

Church of SAINT JOSEPH

12 WEST MINNESOTA STREET • ST. JOSEPH, MN 56374

Mission Statement

We, the Church of Saint Joseph, are a Catholic, Benedictine faith community. Our liturgy invites and inspires active participation and faith-filled living. Through our ministry of formation in Christ, we continue to build a solid foundation as witnesses who eagerly respond to the needs of the parish and wider community.



Phone: 320-363-7505
Parish Fax: 320-363-0710
School Fax: 320-363-7760

Parish Website:
www.churchstjoseph.org
Diocesan Website:
www.stclouddiocese.org
Email Address:
parish@churchstjoseph.org

New Parishioners Welcome! Please stop by the parish office to register or call 363-7505, ext. 121.

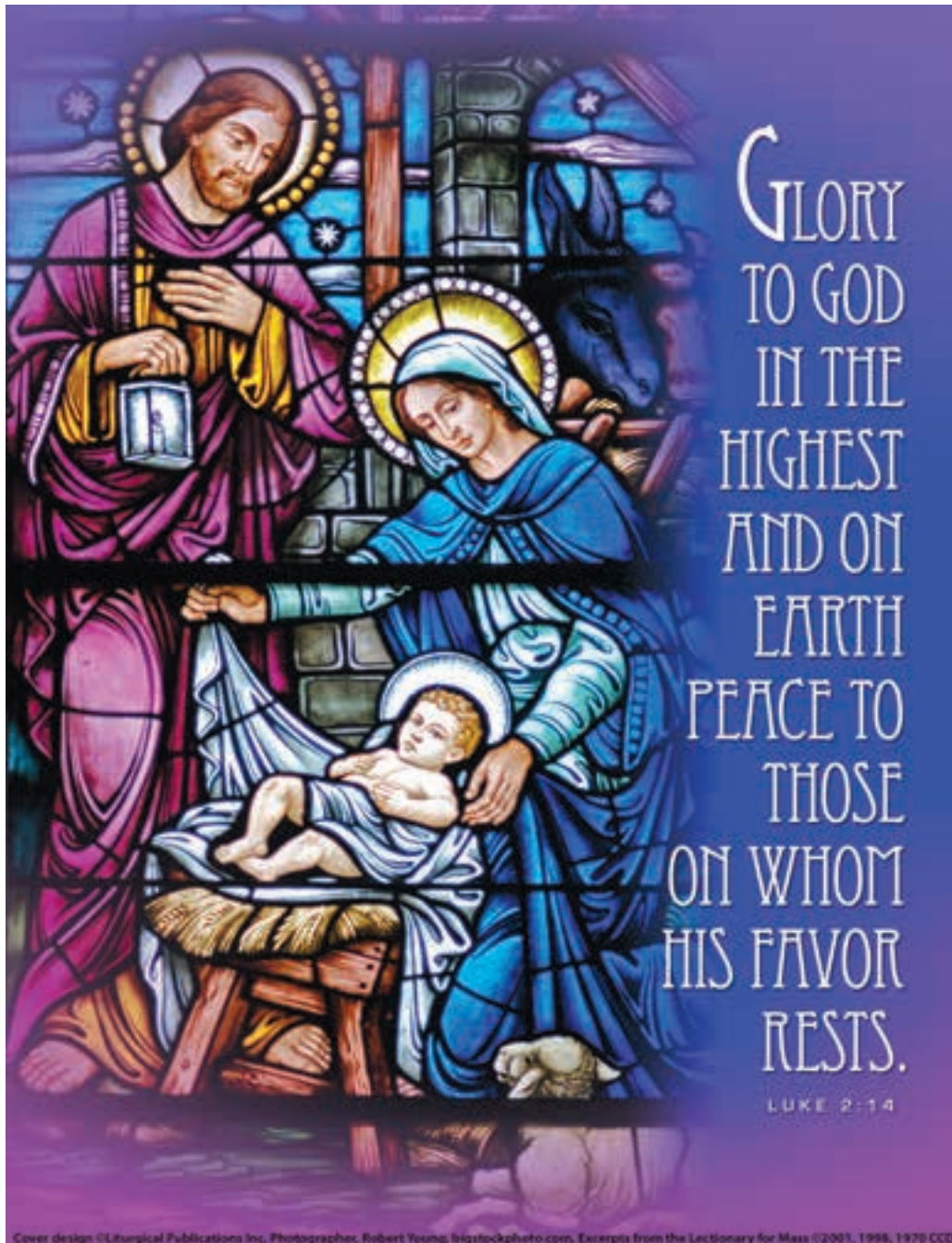
Prayer Corner If you know someone in need of prayers, please call the parish office. You may also call one of the chairpersons of the Prayer Network: Mary at 363-4244 or Joan at 363-4358.

