

the little servants of Christ The King prayer community
Sudbury, Ontario

.... proclaiming the power of the Holy Spirit and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

December 2019



Our Mission Statement: *"If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways into Christ, who is the head by whom the whole body is fitted and joined together, every joint adding its own strength, for each separate part to work according to its function. So the body grows until it has built itself up, in love."* - Ephesians 4:15-16

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VISION

The little servants of Christ the King prayer community is a spiritual group within the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. It is incorporated and designated as a registered charity under the income tax act. Our goal is to advance and teach the Message of Jesus Christ as announced and practiced by the Catholic Church with an emphasis on having a personal relationship with Jesus and expressing the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Our time and resources are dedicated to the work of **EVANGELIZATION**.

In everything we do, everyone is invited from the different Sectors of our Diocese (English, French, and Native). Although, all our activities are conducted in English, we do everything possible to reach out to all.

Outside our weekly meetings, we use the Diocesan office, regular mail, E-mail (for approximately 350 members), phone calls, Facebook, YouTube, and our website for all our outreach.

The prayer community is divided into **THREE STREAMS**:

STREAM 1. Building our faith through Weekly prayer meetings and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Mass).

STREAM 2. Promoting Our Chapel of Perpetual Adoration of the Holy Eucharist.

STREAM 3. Teaching through special days of reflection.

- a.** Lenten Mission of 5 weeks.
- b.** Annual Pentecost, Trinity and Corpus Christi Retreats.
- c.** Life in the Spirit and Future Growth seminars.
- d.** Special Fall Retreats.

We are a group that rely wholly on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother of Perpetual Help.

QUOTE: “FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GOD” - Luke 1:37

***This is Msgr. Raymond Farrell's Homily
Re: Mission Statement October 26th, 2009.***

OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS: (PART 3)

"If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways into Christ, who is the head by whom the whole body is fitted and joined together, every joint adding its own strength, for each separate part to work according to its function. So the body grows until it has built itself up, in love" (Ephesians 4: 15-16).

You've got a bad hip joint; you need an operation. And once you get that hip fixed up the other one goes haywire. Then you've got to get it fixed up. Right? It's the same thing with having an elbow in bad shape, and He's saying, "every joint".

Now I don't know what joint you are. I'm trying to figure out what my joint is. But each one of us has a specific unique role to play in the body of Jesus Christ. If you cut off my five toes I'm hurting. And if I cut off five of you people and I'm living in truth and love with another five, you are hurting and I'm hurting too. The body of Jesus Christ is hurting. And if I kick you in the knees, you're hurting. And if I take the joints of Jesus Christ, His knees, He's hurting. And He's saying, "When are we going to join together to help the body of Jesus Christ become the perfect Man?" That's what he's saying.

"So the body grows until it has built itself in love." We're in that continued process of building the body of Jesus Christ. Every one of us in this church has to wake up and ask the Spirit "Will you please point exactly the spot and job I have to do in the body of Jesus Christ?" And if we're loving you, we're looking at you and we're saying, "Did you ever think that maybe you could do this?" And it clicks within yourself and you say, "Ah, you pointed out something that was sort of bugging me". So that with you praying to the Holy Spirit and the community helping you, we all discover the role we have to play and every one of us has been made unique because we have a special job to do within the church.

When we look at that we say, "Does Jesus Christ want to heal us?" Does He want to heal every one of us in this church tonight? I guess so! Why? We're His body. If I'm around with a bad, bad hip and saying, "Don't bother me. I'm just going to live with it this way. Jesus comes along and says, "I want to heal every part of you. If it's your kneecap or the joint in your hip, I want to heal you. Why? Because I want My body to be perfect".

So He wants to heal every one of us in this church more than we even dream of asking Him to heal us. So if I say, "I don't know if Jesus wants to heal me". He wants to heal you because you happen to be part of His body by your baptism. Wow! Once we start to believe in this stuff watch the healings take place in this prayer group.

