1-800-653-0017**, or visit: <http://canterburypilgrimages.com>.

### PRC Pancake Breakfast after OLS Mass, Sep 18

#### Calendar of Events

**-Sep 3-4.** Sale of goods from Jerusalem after Masses

**-Sep 8 (Thu).** Begin Religious Education at OLS

**-Sep 11 (Sun).** Begin Religious Education at StP

**-Sep 18 (Sun).** PRC Pancake breakfast at OLS

#### Mass Collections, August 20 – 21

St. Anne	\$ 1947
St. Bernard	1965
Our Lady of the Snow	2891
St. Peter	232
St. Ignatius	761
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7796</b>

#### Vocations Prayer Calendar

*Please pray for our seminarians every day.*

**Sat**--Francesco Basso

**Sun**--Deacon Joe Grady

**Mon**--*Redemptoris Mater* Seminary staff

**Tue**--All religious sisters in formation in Colorado

**Wed**--St. John Vianney Seminary staff

**Thu**--Deacon Nicholas Larkin/Deacon Peter Wojda

**Fri**--Men and women applying for formation

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

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

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Aug 27, StA, 5 p.m., Jordan and Victoria Goray

-Sat, Aug 27, StB, 7:30 p.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Aug 28, StB, 7 a.m., Kevin and Mary Kelly

-Sun, Aug 28, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Safe travel to MT canon.

#### Weekday Masses

-Mon, Aug 29, StA, 8:30 a.m., Mark and Janet Nelson

-Tue, Aug 30, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Sherri Peterson

-Wed, Aug 31, StB, 8:30 a.m., Scott and Donna Webb

-Thu, Sep 1, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Poorest of the poor

-Fri, Sep 2, OLS, 8:30 a.m., MCs and LMCs

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

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

-Sat, Aug 27, StI, 4 p.m., Tim and Barb Lytle

-Sun, Aug 28, StP, 10 a.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Fri, Sep 2, StP, 6 p.m., David and Carol Cox

-Sat, Sep 3, StP, 8:30 a.m., Phil McGinn