Infant Baptism Congratulations! Attendance at a baptism class is required for all baptisms, even for parents who have had other children baptized. Please call the parish office at 363-7505, ext. 100, to register for the baptism class (held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm). The date of baptism will be scheduled upon completion of the class.

Marriage Congratulations on your engagement! Call Fr. Joseph, ext. 122, to set a wedding date and to register for a parish preliminary marriage session. A minimum of six months is needed for preparation.

Pastoral Care If any parishioner or family member is in need of a pastoral care visit, please call Fr. Joseph at ext. 122. Today's privacy laws do not permit hospitals to contact churches when a patient is in need of a pastoral visit. We are made aware of it only when the individual or their friends and family contact us.

Sacrament Of Anointing
Please call Fr. Joseph at ext. 122.



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DECEMBER 26, 2010 • HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

Like most families, my family has its Christmas traditions. When I was growing up, every Christmas Eve we would head over to my Uncle Ed's house near the State Fair grounds in St. Paul. Between our two families there are six boys, with eight years difference between the oldest and youngest. Needless to say, it often turned out to be a fairly rowdy evening. Thankfully, we never behaved too badly, although there were some years when our parents considered returning all of our presents to the North Pole.

As we grew older, things changed. Fortunately, my two brothers both married women whose families gather on Christmas Eve, so my family can still get together on Christmas Day. But for many years, this meant that it was only my mom, dad and I for Christmas Eve. And when I entered Saint John's Abbey in 1993, my parents often celebrated Christmas Eve alone.

In the early afternoon on Christmas Eve of 2005, I left Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Medina (where I was the associate pastor) to drive to St. Paul to be with my dad. Since my mom died in April of that year, this was going to be his first Christmas Eve without her in 55 years.

At 4:00 o'clock, the two of us went to the children's Mass at Sacred Heart Church. It's amazing that this church, which seemed so huge when I was growing up, seemed smaller to me that afternoon. After Mass, we went to my dad's and had some supper. My dad surprised me by playing some old Christmas classics on the record player—songs I grew up with like Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*. (For our younger readers, ask your parents and grandparents about record players, cassettes and 8-track players, all from the dinosaur age.)

My dad and I talked about lots of things that evening, and eventually we got around to talking about my mom. That's when I told him that I had a surprise for him. I got on one phone extension and he got on another extension. I called up my voice mail at Holy Name and then we listened to three phone messages that my mom had left for me in the last months before she died. My dad and I smiled and laughed as we heard my mom's voice over the phone.

More than seeing a photograph, hearing my mom's voice brought back a flood of memories. It was as if she was right there. This reminded me of the power of the human word, how one word can either destroy or build up another person's spirit.

But as powerful as it is, the human word is no where as powerful as the Word of God. In the traditional Gospel passage for Christmas Day from Saint John we hear, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

This is what we celebrate on Christmas—that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." Jesus, the Word of God, the Word that created the universe, the Word that came to save us, became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Today, Jesus, the Word of God, seeks to make his dwelling among us in our hearts. And what is that Word? Jesus, the Word, tells us:

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.
Seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Forgive each other, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.
Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.
I give you a new commandment – love one another.

When my dad and I heard my mom's voice on those recorded messages, we were filled with memories of love for her. When the Word of God truly dwells in our hearts, we are filled with a love that can transform our world.

On behalf of the parish and school staff, thank you for your greeting cards and goodies. I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

Blessings on your week!

*In Christ's peace,
Fr. Joseph*

Youth Ministry

Here we are! The four candles are lit, once again the darkness has been overcome and the angels are singing their praises for the new life in our midst. I am thankful each year for this season of re-grouping, of being refreshed, of being reminded, of hearing the story retold.

I am also very aware this season about how tough life can be in the midst of job loss, troubled relationships and even the death of someone we have held dear. And just because Jesus comes into the world does not mean that all that goes away. Sometimes what happened at the stable in Bethlehem seems a long way off from my life. And with everything else going on in our lives it's sometimes hard to sing about the joy in the world, let alone the joy in our lives. This is why the light of the season is crucial to how we experience Christmas.

