**Note: Please leave this on the ambo, thanks.**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)**

**Introduction:**

Good morning we welcome our parishioners and visitors to Mary Immaculate Quakers Hill/Schofields Parish.

Blessed Christmas to you all!

Today, we thank God for his greatest gift to us—the gift of his beloved Son. Jesus, his Only Begotten Son is our Emmanuel, God’s presence among us. In him God makes his dwelling among us so that nothing we experience will be foreign to him: our joys and pains, our hopes and fears, our strengths and weaknesses. With this comforting thought we celebrate the Eucharist, praying especially for children and our family. May our Christmas celebration be a time of happy togetherness.

The Celebrant for this Morning’s Mass is

Please now stand.

**\*THE ADVENT WREATH** **CEREMONY\***

***The Advent Candle is brought in procession by rostered parishioners who walk in front of the Celebrant. (Note: This Candle lighting ceremony replaces the Penitential Rite during the Advent Season and Christmas Day)***

**CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY**

***At the conclusion of the Entrance hymn, the candle bearer faces the congregation and holds up the candle.***

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen

**Priest:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the holy spirit be with you all

**All:** And With Your Spirit.

**Priest**: Good evening and a very warm welcome to this special Christmas Mass.

Let us begin by lighting the Advent candles.

**Commentator**:On this Christmas Eve, we light the four Advent candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy and love.

The **First Candle** is about Hope.

We speak of **hope** - because God keeps his promise to us.

***The Senior Server lights the first candle.***

The **Second Candle** is about peace.

Jesus is the ‘Prince of Peace’ and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

***The Senior Server lights the second candle.***

The **Third Candle** is about love.

Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

***The Senior Server lights the third candle.***

The **Fourth Candle** is about joy.

The Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the joyful presence of God

***The Senior Server lights the fourth candle.***

**P.T.O**

**Priest:** Behold, the **Christ Candle**, which we light to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

***Family candle bearer to raise the white Christ candle while facing the Assembly***

As the prophets promised so long ago, our God has come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

***The candle is placed in the Wreath and lit by a family member***

**POWERPOINT**

**Celebrant**:

Lord, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us.

May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, come**. **Amen**.

***Family walk down the steps, bow and return to seats***

#### The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas DAY)

#### MASS READINGS

#### FIRST READING (Is 52:7-10)

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good

news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation,

and tells Zion, ‘Your God is king!’

Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together,

for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations,

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3)**

***(R) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.***

#### 1. Sing a new song to the Lord

#### for he has worked wonders.

#### His right hand and his holy arm

#### have brought salvation. (R.)

#### 2. The Lord has made known his salvation;

#### has shown his justice to the nations.

#### He has remembered his truth and love

#### for the house of Israel. (R.)

#### 3. All the ends of the earth have seen

#### the salvation of our God.

#### Shout to the Lord all the earth,

#### ring out your joy. (R.)

#### 4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,

#### with the sound of music.

#### With trumpets and the sound of the horn

#### acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

#### SECOND READING  (Heb 1:1-6)

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

*The Word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL (Jn 1:1-18)

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

#### In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God

#### and the Word was God.

#### He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be,

#### not one thing had its being but through him.

#### All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men,

#### a light that shines in the dark,

#### a light that darkness could not overpower.

#### A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness,

#### as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him.

#### He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

#### The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world.

#### He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him.

#### But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God,

#### to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock

#### or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself.

#### The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory,

#### the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

#### John appears as his witness, He proclaims:

#### ‘This is the one of whom I said:

#### He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.’

#### Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received –

#### yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses,

#### grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

#### No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

#### The Gospel of the Lord.

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas DAY)**

**GENERAL INTERCESSION**

**Priest:** On this holy day, let us present our petitions to the almighty Father who loves us as his children in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reader:** That the world in agony, torn by division and strife, may be filled with tidings of comfort and joy.

We pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That families throughout the world may become a dwelling place of your incarnate Son, Jesus our Emmanuel.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That our religious and political leaders humble themselves as Jesus humbled himself and be responsible stewards of your people.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That the Good News of your coming resound throughout the world so that people will hear the comforting words of hope and the promise of salvation.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That your light shine on those who still live in darkness, whose eyes are blinded by jealousy, hatred, and the lure of power and money.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who mourn the death of their loved ones may draw comfort from our belief that the departed ones are now with God.

We Pray:

**R — Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** **Together we now pray our Parish Community prayer for Christmas.**

**All:** Loving Father help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

**Priest:** Father, hear our prayers and make this Christmas celebration a moment of thanksgiving and great sharing. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**