



bearing *Good News*

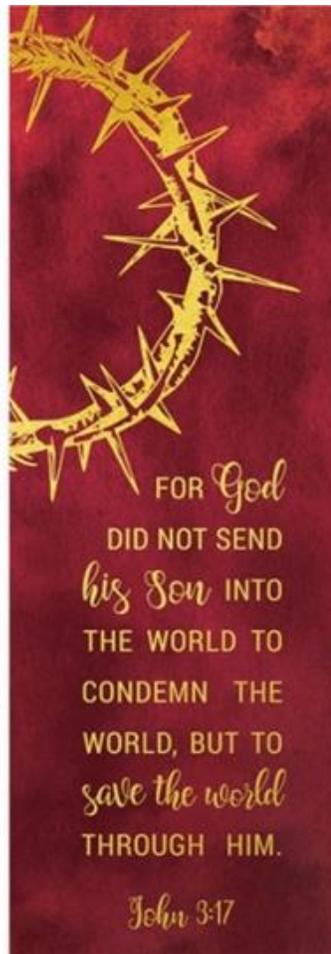
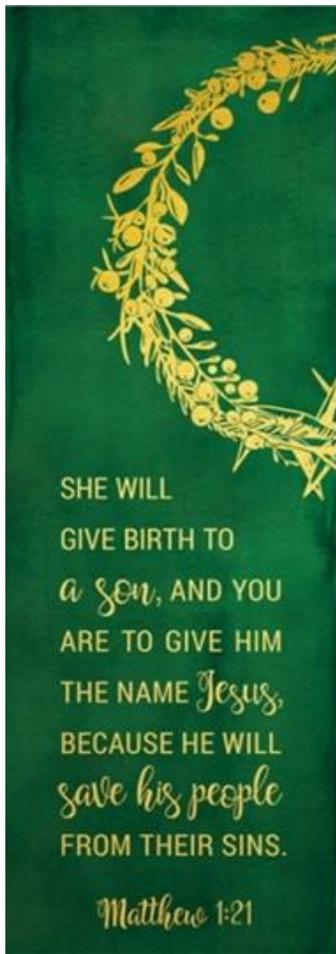
How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, and saying to Zion, "Your God is King!" Hark! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before their eyes, the LORD restoring Zion. Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD comforts his people, he redeems Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God. *Is 52:7-10*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Each year as we gather in church to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, I am reminded of those who gathered at the manger in Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, magi and farm animals all joined to honor the amazing thing that God had done to become human. The assembly was diverse, as ours is. The people had different roles in society, as we do. The parents protected the newborn. The angels sang his praises. The shepherds shared the news with others. The magi offered symbolic gifts. The animals represented all creation rejoicing at the birth of the messiah, savior and Christ, the anointed one who would be the Light of the World. We need his light more than ever because darkness has affected us individually as our world and nation struggle with the challenges of politics, disinformation, racism, isolationism, migration, prejudice, conspiracy, abuse of power, people and prescriptions. Into this darkness we call forth the light of Jesus Christ, the objective truth that can illuminate us and shed light upon our minds in order to see and do what is right, good and holy. Christ is the way, the Golden Rule, the peace for which we yearn. This is what we honor and celebrate today. Not just the birth of a baby in a manger, but the explosion of God's presence into human times and places, a presence that lasts forever. It is this gift that God shares with us today — a Christmas gift beyond our imaginings — all we need to do is accept it, unwrap it, embrace it and enjoy it. Not a toy for children, but a present that serves us throughout our lives and never wears out. *May the gift of God in Jesus Christ be with you now and throughout the new year!*

Fr. Bill





“Then after speaking in many and varied ways through the prophets, “now at last in these days God has spoken to us in His Son.” (Heb 1:1-2) For He sent His Son, the eternal Word, who enlightens all men, so that he may dwell among men and tell them of the innermost being of God. (John 1:1-18) Jesus Christ, therefore, the Word made flesh, was sent as “a man to men.” He “speaks the words of God” and completes the work of salvation which His Father gave Him to do.” -Pope Paul VI, *Dei Verbum*

*The light of the Christmas star to you.
The warmth of home and hearth to you.
The cheer and good will of friends to you.
The hope of a childlike heart to you.
The joy of a thousand angels to you.
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.
May you rejoice in the miracle,
the gift and the promise of Christmas.*

Denise Gorski, Pastoral Minister



Christmas is the time of year, for being with the ones we love. Sharing so much joy and cheer, what a wonderful feeling, watching the ones we love Having so much fun.

