



# Love came at CHRISTMAS.

*Unto you is born...a Saviour. LUKE 2:11*

November 22, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

As another year draws to a close, we are just one month away from celebrating Christmas, the birth of Jesus our Savior! It warms my heart to think of baby Jesus lying in the manger. The manger is a food trough for animals. In the Eucharist, Jesus provides us food for our souls.

Last year, we required reservations for Christmas because of COVID. This year, thanks be to God, COVID, while still present, has moderated. Therefore, we do *not* plan to require reservations this year (Please pray the number of COVID cases remains low!) For those with health issues that leads them to a greater concern about COVID, we continue to have a few pews taped off for social distancing in both churches. If you would like to avoid crowds, we recommend you attend a Mass other than the 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

Advent begins on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Our thoughts focus on Jesus' birth at his first coming. Before we come to his birth, our readings at the beginning of Advent invite us to think about our readiness for the Second Coming of Jesus. As part of this we ask ourselves if we have sinned. If you find you need to confess your sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, I will be offering several opportunities for this (see the schedule on the back of this letter). If you need to receive this Sacrament but have forgotten how, you can find some guidance on my website at [www.renewaloffaith.org/reconciliation.html](http://www.renewaloffaith.org/reconciliation.html) or in the booklets in each church.

As you prepare for Christmas, we sometimes find ourselves very busy and forget that Christmas is about Jesus. We recommend spending time with Jesus in Adoration. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have our normal First Friday Adoration where you can and pray privately with Jesus from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm. Then, on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate a Holy Hour with Adoration from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. It will begin with Fr. Jeff placing Jesus in the monstrance on the altar. Then, we will pray together with some time for individual silent prayer too. We will end the hour with Benediction where all present are blessed with the Blessed Sacrament.

Our churches always look beautiful at Christmas. Part of this are the Christmas flowers that many of you offer in memory of your loved ones. You will find an envelope enclosed specifically for Christmas flowers along with an envelope for your regular Christmas giving. We are thankful for any support you are able to provide.

Please be sure to see the schedule of our many events for Advent and Christmas. We would love to have you join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior.

Peace,

Fr. Jeff





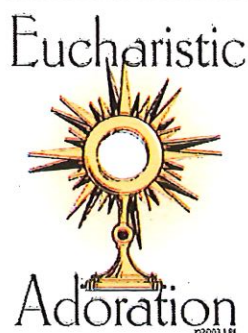
### Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Every Saturday afternoon - 3:30-4:30 p.m. at St. Benedict's
- Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> - 8:30 - 10:00 am at St. Mary's
- Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> - 4:00-6:00 pm at St. Benedict's
- Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> - 4:00-6:00 pm at St. Mary's

### December 8<sup>th</sup>—Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)

On this day we honor Mary as the one conceived without sin so that she would be worthy to carry Jesus in her womb.

We will celebrate Masses at: 8:00 am and 12:05 pm at St. Mary's  
6:30 pm at St. Benedict's



### Advent Times for Adoration at St. Mary's of the Lake

Do you find yourself caught up in busy preparation for Christmas? Then, we recommend spending some time with Jesus!

- Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>—Private Adoration from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm
- Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>—Holy Hour from 3:00 to 4:00 pm as we pray together

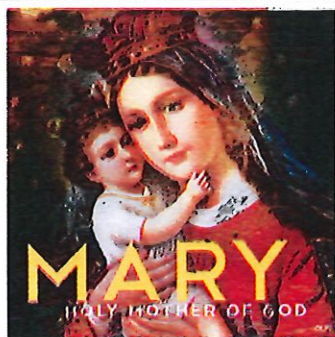
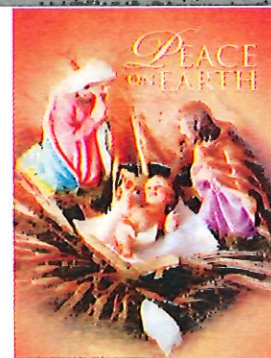
### Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm at St. Mary's
- 6:30 pm at St. Benedict's
- 9:30 pm at St. Mary's

Christmas Morning

- 9:00 am at St. Mary's



### January 1<sup>st</sup>—The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

We call Mary, Mother of God because she is the Mother of Jesus who was human and divine, our God.

Since this falls on Sunday this year, we will follow our normal Sunday Schedule :

- 5:00 pm Saturday evening at St. Benedict's
- 8:00 & 10:00 am Sunday at St. Mary's

### January 8<sup>th</sup>—The Epiphany of the Lord

The Magi bring their gifts to Jesus

- 5:00 pm Saturday evening at St. Benedict's
- 8:00 & 10:00 am Sunday at St. Mary's

