Today’s readings invite us to rejoice at the coming of Jesus. Finally, in the first part of today’s Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus, the true Messiah, paying the highest compliments to John the Baptist as his herald and the last of the prophets, and giving special credit to the courage of John’s prophetic convictions, asking his listeners to rejoice in the greatness of his herald.

Life messages:
We need to learn how to survive a Faith crisis: If John the Baptist, even after having had a direct encounter with Jesus, the Messiah, had his doubts about Jesus and his teachings, we, too, can have our crises of Faith. On those occasions, let us remember the truth that all our Christian dogmas are based on our trusting Faith in the Divinity of Jesus who taught them, and on his Divine authority which he gave to his Church to teach what he taught. Hence, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth and so to remove our doubts.

Scripture lessons: The prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to rejoice because their God is going to liberate them from slavery and lead them to Babylon to rejoice because their God is going to liberate them from slavery and lead them to freedom. Hence, it is up to us to learn our Faith in depth and so to remove our doubts.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
By request or appointment

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS
Call the office for an appointment

For Pregnancy Support
Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish
Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women and All Men

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY
TODAY SUNDAY after the 10 a.m. Mass!!
May the glory of the first Christmas remain in your heart throughout the New Year 2017. You and your loved ones will be remembered in the celebration of the Mass on Christmas Day.

MASS INTENTIONS December 10 - 16
Saturday 5:00 p.m. Schaner Family
Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen + Leah Shaw
Monday 7:00 p.m. Emigrants
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Leah Shaw
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. McGrath Family
Thursday 8:00 a.m. + Martina Durham
Friday 8:00 a.m. + Judith Ann Hammond

All flowers in the church this year in honor of you and especially for the children and young people in the Parish!!!

Report Sunday December 3 & 4, 2016

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God bless your generosity…!

Will the CHILDREN who want to be in the Christmas Eve Pageant
Please stay after Mass next Sunday December 18th for rehearsal and to pick up their costumes. Thank you.

The Christmas Season
After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place at Christmas Time. The Christmas season extends from Evening Prayer of Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord, Monday, 9 January 2017. “May the Peace and Joy of Christ be with you this Christmas and throughout the New Year.”

The Christmas Season December 24 - Saturday
VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS Mass at 5:00 p.m.

December 25 - Sunday
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
Mass at 10:00 a.m.

In the Light of the Word
The Bible is full of families, births, love stories, and family crises. This is true from its very first page, with the appearance of Adam and Eve’s family with all its burden of violence but also its enduring strength (cf. Gen 4), to its very last page, where we behold the wedding feast of the Bride and the Lamb (Rev 21:2, 9). Jesus’ description of the two houses, one built on rock and the other on sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27), symbolizes any number of family situations shaped by the exercise of their members’ freedom, for, as the poet says, “every home is a lampstand,” (Jorge Luis Borges). Let us now enter one of those houses, led by the Psalmist with a song that even today resounds in both Jewish and Christian wedding liturgies: “Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots round your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children’s children!

Peace be upon Israel!”

(Exodus 15:11-16)

From Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis
The Joy of Love
Amoris Laetitia