He's saying, "The healing in the body of Jesus Christ is necessary". He wants it more than you and I want it. But where do we start? The first thing is reconciliation with one another. We are to seek the truth in love. So if I don't like you, I'm hurting the church. So the first step I have to take is to get reconciled with you. I don't have to like you but I have to love you. And people have to make that distinction between liking and loving. Right?

So the first job is reconciliation with one other and that comes through forgiveness of one another in Christ so we may receive Christ's forgiveness. Without that forgiveness we are going no place. We have to make sure we can forgive one another and forgive ourselves in order to receive God's forgiveness.

*This homily is very powerful. We want to include it in its fullness, so it will be broken down into four parts.
Part 4 in the January newsletter.*

AN INVITATION: INTO THE HEART OF THE LORD RETREAT

Dear Friends in Christ:

We are presenting to you a most interesting retreat. "It is not those who say to Me 'Lord, Lord,' who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the Will of My Father in heaven." "Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of Mine and does NOT act on them will be like a stupid man who builds his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!" (Matthew 7:21-27)

This special retreat will change your whole life. It is not difficult but joyful and intriguing. Come and join us.

PLEASE BRING YOUR BIBLE - THANK YOU

DATE AND TIME:

The retreat will be held on **Friday, January 24, 2020**, with Mass at 6:00 p.m. and the talks beginning directly after Mass until 9:15 p.m., then on **Saturday, January 25**, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. at Our Lady Of Hope Church, Sudbury.

Brown Bag your lunch. The fee is \$10.00 *please register a.s.a.p.*

Please give to: Janet Lalonde, Adele Donnelly, Mary Hopper (the parish secretary), or mail it to: The Prayer Group, 1935 Paris Street, Box 21056, Sudbury. ON. P3E 6G6

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY – THANK YOU – JANUARY 2020

Fantastic Special "Goodies" will be available during the retreat

REGISTRATION FORM INTO THE HEART OF THE LORD RETREAT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

TELEPHONE: 705- _____ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** _____

*Sponsored by the little servants of Christ the King prayer community
Father Patrick Okenyi, sma - Spiritual Director*

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Matthew 1:18-24

A Prayerful Reading of Sacred Scripture

(MAGNIFICAT Dec. 2016, Vol. 7, No. 2, p.265-267)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).

Saint Thomas Aquinas: "Since Christ wished to be born of a virgin, why did He wish His Mother to be espoused? So that His birth would be hidden from the devil, lest he should impede Christ's Passion and the fruit of our redemption if he knew." Saint Ignatius of Antioch: "Christ was born of an espoused Virgin in order that her childbearing might be concealed from the devil, so that he thought that Christ was not born of a virgin, but of a wife." Saint Chromatius (+ 407): "Because the Word could not be seen as God in the glory of His own divinity, he assumed visible flesh to demonstrate His invisible divinity. He took from us what is ours in order to give generously what is His."

"Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity decided to divorce her informally" (Matthew 1:19).

The irony: God's love in the Incarnation comes to us through Joseph's broken heart. Saint John Chrysostom: "Do you not see here a man of exceptional self-restraint, freed from that most tyrannical passion, jealousy? Many have chosen to give up their lives rather than fall under the suspicion of jealousy. Nevertheless, Joseph was so free from the passion of jealousy as to be unwilling to cause distress to the Virgin, even in the slightest way. Joseph determined to conduct himself now by a higher rule than the Law. For now that grace was appearing, it would be fitting that many tokens of that exalted citizenship be expressed. It is like the sun not yet arisen, but from afar more than half the world is already illumined by its light. So did Christ, when about to rise from that womb, cast light upon all the World." Father Cornelius a Lapide, SJ. "Joseph thought, *I am unwilling to retain Mary if an angel or God himself desires to have her. I am unworthy of a woman who is worthy of God or an angel; therefore, I will commend her to God, and put her away from me.*"

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name Him Jesus, because He is the one who is to save His people from their sin"
(Matthew 1:20-21).

Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis: "Joseph has to disconnect himself from the process of human logic that he may receive the divine commandment with pleasure even if without understanding." Aquinas: "Why in his sleep? Because Joseph was in a certain way doubting; hence, he was in a certain way sleeping, so to speak, and therefore rightly is the angel said to have appeared to him in his sleep." *The angel...said, Joseph* -- Aquinas: "The angel calls him by his name so as to render him attentive for listening, and so as to recall him to himself." Chrysostom: "The angel did not only mention Mary by name but also simply called her *your wife*. He would not have called her so if she had been unfaithful." We do well to obey the angel's command to Joseph: to take Mary into our home, and to call her Son often by name, Jesus, in prayer.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Matthew 1:18-24

A Prayerful Reading of Sacred Scripture

(MAGNIFICAT Dec. 2016, Vol. 7, No. 2, p.265-267)

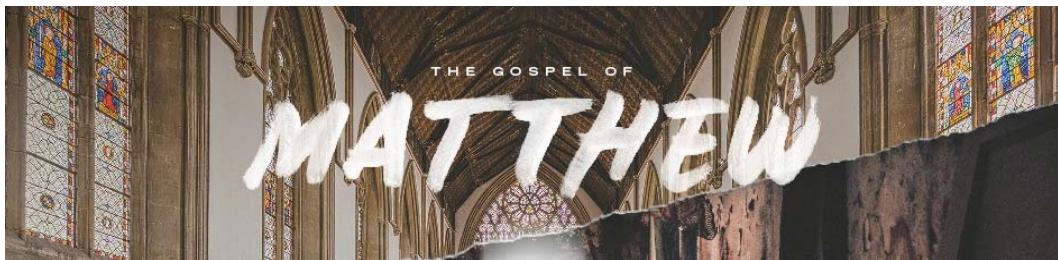
Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call Him Emmanuel," a name which means "God-is-with-us" (Matthew 1:22-23).

Saint Bede: "The name God-with-us, given to our Saviour by the prophet, signifies that two natures are united in his one Person. Before time began He was God, born of the Father, but in the fullness of time He became Emmanuel, God with us, in the womb of His Mother, because when the Word was made flesh and lived among us He deigned to unite our frail human nature to His own Person. Without ceasing to be what He had always been, He began in a wonderful fashion to be what we are, assuming our nature in such a way that He did not lose His own."

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home (Matthew 1:24).

The word awoke has the greater meaning of "to rise, to get up". In his arising, Joseph resembles Peter's healed mother-in-law (Matthew 8:15); the forgiven and cured paralytic (Matthew 9:5-7); the disciples at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:7); and the bridesmaids who wake up to greet the bridegroom (Matthew 25:7). Gospel awakening/arising marks the beginning of a graced, personal transformation. Leiva-Merikakis: "One is struck by the rapid succession of these five verbs [he rose, he did, he took, he did not know, he called], enumerating linearly (for a sense of swiftness) everything Joseph did and did not do following his dream. He is the obedient man of action whose every move is attentive to the will of God. He is the man called upon to love, cherish, nurture, and protect the Mother and the Child while at the same time having to accomplish a profound renunciation of natural human instincts.... His vocation is to be the visible fatherhood of God on earth."

Lord, make us ever more aware of what true fatherhood is, and obedient to the promptings you send us in the depths of our souls.



THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2019 DECEMBER

The future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Witnessing A Testament of Faith

First let me share with you one of the conversations I had with Paula approximately one month ago. Paula's faith was strong and she truly surrendered herself to our Lord ... she wanted to live and yet was not afraid if it was in fact His Will to call her home. She was prepared and at peace with it. I asked Paula that when that time came, to connect with me either through a song or something that would have meaning to us.

I do believe in my heart that the witnessing I will unfold is a message from Paula. I had asked Paula a couple of times to witness her healings through her journey with cancer, and now I understand that she wanted to wait until she received the ultimate healing from the Lord

.....

Moments after the passing of my dear friend Paula, I had an opportunity to say my final goodbye. It left me with an overwhelming sadness, however shortly thereafter an unexpected and most pleasant experience took place.....