This leads me to Fr. Greg Boyle, a priest full of light and life, who pastors a church in the middle of Los Angeles and gang territory. On a daily basis he experiences death and darkness, but also finds a lot of hope in the midst of it all. His recent book, *Tattoos on the Heart*, is an incredible read that I found quite helpful and deeply meaningful. One of my favorite stories from the book is about Fr. Greg's work with a 'homie' named Jason who had turned his life around and was getting ready for the baptism of his daughter. On a way to a job interview for a better job he was shot to death. Fr. Greg buried Jason a week later and baptized his daughter at his funeral Mass. He said,

I landed on the gospel that I wanted to use at his liturgy. Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." I like even more what Jesus doesn't say. He does not say, "One day, if you are more perfect and try really hard, you'll be light." He doesn't say, "if you play by the rules, cross your T's and dot your I's, then maybe you'll become light." No. He says, straight out, "**YOU ARE THE LIGHT.**" It is the truth of who you are, waiting only for you to discover it. No need to contort yourself to be anything other than who you are. Jason was who he was. He made a lot of mistakes, he was not perfect, and his rage called the shots for a goodly chunk of his life. And he was the light of the world.

So, in the midst of all the tough stuff of life—I attended the funeral of a 39-year-old friend last week—we remember the light. We remember that we indeed possess it. Even when the flame is on low and we can barely see amidst the darkness, it is there. No one can tell us any differently. My prayer is that we will remember this long after the carols are sung and the tree is taken down. It is what we are called to believe and who we are called to *BE*. May it be so.

*Blessings and Peace,
Molly Weyrens*



St. Joseph Lab School Christmas Program 2010

Saint Joseph Lab School

Our Advent shoebox service project was very successful with over 100 shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, candy and toiletries. Most of the shoeboxes were wrapped with paper decorated by the Lab School students. In addition, Conner Pennings graciously donated a bicycle. All this was delivered to *Place of Hope*, a ministry in St. Cloud serving the homeless in the Tri-County area.

Our Christmas program will be aired on public access during the Christmas Season. The children did a wonderful job singing, the bands sounded great, and the sixth graders did very well performing the play, *The Mystery of Simon Shepherd*.



From everyone at the Lab School, we wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas.

*God bless,
Karl Terhaar, Principal*

Prayer Corner

Please pray for... Jack Blommer, Marian Brisk, Judy Bruemmer, Laken Court, Margaret Danzl, Leona Davis, Doris Ethen, Justin Funk, Delvin Gillitzer, Cliff Hilsgen, Blake Hoganson, Glen Hommerding, Ben Kasella, Bob Kempen, Rebecca Klaphake, Arnie Lauer, Alice Lenhardt, Florence Loso, military men and women and their families, Tina Nelson, Delores Newcomb, Dr. Tom Newton, Yvonne Notsch, Larry & Jan Ostendorf, people of the Diocese of Vijayapuram, India, Joe Petrich, Sam Rueckert, Bernie Schloemer, Cindy Schmitz, Ed & Marie Schneider, Al & Kathy Seifert, Ann Pfannenstien Stuckart, Zak Whitman, Donald Wieber, Yvonne Wieber, workers & volunteers in foreign lands. *(These people will be specially remembered at Mass on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like a name added to, or removed from, the Prayer Corner, simply call the parish office, ext. 100. Names remain on the Prayer Corner for about two months.)*

Faith Formation

A most blessed and joyous Christmas Season to all from the Faith Formation Office... We will see students back in classes on Wednesday, January 5 and Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 16.

Christmas Poem

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the magi and the shepherds
have found their way home,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost and lonely one
To heal the broken soul with love,
To feed the hungry children
with warmth and good food,
To feel the earth below,
the sky above!*

*To free the prisoner from all chains,
To make the powerful care,
To rebuild the nations
with strength of good will
To see God's children everywhere!*

*To bring hope to every task you do,
To dance at a baby's new birth,
To make music in an old person's heart,
And sing to the colors of the earth!*

—Jim Strathdee, in response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

*Dawn Carrillo
Director of Faith Formation*

As you think about this Christmas of 2010, for what are you most grateful?

Good Question! If you are seven years old, you might be most grateful for a new video game or other electronic device you may have gotten for Christmas. If you are 17 years old, you might be most grateful for the latest cell phone for texting, taking pictures, etc. having a driver's license, and for your friends. If you are 27 years old you might be most grateful for your education, recent job, spouse, preparing for a child, your faith and home. If you are 37 years old you might be most grateful for your family, your parents, relationships, your health, and your new car. If you are 47 years old you might be most grateful for your family, your health, your job, your faith and getting your children educated. If you are 57 years old you might be most grateful for all that has come to you the past 50 years and you are very able to list them all especially the grandchildren. If you are 67 years old you might be most grateful for retirement or getting close to retirement, for your children who are on their own, and for your darling grandchildren. If you are 77 years old you might be most grateful that you still know who you are, where you are, and you are managing your retirement years as you had hoped to. If you are 87 years old you are most likely a person of some helpful wisdom, of experience, and reasonably good health and you don't have to be reminded to think about those things for which you are most grateful. You just know. Hopefully, as we move into 2011, we are becoming grateful people, for no matter what our age, gratitude never grows old. Blessings and God's peace be yours.

