

St. Edward the Confessor

December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent



Thank You

Thank you very much for your support and generosity.



Last Sunday's collection amounted to \$1245.00

Christmas Baskets

A heartfelt thank you to everybody who has had a part in putting together the 15 Christmas baskets for families in need on the West Island. It started with the Tea and Bake Sale, followed the next day with a Helping Others collection. Nearly \$3000 went into food baskets and then others went out and bought gifts for the children in the families. Together we will make a difference in the lives of 15 families this Christmas. A special thank you to Lynn Jansen who has coordinated the distribution of our Christmas Baskets this year



Please take note of the special schedule of Masses over the next few weeks:

- * Saturday, Dec. 22:
5:00 MASS CANCELED
- * Sunday, Dec 23:
9:00 Mass celebrating the Fourth Sunday in Advent
- * Monday, Dec 24:
5:00 Christmas Eve Mass
- * Tuesday, Dec 25:
10:00 Christmas Day Mass
- * Saturday, Dec 29:
5:00 MASS CANCELED
- * Sunday, Dec 30:
9:00 Mass celebrating the first Sunday of Christmas
- * Monday, Dec 31:
5:00 New Year's Eve Mass
- * Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019:
10:00 New Year's Day Mass

Saturday & Sunday, Jan 5 & 6:
Regular Saturday and Sunday Mass schedule resumes.

This bulletin is prepared weekly by Ann Marie Di Michele and Craig Buchanan

Prayer Chain for Peace

Our prayer chain for peace continues through until Christmas Eve. The response from people signing up to intentionally pray for peace in our world during Advent has been very encouraging. There is still time to sign up on the poster in the hallway and there is no limit to the number of people who can offer prayers on any given day.

Advent Bible Study

The last in our series of Advent bible studies on the first chapter of Luke will take place on Wednesday, December 19 at noon in the church. Please bring your lunch.



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005

AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT
UP IN A STABLE HOME

Reflecting On the Manger The Mystery Revealed to Us in the Hay

The story of the birth of Jesus, as told to us by Luke, is full of joy in the midst of great conflict and sadness - even irony and rejection. It prepares us for the scandal of the cross by helping us see, in such a beautifully told story, that Jesus' mission is revealed to us, in how he came to us - in poverty and humiliation. There, in the hay, we begin to know. There, in the manger, we begin to understand. Our God is revealed to us by coming in the lowliest of possible places. It is a meditation for our whole lives.

This story is here to bring us light in the midst of any darkness, poverty, rejection, emptiness, sinfulness we experience. By reminding us of where he comes, the Good News is also a revelation of who we are. We are the "people who walk in darkness." We are people who experience parts of our lives as dry and unwelcoming as that hay. We are people who, on our own, not only fail to know and understand; we are capable of tremendous infidelity and stubborn independence.

We get our word "manger" from the Latin (and so French, Italian, Spanish) root, which means simply "to eat." Jesus comes, into the greatest place of our poverty, not only to be "with us" but to nourish us. The manger can be the place we go this Christmas to be fed with the acceptance, love, and peace we need. There is no place of darkness in which we need ever feel alone. There is no situation, no loss, no tragedy that need ever leave us empty. There is no sin, no matter how selfish that will ever leave us apart from God's love.

We have prayed, "Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord." Now, our eyes are opened to the wondrous joy of his coming to us in that manger 2,000 years ago, so that we will know and understand his coming to us in our hunger today, and ultimately so that we will long for his final coming to bring us to the banquet that has been prepared, to fill all our longing.