St. Barnabas the Apostle
The Nativity of Our Lord

Monday, December 26 St. Stephen
6:30 AM Irene Roskop & Elizabeth Smith
9:00 AM Stephen Andrew Clifford
June Leahy Furda
Kevin Rose
Karin Doris Canner
Eleanor Klos
Living & Deceased Members of the Donnelly, Stauber & Lewis Families

Tuesday, December 27 St. John
6:30 AM Joseph Mammone
9:00 AM Deceased Members of the Dorothy Healy Family

Wednesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents
6:30 AM Donald Croker
9:00 AM Olga Marsico

Thursday, December 29
6:30 AM Charlie & Ann Klika
9:00 AM Eudosia & Giacomo Salvemini

Friday, December 30 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
6:30 AM Toni Rabbito
9:00 AM Mary & James Butler
3:30 PM Wedding: Dean Angell & Colleen Oakes

Saturday, December 31
8:00 AM Patricia Reilly
Fr. Adrian 4:30 PM Regina Dolezal
Madeline Kehoe
Victor Losquadro
Kathleen Rathgaber
Richard & Victoria Fiorenze & Peter Rago
For the Intentions of the Pugliese Family

Fr. Kevin 7:00 PM Angelo Muro, Jr.

Sunday, January 1 Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Fr. Kevin 7:00 AM The People of Our Parish
Fr. Kevin 9:00 AM Anthony Sampino
Fr. Adrian 10:15 AM Eugenio Gasparro
Fr. Gus 10:30 AM Lucia & Luigi DiMeglio
Fr. Gus 12:00 PM Mary Duffy
Fr. Adrian 5:00 PM Joseph & Phyllis Stroface

Rev. Adrian McHugh, Pastor
Rev. Charles Omotu
Rev. Kevin Gruber
Deacon Bernard F. Sherlock

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School
Principal, Ms. Leean Grazioso
516-785-5709

St. Barnabas Christian Formation
Mrs. Marjorie Lampert
516-785-0130

Social Ministry
Mrs. Alice Witt
516-785-6243

Music Ministry
Mr. William R. Dione

Youth Ministry
Mrs. Margaret Harnisch

Business & Personnel
Mr. John G. Nappi

www.stbarnabasny.org
Find us on Facebook

RECTOR OFFICE
2320 Bedford Avenue,
Bellmore, NY 11710
516-785-0054
Fax: 516-221-7789

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM;
Friday: 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM;
(Closed Weekdays: 12:30 - 1:30 PM)
Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 to 1:00 PM
Emergency Only: 516-280-0359

MASS TIMES
Monday to Friday: 6:30 and 9 AM
Saturday: 8:00 AM
Vigil: 4:30 & 7:00 PM
Sunday: 7, 9, 10:15, 10:30 AM,
12 & 5 PM

Confessions Saturday 12:30 PM
Contact the Rectory for information
on the Sacraments of Baptism,
Matrimony & Anointing.

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Welcome

Greetings and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for being with us at St. Barnabas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior on this holiest time of the year. Whether you are a long-time member of our congregation or whether you are a newcomer to our church family, we appreciate that you have incorporated this Mass into your own personal Christmas tradition this year.

Share the Gift

Of Christ

Christmas Candles
The red Christmas Candles will be lit in loving memory of: Brian Dione, Josephine, Edwin & Robert Rezny, Dorothy Camilleri, and Donald Williams.

Bread & Wine
The Eucharistic Bread & Wine will be offered this week in loving memory of Mary McNulty with love from Kevin & Yvonne and Family.

Sanctuary Lamp Candle
The Sanctuary Lamp Candle will be lit this week in loving memory of Richard & Dorothy Wiggins from the Wilson Family.

Rectory Office
The rectory office will be closed on Sunday, December 25th and Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas. The office is also closed on Sunday, January 1st and Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year’s.

We Pray For Our Deceased
Catherine Megna
Laura Wilmerton

Bulletin Notes
To place a notice in our bulletin email Bulletin11710@aol.com.

Advertise
To place an advertisement on our cover call The Church Bulletin at (631)249-4994.
Recently we had a full moon. Such events invite us to look up and contemplate the mysteries above. Days before that, on December 8th, the former astronaut John Glenn died. Some of you remember when he orbited the earth in 1962 and the great chapter of space exploration that followed. He and others challenged us to look out beyond the earth and contemplate the mysteries of the universe.