As I was slowly maneuvering the vehicle up her very steep driveway, and strategizing as to what my friend and I needed to pick up for the family, Patti insisted that I turn up the volume on the radio. Puzzled but obliging I did so upon her request. These are the words Paula imparted to us.....

Waking up to a new sunrise
Looking back from the other side
 I can see now with open eyes
 Darkest water and deepest pain
I wouldn't trade it for anything
 Cause my brokenness brought me to You
 And these wounds are a story You'll use

So I'm thankful for the scars
 'Cause without them I wouldn't know Your heart
 And I know they'll always tell of who You are
So forever I am thankful for the scars

Now I'm standing in confidence
 With the strength of Your faithfulness
 And I'm not who I was before
 No, I don't have to fear anymore
I can see, I can see
 How You delivered me
 In Your hands, In Your feet
I found my victory

The morning of Paula's passing on October 28th is forever imprinted in my heart. Thank you Lord for our faith journey together with the gift of the prayer group who are your disciples, your voice, your love, your support, your wisdom and knowledge forever more!

- Faye Gartley -



December Birthdays



1 – Nona Devost
 Carol Fahey
 Roger Gaudrault
 3 – Bishop Francois
 10 – Edna Tuttle
 12 – Noella Latimer
 15 – Yvette Hutchinson
 Cécile Rivet
 17 – Claudette Brisebois
 Allain Soulliere
 19 – Sister Noreen Muldoon
 20 – Donna Ladouceur
 Cécile Bonin
 21 – Nicole Madore
 22 – Joe Deganuto
 Rita Greenough
 Louise Landry
 23 – Leo Cameron
 24 – Beatrice Bilema
 Leona Mealey
 25 – Jesus The Lord
 Noella Varabioff
 26 – Monette Gagné
 28 – Noella Forget
 29 – Terry Shannon
 Marilyn Pilbacka Thompson
 31 – Roger Gaudreau

*Happy Birthday
 and
 God's Blessings*



Rita Tonnos – December 31, 1976
 Justin Proulx – December 14, 1983
 John Jamieson – December 12, 1983
 Emile Fabbro – December 10, 1986
 Ida Connors – December 20, 1986
 Michael Talbot – December 25, 1988
 Marie Turgeon – December 3, 1990
 Pauline Leroux-Fleming – December 3, 1993
 Charles Cormier – December 11, 1984
 Fr. Francis Farrell, s.j. – December 15, 1990
 Rita Farrell – December 10, 2005
 Fr. Ovila Campeau – December 10, 2005
 Jerome Tovey – December 5, 2001
 Werner Wittmer – December 9, 2001
 Helen Laliberte – December 3, 2009
 Vern Johnson – December 1, 2010
 Yvonne Sheahan (Kirwan)
 – December 27, 2010
 Lyle Koett – December 19, 2012
 Angele Crepeau-Rankin
 – December 20, 2013
 Edgar Houle – December 27, 2014
 Bernice Legris – December 17, 2015
 Marie "Kim" Fisher (Ingriselli)
 – December 12, 2016
 David Mazerolle – December 29, 2016

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
 and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May their souls and the souls of all the faithful
 departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
 Amen*

*"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God,
 through Jesus, bring with Him those who have fallen asleep."*

– 1 Thessalonians 4:14

The Immaculate Conception

By Saint Maximilian Kolbe

(Article from MAGNIFICAT, Dec. 2018, vol. 9 No 2, p. 118-119)

Who is she? She is nothing in herself, like all other creatures, but thanks to God's work she is the most perfect among creatures. The most perfect semblance of the divine being in a purely human creature.

She derives, therefore, from the Father through the Son and the Spirit, as the Creator who from nothing, in the image of Himself, in the image of the Most Holy Trinity, calls finite beings into existence, out of love for his own finite likenesses, which they reproduce.

Beings endowed with free will and reason know and acknowledge their provenance and are aware of having received from God all they are, all they can do, and all they possess at every instant.

