

## The Roman Catholic Parishes of

**St. John the Evangelist**  
# 2 Academy Drive,  
Morden, MB R6M 2E8

**Father Ramon Oncog**  
Administrator



**St. Patrick - Mission**  
Manitou, MB R0G 1G0

**Confession**  
Saturday (4:00 - 4:45)  
Sunday (6:00 - 6:45)  
Or call for Appt  
204-822-5240

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### MASS INTENTIONS Dec 24, 2022 to Jan 1, 2023

**SATURDAY, Dec 24, 2022 (CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS)**  
5:00 p.m. MASS in Morden- the eternal repose of Rita Reuvekamp – req. Andrew Reuvekamp

**SUNDAY, Dec 25, 2022 - (The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ)**

11:00 a.m. MASS in Morden -the intentions of all parishioners

7:00 p.m. MASS in Morden - NO MASS

**MONDAY, Dec 26, 2022**

7:00 p.m. Mass in Morden - the intentions of all parishioners

**TUESDAY, Dec 27, 2022 -**

7:00 p.m. Mass in Morden - the intentions of all parishioners

**WEDNESDAY, Dec 28 2022**

7:00 p.m. MASS in Morden - the intentions of all parishioners

**THURSDAY, Dec 29, 2022**

7:00 p.m. MASS in Morden- the intentions of all parishioners

**FRIDAY, Dec 30, 2022**

7:00 a.m. Mass in Morden- the intentions of all parishioners

**SATURDAY, Dec 31, 2022**

5:00 p.m. MASS in Morden- the intentions of all parishioners

7:00 p.m. MASS (Filipino Mass) thanksgiving & intentions of all Filipino immigrants

**SUNDAY, Jan 1, 2023 - Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**

11:00 a.m. MASS in Morden- the intentions of all parishioners

7:00 p.m. MASS in Morden- the intentions of all parishioners

### MESSAGE

I remember taking strolls at the beautiful Piazza Navona in Rome at this time of the year when it is transformed into a big market. It's a feast for the senses! Dozens of stalls surround the majestic Fountain of the Four Rivers by Bernini where traditional Christmas handicrafts from different regions of Italy are sold. There are tree decorations as well as toys that every child would cherish. And, all sorts of goodies to taste – candies, hot chestnuts, and the famous torrone. However, what always drew my attention were the crèche. The Italians have the tradition of re-creating not just the manger scene but an entire village! There is a ruin in the background, a market, houses, a pub. The figures are dressed in medieval costumes and are doing typical daily chores. So, you may see a character fishing by a pond, a farmer ploughing the field, a woman tending her cooking, a man drinking in a pub, a musician playing a fiddle, people dancing, children playing, etc. It literally takes several moments before you notice where the manger is. The manger scene is called "mistero", while the rest of the crèche is called "diversorio". I came to know later that this way of setting the crèche originally came from Naples or the Italian Neapolitan region.

The Neapolitan crèche is inspiring from the aesthetical point of view. But, more than that it reminds us how God's coming is unnoticed by most people even until now. It is unnoticed because in many ways it is very ordinary. Indeed, as we marvel on God's humility as he came in the midst of the poverty of the manger on that first Christmas, we are encouraged to be more alert to his coming in the ordinariness of daily life. Pope Francis exhorted his audience on the First Sunday of Advent at St. Peter's Square, "Let us bear this in mind: God is hidden in our life, he is always there — he is concealed in the commonest and most ordinary situations in our life. God does not come in extraordinary events, but in everyday things. He is there, in our daily work, in a chance encounter, in the face of someone in need, even when we face days that seem grey and monotonous, it is right there that we find the Lord, who calls to us, speaks to us and inspires our actions."

As we continue to struggle with the instabilities in the world and the uncertainties in our lives, the message to meet Christ in the ordinary becomes more urgent, Let us embrace it wholeheartedly. A blessed Christmas to all!

Fr. Ramon Jose Oncog, JCL  
St. John the Evangelist Parish  
Morden MB

### Pope: We must rediscover the true richness of Christmas

"To meet God we must reach Him where he is; we need to lower ourselves, to make ourselves small", like Jesus did by coming to birth in a stable. Pope Francis made this remark on Saturday, as received three delegations from the Italian villages of Sutrio, and Rosello, and from Guatemala, who gifted the Vatican with this year's Christmas tree and two nativity scenes. The two crèches, installed in St. Peter's Square and in the Paul VI Audience Hall, will be unveiled this afternoon during the traditional Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony which will take place in the Hall and not in St. Peter's Square due to bad weather.

**Like trees we need roots** After thanking the delegations, and in particular those involved in their making, Pope Francis drew attention to the significance and the symbolism behind the Christmas Tree and crib. "The tree, with its lights", he said, reminds us of Jesus who comes to illuminate our darkness, our existence often locked up in the shadow of sin, fear and pain". But it also suggests the idea that, like trees we need roots, "solid foundations" to remain firm, grow and resist the winds of life. It is therefore important "to cherish the roots, in life as in faith", Pope Francis stressed. Jesus' littleness

He then reflected on the significance of the crib, which "speaks to us of the birth of the Son of God who became Man to be close to each one of us".

"In its genuine poverty", the Pope said "the nativity scene helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas", a different Christmas "from the consumerist and commercial one". It helps us "to become intimate with God, with the fragile simplicity of a small newborn, with the meekness of his being laid down, with the tender affection of the swaddling clothes that surround him". The true richness of Christmas The Pope therefore invited to rediscover the surprise and amazement of littleness through the nativity scene, "the littleness of God, who makes himself small, who is not born in the splendor of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable".

### *Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis*

#### *Prayer Intention for December, 2022*

*For volunteer not-for-profit organizations – We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation*

#### *December 25, 2022 - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas*

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." John 1:14

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus – the best gift we could ever receive.

"We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another." —

St. Teresa of Calcutta

#### **Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish...**

(Please call 204-822-5240 if someone should be included or removed. Thanks!)