Today space exploration barely gets a mention apart from fictional movies like ‘Star Wars.’ And as for looking at a full moon, well we don’t have time to look beyond our next scheduled event. In a busy world who has time for awe and mystery.

Maybe that’s what’s wrong with our society today. We don’t look beyond our noses and so we miss out on the beauty of a full moon in late December. And we can miss out on awe, mystery, reflection and contemplation.

One symptom of that, perhaps, is the growing disinterest in poetry. There was a time when everyone knew some poetry. Students memorized it in school. People wrote poetry as a form of recreation and prayer and communication. And while there are still poets in our society, very few of them can earn a living by selling poetry.

Christmas is a time for story and poetry and song. Our liturgy invites us to stand before the mystery of the Incarnation with awe and wonder. John’s gospel, on the other hand, focuses on the awe and mystery of the event. He does that in large part by turning to poetry. He uses metaphor and allusions to draw us into the mystery of the Incarnation. John never mentions shepherds in the fields and the magi. He doesn’t deny their part in the story; he simply lifts up the more significant implications. Instead of the concrete characters we’ve come to recognize at the manger, John invites us to recognize the more significant mysteries of the Eternal becoming human, the Almighty being humbled, and the awe of beholding God’s glory.

These mysteries are not just an historical event; they are present day wonders. Most prominent in John’s poetry for us is the metaphor of light. The Prophet Isaiah made it clear that to people like us, the very ones walking in darkness, on us a great light has shone (Is 9:2). A glance at the news reminds us that there are still places of physical and emotional and spiritual darkness. There are still places filled with violence and vice. There is war and rumors of war. There is terrorism, hate and horror. The darkness hasn’t changed. What has changed is our ability and our willingness to reflect the light of God into the dark corners of our world.

The moon has no light of its own to offer. It merely reflects the light of the sun. Even in the nighttime, the sun is at work. Even in our darkened world, God is at work when we allow the light to be reflected from us. The mystery of the Incarnation is that God still comes to us; the wonder is that the light still shines through us. May the light of Christ reflects off us to a world in darkness.
We want to thank all of the Children and families who participated in the December 11th production of The Story of the First Christmas. Refreshments afterward in the Family Chapel gave participants time to socialize with each other. Thanks to the parents who brought cake and cookies for everyone.

Just a reminder that there will not be an Agape/Hospitality Sunday on January 1 since it is New Year’s Day. The next Agape/hospitality will be held on February 5th. Anyone interested in baking for the Hospitality Sunday, please email margic@optonline.net. Anyone interested in becoming a Junior or Lead Lector, contact cfinelli2460@optonline.net and anyone wanting to join the children’s chorus or musicians, see Sabina Lamb at the 10:15 Mass.
Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Mass St. Barnabas Church

Children 3 and up are invited to join us on Christmas Eve for the 4:00 PM Mass in the Church dressed as shepherds and angels. Arrive by 3:40 PM and gather downstairs in the Holy Family Chapel to line up. We will walk in the entrance procession to the altar then return to be seated with parents. St. Barnabas has many costumes that children can borrow for this Mass. Costumes can be returned to the Rectory the week after Christmas. A picture of a star will be given to parents to put on the pew next to them to reserve a seat for their child.

St. Barnabas Parents Night
For Parents of Children Attending Religious Education & Catholic School

Tuesday, January 10th
7 to 8PM Holy Family Chapel

God is the Answer
Finding Peace, Mercy and Salvation in Christ and His Church

Presenter: Nolan Reynolds
Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School
The Week at a Glance

Sunday: Rectory Office Closed
Monday: Rectory Office Closed
7:30 PM Charismatic Group, HFC
Tuesday: No Religious Education
7:30 PM Al-Anon, Rectory
7:30 PM RCIA, Convent
Wednesday: No Religious Education
7:00 PM Advent Reconciliation Service, Church
7:00 PM Bible Study, Rectory
7:30 PM Contemplative Prayer, Convent Meeting Room
Friday: 1:30 PM Lectio Divina,
7:30 PM Lectio Divina,
7:30 PM Contemplative Prayer, Convent Meeting Room
Saturday: 12:30 PM Confessions, Church

Mass Schedule
Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve
4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 10:00 PM & Midnight
The 4:00 PM Mass will be celebrated in both the Church and the Holy Family Chapel.

Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 12 Noon

Saturday, December 31st, New Year’s Eve
4:30 PM & 7:00 PM

Sunday, January 1st, New Year’s Day
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:15AM, 10:30 AM, 12 Noon & 5:00PM

Financial Reports

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>12/18/16</td>
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Parish Families Registered: 5,029
Envelopes Mailed: 1,284 Used: 599
Envelopes Used 12/13/15: 651

2016 Catholic Ministries Appeal
Goal: $107,900 Donors: 556
Pledged: $121,902 Received: $119,162

Second Collection Next Week
Solemnity

Many thanks to you all for supporting the Church of St. Barnabas during the year.

We Pray for the Sick
Nicoletta Russo, Meghan Alice Roach, Stephen Rich, Patrick Hoyne, Don Davis, John Scalia, Rosemary Grandwilliams, Louis Romano, Eugene Ryan, Kristin O’Halloran, Patricia Merget, Theresa Anselmo, Jason Todhunter, Jacob Daniel Haubeil, John Nalick, Kevin Keegan, Joyce Caggiano, Joan Gallagher, Robert Volpe, Christina Sumperl, George Stockerl, Angelo Giglio, Donna Polemini, Terrie Manderson, Charlie Risika, Evelyn LaMont, Dr. Lawton Manderson, Maggie Schmidt, Sophie Buzzeo, Mario G. Cacace, Dolores Trimboi, Robert Wright, Cynthia Simpson, Jillian K. Yonker, Ed Messemer, Charles Young, Iype Kuriakose, Mary Beth Novello, Robert Pisano, Anthony Cammaratta, Andrzei Okolski, Angela Ferrara, Peter & Margaret Meenan, Shane Sammartino, Michelle Hilliwiz, Baby Lucas Spina, Dorothy Giammona and Babies Grayson & Gavin Pierre.
**Food Pantry Weekend**
December 31st & January 1st. Many, many thanks to all for keeping our pantry so well stocked throughout the year. We continue to go through the following items rather quickly so if you can help with any of them it would be much appreciated. Coffee, laundry detergent, dish detergent, cleaning products, shampoo/conditioner, and bar soap. Thank you!

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**
Today we celebrate the Feast of Christmas and hear how shepherds found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger. Then they left glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. The members of the St. Barnabas conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society wish to thank all whose generosity have helped to make the poor and needy have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Your gifts to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helped those who are poor and suffering to find Emmanuel and they also came to know that God is with us.

**Rosary Making Group**
The Rosary Making Group welcomes new members. We meet every Wednesday, from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM in the school cafeteria. Please call Melissa at 221-9821 if you are interested in joining.

**Cub Scout Fun & Faith Day**
A special morning of prayer, handicrafts, games and a patch, Saturday, January 21st at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Brookville, 8:30 AM - 12 Noon. For information contact the Catholic Scouting Office at 678-5800 ext. 245.

**Blue Mass**
All police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel are cordially invited to attend our Blue Mass on Sunday, January 15th at 9:30 AM at St. Rose of Lima Church, Massapequa. Those who wish to attend in uniform are invited to participate in the opening procession, (please come 10 minutes early if you plan to do so.) A blessing of all emergency vehicles will take place. A reception with light refreshments will be held in the auditorium following the Mass. Please join us.

**St. Barnabas Choir**
The St. Barnabas Choir is seeking new members. Altos especially needed, but all voices are welcome. No audition required, just the desire to share your talents with our congregation. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM in the Church, and we sing at the 10:30 AM Sunday Masses in addition to some special events during the year. Call the rectory and ask for Bill Dione.

**Alzheimer’s & Dementia Assistance**
Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia can be very challenging and stressful. You don’t have to do it alone. Willing Hearts, Helpful Hands provides free in-home consultations, support groups, education and training programs, respite scholarships for in-home assistance, adult day services or overnight stays, access to volunteer caregiver companions and memory cafes. This initiative is supported, (in part) by a grant from the New York State Department of Health and by Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation. Services are free and available to anyone caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias living in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. For information call 586-1507.