S. Joyce Iten, Pastoral Minister

COMMISSION OF WORSHIP

Saint Joseph Parishioners will know, understand and honor Benedictine values and the dignity of their role as members of the worshipping assembly.

Schedule Changes

Please note: There will be no morning Mass in the parish on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 28 and 29. Everyone is invited to join the Sisters of Saint Benedict's Monastery for Mass at 5:00 pm on those two days.

The parish office will be closed on Friday, December 31 in observance of New Year's Day.

Saturday, January 1, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is not a holy day of obligation this year. However, you can celebrate Mass for the solemnity at Saint Benedict's Monastery at 10:30 am.

Readings for the Week of December 26

And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, He shall be called a Nazorean. —Mt 2:22b-23

- Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
- Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
- Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Liturgy Spotlight

*from the desk of David Orzechowski,
Director of Music and Liturgy*



The New Mass Texts Frequently Asked Question #4

Why do we need one translation for all English speakers? Can't each country have its own translation?

Having one translation of the Mass for all English speakers reflects the common faith of the Church and the shared beliefs of English-speaking Catholics throughout the English-speaking world. However, even in the midst of this unity, conferences of bishops from individual countries may request specific adaptations for the translations of texts used in their countries. These adaptations range from changes in spelling (e.g. *honor* and *honour*) to the inclusion of prayers for specific local saints to other textual modifications. Generally speaking, though, even if such requests are granted, the new translation will be standardized throughout the English-speaking world.

**“The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.”**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS	Saturday, January 1 5 pm	Sunday, January 2 8 am	Sunday, January 2 10 am
Sacristans	Bob & Bernadette Ethen Mentor: Lori Pfannenstien	Judy Meemken	Matt & Emily Boettcher
Greeters	Jean Nierengarten, Rose Reischl, Mike Nierengarten	Dale & Barb Wick, Mary Ann Theisen	Bill & Pat Temple, Dianne Gideon
Gift Bearers	Logan Mehr and Family	Anna Meyer and Family	Marie Przybilla Family
Eucharistic Ministers	Laura Kutzera, Mark Leither, Kay Lemke, Renee Lepinski, Kathy Lyon, Carol Mastey, Judy Meyer	Bill Elfering, Virginia Meier, Ellen Murray, Elaine Newton, Ann Reischl, Othmar Schmitz, Jennifer Oschwald	John Herdan, Bernie Imholte, Shirley Miller, Patty Paquin, Alex Schleper, Ken Schreiber, Becky Schreifels
Ushers	Ken & Mary Stommes, Diane Thelen, LeRoy Warnert	Maurice Palmersheim, Hank Sunder, Melvin Ruegemer, Jack Blommer	Doug & Carol Danielson, Sean Thomas, Cletus Bechtold
Servers	Lauren Kissela & Joey Stock	Luke Reber & Charlie Reber	Corrie Ethen & Jon Ethen
Lectors	Tom Stock	Joseph Zimmer	Natalie Regan
Music Ministry	Cantors	Contemporary Choir	Adult Choir

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 26

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

- 8:00 am Mass††Francis & Lucille Salzer
- 10:00 am Mass for our Parish

Blessings and congratulations to Terry & Jodi Koopmeiners on the validation of their marriage.

Monday, December 27

- 5:00 pm Mass at Saint Benedict's Monastery

Tuesday, December 28

- 5:00 pm Mass at Saint Benedict's Monastery

Wednesday, December 29

- 5:00 pm Mass at Saint Benedict's Monastery
- NO Faith Formation

Thursday, December 30

- 7:45 am Confession
- 8:00 am Mass†Urban Warnert

Friday, December 31

- 8:00 am Mass†Rita Danzl

Saturday, January 1

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

- 10:30 am Mass at Saint Benedict's Monastery
- 4:00 pm Confession
- 5:00 pm Mass†Alyce Sprenger

Sunday, January 2

The Epiphany of the Lord

- 8:00 am Mass for our Parish
- 10:00 am Mass†Elmer & Willie Przybilla

Masses

- Monday — Wednesday Sacred Heart Chapel 5:00 pm
- Thursday — Friday 8:00 am
- Saturday 5:00 pm
- Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Thursdays 7:45 am
- Saturdays 4:00-4:40 pm
- And by appointment - Please call Fr. Joseph at ext. 122.