They reciprocate with love, both for what they have received, and for the fact that He, as infinite perfection, is worthy of infinite love. Consequently, as limited beings, unable to render unto Him infinite love, at least they overcome the constraints and efforts of such love.

The Immaculata never had any stain of sin, which means that her love was always full, without flaws. She loved God with all her being, and love united her with God in this perfect fashion from the first instant of her life, such that on the day of the Annunciation, the angel could address her

saying: "Full of grace, the Lord is with thee" (Lk. 1:28).

She is therefore a creature of God, the property of God, the semblance of the image of God, the daughter of God, in the most perfect way possible for a human being. She is God's instrument. In full awareness, she lets herself be guided by God. She conforms to His will. She desires only what He wants; operates in accordance with His will and in the most perfect way possible, without the slightest blemish, without any deviation of her will from His.

[She is God's instrument] in the perfect use of her faculties and privileges she was granted, in order to carry out always and in all things, solely and exclusively God's will, out of love toward God One and Triune.

Such love toward God reaches such heights that it produces divine fruits of love. Her union of love with God reaches such a point that she becomes the Mother of God.

The Father entrusts His own Son to her, the Son descends into her womb, while the Holy Spirit, from the body of her, shapes the most Holy Body of Jesus.

Note: Saint Maximilian Kolbe (+1941) was Conventual Franciscan priest who spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through printing and radio in Japan and his native Poland. He was martyred in Auschwitz.



News From Benin

Hello everyone,

Peace and divine blessings be abundantly upon you as we are moving towards the end of this ongoing year. I hope you are all spiritually and physically fine and doing well. I pray that it may be so for you.

As for myself, I have been very busy and my energy is very low. I am almost worn out. However, I work for a just cause, i.e. serving the most abandoned people and orphans in isolated and most neglected villages. I am happy to do it because that is the vocation that I chose to devote my life for, and I will continue to do so all my life with dedication and inner joy.

Things are not always easy here as some people manifest jealousy, animosity and negativity that poison my endeavours. In addition to facing many challenges in my path, I must also overcome and defeat those who try to handicap my efforts. It's frustrating. But I am confident and know that I am not alone, that God is with me, that his grace never lets me down and your unwavering moral, material and spiritual support is also a fortress on which I always rely on.

On the other hand, I faithfully keep one of my good friend, Merv's wise and most useful and precious advice; he always reminds me to look at myself in the mirror every morning and to keep on smiling and just thank God for having given me a beautiful life and so, not worry about anything, and not allow anybody to take away my joy so that I may continue to appreciate, to love and live a good life that God gave me through my beloved late mother Marie-Madeleine. She is the reason I developed the project Centre d'Accueil de Formation Sainte Marie-Madeleine in the Aguiakpa village which recently opened its doors taking in forty-five (45) orphans both boys and girls.

The inauguration mass and blessing ceremony took place last November 16th 2019 in the presence of a big crowd of villagers, my loyal friends, some family members and among them was François Lemieux, Lorraine's brother who represented all my Canadian friends. It was amazing all the nice testimonies received from many who participated at the opening mass. I will soon send you photos of this historic event which you contributed to make it possible because of your love for me and your kind donations that the most abandoned people benefit from.

May God reward you immensely. Thank you so much for being a source of moral strength and to help me faithfully carry the pastoral responsibility that the Lord entrusted to my humble person. To be honest to you, without you I could not make it. I am so proud of you all, and love you unconditionally.

The Centre has two dormitory blocks for boys and girls, a block of six classrooms, one cafeteria for the girls, a deep water well, water tower with a tank of fifty-six thousand litres, a kitchen, a sport field, a garden. We still need to construct a chapel, an administration block, a cafeteria for the boys, a sport facility for the students and need some solar panels for light and a health block....

There are five educational personnel consisting of two women, two men and the director of the centre, all of them paid on a basic salary.

We also need a car for administrative purposes.