**Help Wanted**
A Sacrament Program Administrator is needed at St. Raphael’s Parish in East Meadow. This is a full-time position, applicants should be pleasant and welcoming, a team player, and possess the ability to be self-motivated and flexible. Knowledge of the Catholic faith and its tenets is a plus. Computer skills are required - Microsoft Programs, and Internet. Send resume to KAL714@aol.com.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**
Attention married couples, looking for the perfect Christmas present? Give the gift of a Marriage Encounter Weekend. Give your spouse a gift like no other - time for each other, rediscover your love and enhance your hopes and dreams. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter is right in time for Valentine’s Day, February 10th - 12th at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington. Space is limited, for more information
about the weekend or for reservations please call 1-877-697-9963 or visit www.wwme.org.

**Bereavement Support Groups**

Good Shepherd Hospice Bereavement Services are opened to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss through death at no charge. Upcoming Bereavement Support Groups, led by a Bereavement Specialist include:

- **Spousal/Partner Loss Support Group** - January 18th - March 8th, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM.
- **Adult Loss of Parent or Sibling Support Group** - January 18th - March 8th, 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM.

Both groups will meet at Mercy Medical Center at 100 North Village Ave. in Rockville Centre. Registration is required, please call 828-7629.

**Respect Life**

Please join us on our bus trip to Washington, DC on Friday, January 27th to participate in this powerful, life-changing event. For details contact Vin Murray at 781-7846.

March for Life Mission Statement - “The mission of the March for Life is to provide all Americans with a place to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person.”

Something to think about - “I wish to restate as firmly as I can that abortion is a grave sin, since it puts an end to innocent life. In the same way, however, I can and must state that there is no sin that God’s mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled with the Father.” Pope Francis, “Mercy and Misery”, Apostolic Letter, November 20, 2016.

**Infertility & Miscarriage**

The Gianna Center for Women’s Health & Fertility at Good Samaritan Hospital provides general gynecological care, Fertility Care education, and infertility services - all with a deep commitment to honoring a woman’s dignity and the sanctity of human life. Comprehensive gynecologic primary care and specialized fertility and family planning techniques are used to unmask the causes of infertility for all women, regardless of faith. We are pleased to be the first medical practice in the community to feature two new women’s health services: Fertility Care Services and NaPro Technology. These services allow us to provide a natural, restorative, scientifically based approach to monitoring your health and managing your fertility.

**Spiritual Prayer Gift**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

She was found with child by the Holy Spirit!

The profound beauty of this startling mystery touches our hearts and opens our spiritual eyes to the truth that changes our lives and transforms the destiny of all of us who believe and proclaim the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, Jesus, Son of God made man. What makes this possible is God’s plan to redeem us all. Two realities come together. One divine, the power of God’s love, the Holy Spirit, enters the human heart of a simple Jewish maiden who readily accepts God’s Spirit into her heart. She in turn offers herself totally to God’s by her FIAT: let it be done to me according to your Word!

Small wonder that the angels sing as they behold Mary giving birth to Jesus, the divine Son now one with us, fully one with us, save sin, so that we might become sharers of His life through Mary, the passage way of divinity into humanity. Think of it. Contemplate it. The divine enters the world the same way all of us did: through the womb of a loving mother. Think of it. Contemplate it. In a simple stable, surrounded by shepherds with no material means but with the richness of being poor, utterly dependent on God’s loving care, teaching us what truly matters in life: human love transformed by divine love, the human love of family, the divine love of God, now joined not just this once but forever in an eternal covenant God makes with us through his only begotten Son.

As we ponder and contemplate, we are invited to respond: respond with joyful prayer, respond with grateful hearts, respond with our love for the Child, the mother, the foster father with shepherds adoring and angels singing. But now that we, once again, have come spiritually to Bethlehem with them, we must not only give thanks to God, we also must show His love through our own hearts and lives in imitation of the generosity of the new born Child Who saves the world. My friends, this Christmas may the love of God Who comes to us by the birth of Mary’s Son inspire us to renew our love for all the world, for our families and our friends and, even more, for those who are poor and overlooked, those who are suffering or alone, those who are so often "left out", those who need us to show them the face of God which is the face of Jesus Christ.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE TO PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL!
A JOYFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF YOU
WHOM I CARRY IN MY HEART!

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Parent & Child Program

For children ages 2-3 years old. Our Time is a class where a child with a parent can become familiar with the classroom environment while singing songs, doing crafts, reading books, and celebrating God’s love together.

