

PROCESSIONAL HYMN CWB 267

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
Refrain: O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!
Glory to God, glory in the highest: *Refrain*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph C

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 Luke 2:41-52

Psalm Response

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,

to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

What the Church is on a large scale, the family is on a small scale: an image of God's love in human fellowship. Indeed, every marriage is perfected in openness to others, to the children that God sends, in mutual acceptance, in hospitality and being for others. YOUCAT271

No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a new-born child. Catechism 563

COMMUNION HYMN CWB 260

Glad music fills the Christmas sky
a hymn of praise, a song of love;
the angels worship high above
and Mary sings her lullaby.

Of tender love for God she sings,
the chosen mother of the Son;
she knows that wonders have begun,
and trusts for all the future brings.

The angel chorus of the skies
who come to tell us of God's grace
have yet to know his human face,
to watch him die, to see him rise.

Let praise be true and love sincere,
rejoice to greet the saviour's birth;
let peace and honour fill the earth
and mercy reign for God is here!

Then lift your hearts and voices high,
sing once again the Christmas song:
for love and praise to Christ belong
in shouts of joy, and lullaby.

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The Holy Family and Ours

The Holy Family was holy because each member decided to "put on love", to sacrifice their own preferences and give of themselves to one another. Whether it was Mary and Joseph's patience in the face of anxiety or misunderstanding or Jesus' humble, obedient return to Nazareth, their holiness shone through their care for one another (Luke 2:48-49,51).

As you celebrate the Holy Family today, know that you grow in holiness through your vocation to family life, not in spite of it. God designed us to be part of a family, whether as a spouse, parent, or child. That means you can become holy as you imitate the Holy Family in your own family.

Even more, you are called to build a "civilization of love," as St. John Paul II said in his Letter to Families. It's a civilization that starts with that foundational building block of the family and reaches outward. It grows as each member gives themselves to God and, then in love, give of themselves to other people. St John Paul said that when we're faithful to our vocation, whether as a married person or as a single person, priest, or religious, our witness of love affects everyone around us.

So take some time today to reflect on how your family can help you grow in holiness. Think about how you can put on the virtues St. Paul describes and, over them all, love (Col 3:12-14). And then allow yourself to dream of how your decisions to love might just change civilization

Holy Mary Mother of God

Happy New Year!

*May God shower you and your loved ones
with many blessings in 2022!*

We honour the Virgin Mary with the title Mother of God. We honour her not only as the earthly mother of Jesus of Nazareth but as the God-bearer, the immaculate Virgin who gave the Son of God flesh and blood. This feast tells us that Mary is not just Jesus' biological mother; she is his spiritual mother as well.

Think of all the spiritual lessons that Mary taught Jesus. It was from her that he first heard the words "May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Just imagine the child Jesus drinking in these words and turning them into his own prayer: "Your will be done" (Mt 6:10; 26:42; Jn 8:29). Or think of how Mary taught him humility as well as openness to the Holy Spirit and unbending trust in his heavenly Father. Just imagine how many other ways this holy, loving, and prayerful woman helped to guide his early life!

Not all of us have mothers, spiritual or otherwise, to guide us in our faith. But we all have Mary, the perfect spiritual mother. Through her prayers of intercession, she continues to care for us. Through her example in Scripture and her messages in places like Lourdes and Fatima, she continues to teach us how to reflect on the word of God.

And through her motherly love, she is always ready to embrace us and draw us closer to her Son. Truly, she is blessed among women- and we are blessed to have her!

NEXT SUNDAY— DOMENICA PROSSIMA

The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12



Partnered Parishes of St Gabriel Reservoir & St Stephen of Hungary Reservoir East

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph C 26.12.2021

***Trybooking required**
***Hand sanitise at entry &
Holy Communion**
***Please place Thanksgiving
in baskets on entry**

**10 am Weekday Mass St Gabriel's
28 December - 31 December**
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Weekend Masses 1 - 2 January
Saturday 6pm St Stephen's
<https://www.trybooking.com/BVZCJ>
Sunday 10am St Gabriel's
<https://www.trybooking.com/BVZCL>

Reconciliation

Saturday 5pm St Stephen's Sunday 9am St Gabriel's

**Let's include the Joyful Mysteries of the
Holy Rosary during the Christmas Season
(25 December to 9 January)**

PARISH THANKSGIVING

Sincere thanks to our parishioners who continue to support our parish, collecting a **Parish Bulletin** and leaving **Parish Thanksgiving** and clergy support at St Gabriel's presbytery. The Parish bulletin can also be found on our website: www.stgabrielsreservoir.org

Thanksgiving contribution by direct debit

St Gabriel's Church account
BSB: 083-347 account: 639372585
St Stephen's Church account
BSB: 083-347 account: 145763498

**Priests appreciate the extra support
given in the Christmas offering**

Christmas Message from Archbishop Peter Comensoli

The one thing that Christmas trees and Christmas cribs have in common is a star or an Angel on top whose light shines down upon all that is beneath. Whether Christmas star or Angel, its light illumines what otherwise would remain in shadow. It reveals delights and gifts, warmth and hope; but most especially it reveals a child who would be the light of the world.

Whether it was by the light from heaven glorifying the shepherds, or the light in the heavens guiding the Magi, both the lowly and the mighty were led to 'the Light', under which all people could find illumination. In the manger, among the animals, the baby Jesus would open the eyes of shepherd and magi alike, for they hoped for the gift of this light, who would shine for all.

Christmas is the living memory of the greatest gift we have ever been given: that of the Christ-child, Emmanuel, who is "God-with-us". He is the great gift of hope at Christmas: the gift of a God who is with us, who loves us and binds us together in all that is worth living for - and who remains with us, through thick and thin.

The old and wizened men of Jesus' nativity - Zechariah, husband of Elizabeth, and Simeon, the prophet in the temple - both learned to see by His light. For Zechariah, Jesus was God's dawning light for those caught up in the shadows of death, and a guide for our feet on the way to peace. For Simeon, Jesus was the revealing light of salvation to all the nations and the hope of glory for God's people.

May Jesus, child of God and of Mary, and light to the nations, illumine the darkened regions of the world, and the shadowy places of the human heart. May we look to His light and find hope for our families, and for ourselves. May the light of Christmas - the light of Jesus - spread out its rays to bring reconciliation between enemies, to light up bridges over troubled waters; to reveal new ways towards renewed friendships.

*A child; a light; a hope.
May these be yours this Christmas.*