I was sittin' by the fire side, taking a walk through the snow. Listening to a children's choir, singing songs about Jesus. The blessed way that he came to us, why can't it remain all through the year?

Each day the same yeah, that's what I want to hear, it's truly amazing! That spirit of Christmas!

-Ray Charles

Music really speaks to me. Growing up I always remember hearing my mom playing Christmas Carols on the piano. The family listening to Andy Williams, Nat King Cole and other great singers' Christmas songs being played around the house.

Every time I hear this song, I think about what an awesome message it speaks. Some of you may or may not know the tune, but I believe Ray Charles really sums up the feeling that we all get around Christmas time. He points out what the true focus is, that we sometimes miss during the busy holiday season.

Sometimes, it is the music that reminds us of what truly is important during this holiday season. A child is born for us!

On behalf of all the Worship and Music Ministers of St. Cyprian, we wish you and your family a very merry Christmas!

God Bless, Mason M. Koch
Director of Worship and Music Ministries



One of my favorite songs to listen to on Christmas Eve is Silent Night. I love imagining what it would be like to witness our Savior's birth. It was this day so many years ago that a precious baby was born. Jesus our Savior. He still lives with us today in the Eucharist. We have been given so much! It is my prayer that we bring Christ to the world, to make Jesus present to all. The world needs Jesus and what a blessing it would be to make Him known so that everyone can feel His love, His forgiveness, His joy and follow in His way. He is the greatest gift of all.

We are so blessed here at St. Cyprian to have such a loving community. I have witnessed so much giving of time and love in this parish, it is amazing! Witnessing the Giving Tree Project, the turkey collection, the volunteers and donors who stepped up was incredible. The generosity, love, and compassion of the people of St. Cyprian continues to amaze me! Jesus is truly in you and so many families are feeling that generosity, love, and compassion through you all. I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas filled with love and peace rejoicing in our Savior's birth. I am blessed to work with you.

Merry Christmas,
Kim Switzer, Director of Christian Service & Outreach

The tradition of gift giving has been around for thousands of years. People from all around the globe celebrate by giving presents on birthdays, anniversaries and of course Christmas. The most famous gifts were given to baby Jesus by the Three Wisemen who followed the star bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. I have often thought that those gifts were odd gifts for a baby, but they foretold the life this baby would live. Gold: is associated with Kings and we believe that Jesus is the King of Kings. Frankincense: is sometimes used in worship in Churches and showed that people would worship Jesus. Myrrh: is a perfume that is put on dead bodies to make them smell nice; we believe that it showed that Jesus would suffer and die.

There was another gift that was brought to that same baby by a lowly young boy. He did not have the riches of the other men; all he had was himself and his small drum. When he gazed upon the newborn baby, he felt the immensity of his love and he began to play his drum. The song he played was melodic and beautiful. The baby was pleased and smiled at the boy. Gifts can come in many different shapes, sizes and price tags but gifts from the heart are the ones that will be most treasured.

This Christmas I hope we can all remember what the greatest gift of all is...the gift God gave to us...His only son Jesus. John 3:16 says: "God loved the world so much, that he gave his one and only Son, so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life"

May all of you experience a Christmas filled with the love of the Lord.

Stacey Sutowski-Shurtz, Director of Elementary Catechesis & Youth Ministry



*Born today, our justice and our mercy,
God in flesh among us. Lord Jesus Christ!*

The holidays of Christmas movies and commercials don't resemble my own. We are no longer a big, extended family sitting around the dinner table, connected through our parents. Siblings live out of town, my own kids have significant others they need to share the holidays with now, and mom and dad have been gone for many years. I'm not sure we were ever that Rockwell image, but I like to remember that we were.

It strikes me that though my family looks different now, there is still a full table. I am joined by friends who have become family, as well as those related through blood. There is a family that you are born into, and there is the family you choose. There is an awareness now that Ken and I have become the parents. It is the continuity of family and of life. Things change but they remain the same in the important ways.

May your Christmas season and the New Year ahead be blessed with faith, hope, and the greatest of these -- love.

Denise Traeder, Director of Finance & Administration

