

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Saturday, December 24

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

-**St. Bernard**, 5 & 7 & 9 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

-**St. Bernard**, 7 & 9 a.m.

-**Our Lady**, 9:30 a.m. **St. Peter**, 11:30 a.m.

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 and 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 we recognize Christ? Or are we 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?

Office Closed Between Christmas and New Year

Gems of Wisdom from the *Diary* of Saint Faustina

899. I have desired death so much! I do not know whether I shall ever again in my life experience such great longing for God. There have been times when I fell

into a swoon for Him. Oh, how ugly the earth when one knows heaven! I must do violence to myself in order to live. O will of God, You are my nourishment.

Bible Recommendations (great Christmas gifts):

-*Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, New Testament: Second Catholic Edition.*

-*The Didache Bible: Ignatius Bible Edition.*

Time Change! Grand County Live Nativity December 18, NOW at 3 p.m.

Let's come together around this live Nativity at Polhamus Park in Granby. Thank God for this religious freedom.

Collection Envelopes are Available in the Churches

If you do not see your envelopes, please call the office and speak to Angela, 887-0032, x5.

US Air Force Academy Cadet Choir Coming

On Martin Luther King weekend, the cadets will sing at St. Bernard, Sat, 7:30 p.m. and St. Peter, Sun, 10 a.m. Please call Angela if you will house any cadets, 887-0032.

Calendar of Events

-Jan 14-15. Cadets sing at StB (Sat) and StP (Sun).

Mass Collections, December 10 – 11

St. Anne	\$ 1939
St. Bernard	1528
Our Lady of the Snow	1688
St. Peter	611
St. Ignatius	(snowed out)
Total	\$ 5766

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—Blaise Buches & Cesar Cruz & Anthony Huan

Sun—Jeffrey Dodds & Rommy Goyes

Mon—Alberto Marrufo & Jun Pham

Tue—Jahn Sainea & Jack Rueschhoff

Wed—Daniel Viana & Hernaldo Arrieta

Thu—Jason DiRito & Zachary Michalczyk

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 17, StA, 5 p.m., +Willy Williamson

-Sat, Dec 17, StB, 7:30 p.m., Jennifer Armstrong

-Sun, Dec 18, StB, 7 a.m., Bob Davlin

-Sun, Dec 18, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Elmer and Darlene Miller

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Dec 19, StA, 8:30 a.m., Joseph Biller

-Tue, Dec 20, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Margaret Ledezma

-Wed, Dec 21, StB, 8:30 a.m., Elmer and Darlene Miller

-Thu, Dec 22, OLS, 8:30 a.m., David/Amanda Clark Fam

-Fri, Dec 23, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Fr. Michael's intention

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

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

-Sat, Dec 17, StI, 4 p.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Dec 18, StP, 10 a.m., Parishioners and visitors