

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today's readings remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. They suggest that Christmas should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect obedience to His will, in cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity. In the first reading, the prophet Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to His promises and that from the unimportant village of Bethlehem He will send them the long-expected ruler. The second reading, taken from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, reminds us to be thankful to Jesus Christ who offered the perfect sacrifice of obedience that liberated us from sin. By his willingness and eagerness to do God's will, Christ gave Himself in the place of all the other ritual sacrifices offered as the means of sanctification. In the Gospel, Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. It shows us how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. For Luke, discipleship consists in listening to God's word and then carrying it out, and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple.

We need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the spirit of Christ, allowing his rebirth within us. Once Christ is reborn in us, He enables us to share his love with all whom we encounter by offering them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate, caring love. Let us take the time to visit others this Christmas season, especially the sick and shut-ins, to bring some inspiration into their lives, and hopefully to bring them closer to God. We need to recognize the Real Presence of the *Emmanuel* (God is with us) in the Holy Eucharist, in the Bible, in the Sacraments, and in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right here in our surroundings. Let us convey Jesus to people around us by our acts of love, kindness and forgiveness.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Merry Christmas to All, Teachers, Children, Youth, Parents and Parishioners. The Advent Season has brought us closer to God as we listened to John the Baptist, the readings and homilies at Mass and our own reflections calling us to prayer and repentance. These reflections have brought us to a greater awareness of the needs of others. At Christmas time, we reach out to bring Christmas joy to others in need, to our families and friends.

I know I am the recipient of this Christmas giving and I am very, very grateful. As 2019 begins, I wish to thank everyone for your goodness to me. I thank you again for sending me on a trip to the Holy Land which will take place on January 17th. You will all be remembered in my prayers and Masses. **May you have a Christmas filled with joy, peace, hope and love.** ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,264.00
Loose	247.00
Total	1,511.00
Total from December 17, 2017	1,709.00
Building Fund	95.00
Christmas Flowers	50.00
Immaculate Conception	25.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 398.00
Loose	95.00
Total	493.00
Total from December 17, 2017	582.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 667.00
Loose	215.05
Total	882.05
Total from December 17, 2017	801.60
Building Fund	120.00
Christmas Flowers	10.00
Immaculate Conception	10.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 185.00
Loose	22.00
Total	207.00
Total from December 17, 2017	374.00
Immaculate Conception	50.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

Called to Become Saints

Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below. As of December 1st, we have collected:

2018/2019 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$5,650.00	\$5,743.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$3,880.00	\$5,278.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$2,695.00	\$2,539.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$1,345.00	\$1,444.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

Village Hair Designs

by Monica

(715) 447-8276 **** W15218 Hwy 64

Wed. 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thurs. & Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

