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PETITIONS & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

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Novena Notes

God Comes To Live With Us.

Can anyone prove that God exists? Philosophers, scientists and theologians have all tried and are still trying to give reasons and provide statements to answer this question. As yet no one has been able to do so conclusively. Why? It's because God does not exist as a conclusion to our theories and thoughts. God exists because God lives! Either we believe this or we don't. Christmas celebrates the moment in time and space when the God became flesh in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. God, in Jesus, did not come into the world as result of a big bang, but with the cry of an infant. In Jesus, God comes to live with us.

One way we can come to know and believe that God lives, is to spend a few moments contemplating before the Nativity scene. What do we see here? A mother and father with their new born baby lying in a manger, surrounded by farm animals, and visited by local shepherds. Let us also look up and behold the angel hovering over them singing the glory of God in heaven and announcing peace on earth. This is how God comes into the world and into our lives. In the midst of darkness "a ray of hope flickers in the sky." With all the frightening things happening around us - dreadful landslides, destructive typhoons, deadly viruses, despotic powers - a child is born. He is Jesus, the Son of God, who has come to live with us.

Christmas is the time we turn our attention to a little baby. And, the sight of a new born baby invariably lifts our hearts and fills us with hope. This is what God does for us in giving us Jesus. The irony of it all is that an "infant" literally means "one with no words." Yet, Jesus is the Eternal Word who existed from the beginning. Jesus is the Creative Word who brought forth everything into the world. Jesus is the Prophetic Word who proclaims the Good News to us through is life, death and resurrection. Jesus is the Saving Word who redeems us from sin and death. Jesus is the Living Word of God who comes to us often in people and places we least expect. As the Gospel writer, John, says: *He (Jesus) was in the world... and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.*

On this solemn day, let us rejoice because God comes to us. We join the angels and the shepherds, we stand with Mary and Joseph to worship the baby born for us. He is Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Wishing you and your dear ones a blessed Christmas. Praying that you'll stay happy, healthy and holy throughout the New Year.

Reflection by Clement Lee, CSsR

Readings & responses for the week

Sunday, 25 DECEMBER Nativity of the Lord	Is 52:7-10; Hebr 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Monday, 26 DECEMBER St. Stephen	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Tuesday, 27 DECEMBER St. John	1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:2-8 Rejoice, you just, in the Lord.
Wednesday, 28 DECEMBER Holy Innocents	1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18 Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.
Thursday, 29 DECEMBER	1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.
Friday, 30 DECEMBER Holy Family	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23 O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
Saturday, 31 DECEMBER	1 Jn 2:18-21; Lk 1:1-18 Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.

NOVENA DEVOTIONS ON SATURDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm,
4.00pm, 6.00pm

2.00pm (Mandarin)

MASS ON WEEKDAYS

12:15pm, 6.30pm

9.00am Public Holiday

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

MASS ON SATURDAY

7.00am

MASS ON SUNDAY

8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 5.30pm

(confession will be 30 minutes before Mass)

RECEPTION OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Friday
9.00am to 8.00pm

Lunch Hour
11.45am to 12.45pm

Saturday
7.30am to 7.00pm

Sunday
8.30am to 1.30pm & 4.30pm to 7.00pm

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES UPDATE

No booking is required. There will not be standing room allowed in the main church.

Schedules during the Festive Seasons

6pm Novena Devotion on Christmas Eve, 24th December, will be cancelled in preparation for Christmas Eve Masses

Masses on Christmas Eve will be at 9pm & 12 midnight. There will be Christmas Play at 8.15pm.

Masses on Christmas Day will be at 8am, 10am, 12pm & 5.30pm

Masses on Monday, 26th December will be at 9am & 6.30pm being Public Holiday

Mass on New Year Eve, 31st December will be at 10.30pm.

Masses on New Year Day will be at 8am, 10am, 12pm & 5.30pm

Masses on Monday, 2nd January will be at 9am & 6.30pm being Public Holiday



The Redemptorist Community wishes all of you "A Blessed Christmas and A Blessed 2023 New Year". We thank you for your kind and generous wishes and gifts at Christmas. May God and our Mother of Perpetual Help keep you in their loving care.



Operating Hours For Festive Seasons

Church Reception operating hours will be as follows:

25th December - closed
26th December - closed

31st December - 7.30am to 1pm
1st January - closed
2nd January - closed

Giftshop operating hours will be as follows:

25th December - closed
26th December - closed

31st December - 8.30am to 1pm
1st January - closed
2nd January - closed

Canteen will be closed on 31st December.