« Let us put our faith in actions in a missionary endeavor and allow the Spirit of Jesus fill our lives with abundant divine graces for the love and the service of the Church in Africa and everywhere. »

**+ François G. GNONHOSSOU, sma
BP: 106 Diocese of Dassa-Zoumè
Republic of Bénin
Tel: (00229) 22530180, (00229) 95336896 or (00229) 61 28 0808**

Adoration Chapel Miracle Moment

We live in Ohio but, we were called in July 2019 to Sudbury as our daughter was in a motorcycle accident. We visited her daily and prayed for her. We came across your Adoration Chapel and spent hours in prayer and reflection. We were notified that life support would be removed the following day, and after saying our last goodbyes, we went to the Chapel with heavy hearts and tears.

We heard singing and the gentleman praying told us that a Mass was going on in the gathering space, and he invited us to join them. We got there just as they began giving Communion, so we received. After the Mass, during announcements, I told our story and the entire prayer group joined us in loving hugs and prayers.

Father Patrick asked for her room number at the hospital, and he gave her the last rites.

This truly was miraculous to know that our daughter had her soul cleaned and whitened. I'm sure that many more miracles and healings have happened in those 29 years since the Chapel opened. We would like to thank everyone who has faithfully given an hour to the Lord.

— *Witness posted on Facebook by Carl Barhorst on November 20, 2019.*

The little servants of Christ The King prayer community would like to extend their deepest sympathy to Adriana Pasquale, a long time member of our prayer group, on the passing of her son **Eli Pasquale**, on November 4, 2019 in Victoria, B.C. Eli was an outstanding athlete, and an exemplary human being. His enthusiasm, positive attitude, work ethic, generosity, and integrity will continue to be a source of inspiration to all who knew him.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



Knights of Columbus Council 1387
Supporting your Church and the little servants of
Christ The King prayer group

kofc.org/joinus



THE HISTORIC JESUS CHRIST IS THE MESSIAH

Over the centuries, there has been given a clear understanding that only ONE person in the human race, could meet all of the hundreds of prophecies of the Messiah's identity. To fulfill them all would require a man so unusual, and a life so unique, that it would eliminate all pretenders. According to Dr. Rabbi Ben-Judah, a mathematician, "even if only 20 of them would be met, the probability of only one in one quadrillion one hundred and twenty-five trillion, would pinpoint the historic Jesus Christ as the Messiah." Here are some of the most clearly obvious and specific prophecies:

1. The Messiah would be born of a virgin mother, "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son" (Isaiah 7:14). This was fulfilled in Matthew "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived" (Matthew 1: 20).
2. His name would be "Immanuel: God with us (Isaiah 7:14; Psalm 2:7; Hebrew 1:8). "He shall be the Son of God" (2 Samuel 7:14-16). Matthew writes, "She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins... this is to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet...and they shall name him Emmanuel." (Matthew 1:21-23)
3. He shall be the heir of King David (2 Samuel 7:12-13). He shall be a "root of Jesse," King David's father (Isaiah 11:1) fulfilled and made totally clear when Jesus in Revelation 22:16 said "I, Jesus, sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star."
4. He must be born of a rare bloodline. "The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from Abraham to David; fourteen from David to Babylonian deportation; fourteen generations from Babylonian deportation to Christ. (Matthew 1:17)
5. He shall be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Fulfilled by Joseph, who due to a decree issued for a census from Caesar Augustus, "went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to the city of David that is called Bethlehem." (Luke 2:1-7)
6. He would be called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1) and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet Hosea, "I called My son out of Egypt". (Matthew 2:13-19).
7. He would be preceded by a forerunner (Isaiah 40:3). It was John the Baptist, preaching in the desert of Judea, calling for a change of heart and conduct; "This was the man the prophet Isaiah had spoken of." (Matthew 3:1-3)
8. His ministry would be mostly in Galilee (Isaiah 8:23; 9:1). Fulfilled in Matthew 4:12-16, "Hearing that John had been arrested He went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth He went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali".
9. The Messiah would perform miracles (Isaiah 61:1-2; Isaiah 35:4-6). Jesus healed the sick, the suffering, and gave sight to the blind (Luke 4:1-37).
10. The Messiah would be despised and rejected by men. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief." (Isaiah 53:3) We read in John 10:19-20 that His words created division among the Jews, and many accused Him of being out of His mind, or possessed by demons.
11. He would also be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:10), and sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12). Fulfilled in Matt.26:20-25, "They paid (Judas Iscariot) thirty pieces of silver."
12. People would look on the one whom they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10). John 19:36-37 says: "Not one bone of His will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon Him whom they have pierced."