Parish/School

363-7505

- PASTOR Fr. Joseph Feders, OSB Office ext. 122
Residence ext. 126
Email: pastor@churchstjoseph.org
- DEACON Tom Murray ext. 351
Email: tandnmurray@gmail.com
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Bernadette Ethen ext. 121
Email: bethen@churchstjoseph.org
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- PARISH SECRETARY Joann Rueckert ext. 100
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- PASTORAL MINISTRY Sr. Joyce Iten, OSB ext. 130
Email: jiten@csbsju.edu
- SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Linda Heinen ext. 150
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- SCHOOL PRINCIPAL Karl Terhaar ext. 151
Email: principal@churchstjoseph.org
- YOUTH MINISTRY Molly Weyrens ext. 129
Email: youthministry@churchstjoseph.org
- MASS TIME SCHEDULE ext. 200

PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Joe Berg 271-1303
- Andy Brixius 260-6724
- Tammy Johnson 363-8609
- Tasha Johnson 363-8609
- Brian Klein 363-0032
- Laura Kutzera 363-8423
- Steve Meyer 363-1956
- Rich Schwegel, Chair 363-4923

TRUSTEES

- Kevin Kluesner 363-8363
- Gary Renick 363-4422

FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

- Jill Hoffmann 230-1032

Stewardship of Treasure

Treasure received week of December 19, 2010

Average weekly budget	\$11,495.00
Adult & loose offering	\$8,271.67
Average weekly automated offering	\$2,698.62
Weekly difference	\$-524.71
Youth offering received	\$64.92
Budget through December 19	\$287,375.00
Actual through December 19	\$272,947.91
Difference	\$-14,427.09
Total Religious Retirement	\$1,580.00
Christmas	\$385.00

Two Interesting Christmas Carols

David Orzechowski
Director of Liturgy and Music

Have you ever wondered what it's like to celebrate Christmas in the Southern hemisphere, where it is now the height of summer instead of winter? So many of our songs and images of Christmas rely on an experience of nature that is centered on what we in the Northern hemisphere experience at this time of year: winter, cold, snow, darkness, extremely short days, etc. Here is a carol that is sung "down under" in Australia. I especially like the line about "...sing a nativity summer can reach." Being a person with a winter birthday, I sometimes wondered growing up what it would be like to celebrate one's birthday...one's nativity... amidst the brightness, heat and fun of summer.

Carol our Christmas

by Shirley Erena Murray

Carol our Christmas,
an upside down Christmas;
snow is not falling and
trees are not bare.
Carol the summer, and
welcome the Christ Child,
warm in our sunshine and
sweetness of air.

Sing of the gold and the
green and the sparkle,
water and river and lure
of the beach.
Sing in the happiness
of open spaces,
sing a nativity summer
can reach!

Shepherds and musterers
move over hillsides,
finding, not angels,
but sheep to be shorn;
wise ones make journeys
whatever the season,
searching for signs of the
truth to be born.

Right side up Christmas belongs
to the universe,
made in the moment
a woman gives birth;
hope is the Jesus gift,
love is the offering,
everywhere, anywhere,
here on the earth.

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Even amidst our celebration of the birth of Christ, our liturgical life is always and ever a celebration of the Paschal Mystery, that is, Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. There is a bit of Easter in celebrating Christmas honestly and authentically. A number of carol texts acknowledge this fact. "The Holly and the Ivy" is but one of them. This song isn't *really* about just "holy and ivy." One parish where I worked very appropriately would decorate each of the Stations of the Cross along the sides of their church with a sprig of holly each Christmas.

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

- Holly's "white as lily" flower in the second stanza is an allusion to Christ's purity, through Mary.
- In the third stanza, a correlation is drawn between the red color of holly's berry and Christ's blood.
- Holly's thorny "prickle" in the fourth stanza is an allusion to the "crown of thorns" worn by Christ.
- And the bitter taste of holly's bark mentioned in the fifth stanza? This could be a reference to the drink offered Christ as he hung on the cross.

May all of you enjoy a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy the sounds of the season too, as together we sing and experience the many and varied carols that are such a rich part of the world's celebration of Christmas!

**Blessings of this Holy Season
to all our parishioners!
A joyous Christmas and
Happy New Year from
the staff of the
Church of Saint Joseph
and Saint Joseph Lab School**