THE HISTORIC JESUS CHRIST IS THE MESSIAH

13. The psalmist also prophesied of the Messiah saying: “they divide my garments... for my clothing they cast lots,” (Psalm 22:18) and in Matthew 27:35 “When they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments by casting lots.”
14. The Messiah would suffer for the sins of mankind, and through His sufferings, men are healed. “Yet, it was our infirmities that He bore, our sufferings that He endured...by his stripes we were healed.” (Isaiah 53:4-6) All this fulfilled by the accounts of all four evangelists.
15. The Messiah will be abandoned by His Father. But it was the LORD’s will to crush Him with pain (Isaiah 53:10) “My God, My God, why did you abandon me?” (Matthew 27:46)
16. The Messiah will be resurrected: Psalm 16:10 stated, “For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor allow the one you love to see the pit.” And in Acts 2:24, Peter boldly asserted, “But God raised Him up, releasing Him from the throes of death, because it was impossible for Him to be held by it.”

PRAISE THE LORD! There are hundreds more of those prophecies. The birth of Jesus is not only a historic fact, but the fulfillment of prophecy that proves without a shadow of a doubt, He is The Messiah. God is able to perfectly reveal the future and without error. What is yet to happen, as predicted by the prophets of old, will happen as certain as what has already happened. He sees the end from the beginning, He is the Alpha and the Omega the one Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the ALMIGHTY. (Revelation 1:8)

He is our Messiah! “Glory to God in the Highest...and Peace to people of good will”.
Let’s give Him thanks and open our hearts to receive our King Jesus.

A Word of Reminder

“At Bethlehem Jesus began practicing the virtues of His sacramental state. He concealed His divinity in order to familiarize man with God. He veiled His Divine glory as a first step to the veiling of His humanity. He bound His power in the weakness of a child’s body; later He would bind it beneath the Sacred Species. He was poor; He stripped Himself of every possession, He, the Creator and Sovereign Master of all things. The stable was not His own; charity let Him have the use of it. He lived with His Mother on the offerings of the shepherds and the gifts of the Magi; later in the Eucharist, He would ask man for a shelter for Himself, the matter for His Sacrament, vestments for His priest and His Altar. This is how Bethlehem heralds the Eucharist.” (St. Peter Julian Eymard)

“And see how the Eucharist began at Bethlehem. He was even then the Emmanuel, ‘God with us,’ Who has come to dwell among His people. On the first Christmas Day He began to live in our midst; the Eucharist perpetuates His presence. At Bethlehem, the Word was made flesh; in the Sacrament He is made bread in order to give us His flesh.” (St. Peter Julian Eymard)

A Christmas Blessing

May all the days of all the years that God has still in store be filled with every joy and grace to bless you more and more. May hope of heart and peace of mind beside you ever stay. That’s the prayer we pray for you this Christmas day.

The WONDER of the Baby born in Bethlehem: of what He IS, and what HE HAS DONE for us. “In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD WAS God. He was with God in the beginning (John 1:1)... The WORD was made flesh. He lived among us” (John 1:14).

This Christmas as you look at the nativity scene, let us not only see LOVE and MERCY, let us see the MAN-SAIOUR, ALMIGHTY GOD, our REDEEMER who entered the world as a helpless infant so we could indentify with HIM and respond with JOY and THANKSGIVING. “The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God” (C.S.Lewis). Let us not lose sight of His Divinity.

Wishing you, the peace and joy of CHRISTMAS, now and throughout the year 2020.

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