- Class sessions are offered on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM from September through June at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School.
- Our Time is an affordable way to introduce your child to the classroom environment without the worry of being separated.
- It allows for the child to be comforted with a parent’s presence and prepare for entering Pre-K.
- Our Time is taught by Mrs. Sabina Lamb. Mrs. Lamb is also the leader of the Family Liturgy Music Ministry. Contact Sabina Lamb 781-9834

Some Important Dates
- January 10, 2017 Parent’s Night
- January 13, 2017 Confirmation Packet Due
- Saturday, January 21, 2017 Confirmation Retreat
- February 11 and 12 Rite of Enrollment
- Monday, May 22, Sacrament of Confirmation

Faith Formation

- Monday, December 26 – Monday, January 2, 2017 – NO CLASSES
- Tuesday, January 3 – Classes Resume
- Tuesday, January 10 – Parent Meeting – 7 – 8 pm in the Holy Family Chapel with Nolan Reynolds, Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School.
- Monday, January 16 – NO CLASSES – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

With the winter weather approaching we are looking for volunteers to help with the Religious Education Program. We need Hall Monitors and Substitute Catechists to cover when someone calls in sick. Please contact the Office of Christian Formation 785-0130 for more information.

Please remember to check the Religious Education website regularly to keep up to date on what’s happening in Religious Education.

Confirmation Monday, May 22nd @ 10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
Dear Parishioners.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School is proud to honor the following exceptional people at the 2017 SEASON to Believe Gala.

- Father Gregory Cappuccino – Pastor of St. Frances de Chantal
- Laurie & Jim Graham – Faith Formation Committee
- Laurie & John Murray Jr. – Faith Formation Committee
- Lyn Ryan – Administrative Assistant to Ms. Graziose

As a permanent remembrance of each Gala, a 16 x 20 Scroll of Honor is professionally printed, framed and prominently displayed in the School’s lobby. The success of the Gala depends upon the generosity of our donors. Please consider purchasing a donation for the Scroll of Honor. The donation levels for the Scroll of Honor are:

- **Grand Marquis** - $1,500
- **Marquis** - $1,000 * **Diamond** - $500 * **Platinum** - $300
- **Gold** - $200 * **Silver** - $125 * **Bronze** - $75

Please return the bottom half of this form with your level of donation. If you have any questions, please contact Stacy Romanelli at 457-0558 or seasgalafeb@gmail.com. All Scroll donations need to be in by January 20, 2017.
For unto us a child is born! We wish you a Merry Christmas!

Thank you to all the students who sang beautifully at our Nativity presentation. The 8th Grade did a divine job recreating the birth of our Savior!

This year’s Holiday Band Concert was the best yet! The students’ hard work was on display in a fantastic way! Great job!

Thank you Mrs. Franzese’s class for hosting our third Advent Prayer Service!
Nativity Scene

As society becomes increasingly secular, anything that ties Christmas back to the historical account of Jesus’ birth provides an important point of connection. Our outdoor nativity, donated by a family now has a stable created by our own St. Joseph the carpenter, Mr. Ken Yager. Such Nativity Scenes placed in public places are an opportunity for conversation between those in our community who celebrate nothing more than Santa and those who love the message of the Jesus’ incarnation.

However some are offended by the presence of an outdoor nativity scene. Why do they get upset? Perhaps it’s because they recognize that what’s being said in that small scene is challenging and even personal: This happened, this is history, there is a Jesus, and you have to deal with him one way or another. God sent his Son. He really came. Of course it didn’t look exactly like it’s been portrayed, but it happened.

How easy it is to rush through the whole Christmas experience—the music in the mall, the services in church, the presents in your house—and be left with sweet sentiments but no real peace in your heart. So, when you see a nativity scene this Christmas, stop. Think. This really happened. Mary did not look as perfect as her statue after giving birth to a baby in appalling circumstances. The real shepherds and Maji did not look like they stepped off the stage of Radio City Music Hall, but the figurines remind people that there’s a God who loved this broken world so much that he sent his Son into it. As our neighbors are less familiar than ever with the narrative of redemption, Christmas is about the only time when they may give the good news of Jesus a passing thought.

This Christmas, think about what this messy scene of God’s grace means to you. Ask non-Christians and other friends what they make of the nativity in your neighborhood. Seize the opportunity to connect this pivotal historical moment to today.

So if a nativity scene helps you to share the gospel with someone this Christmas, or remember it yourself, then thank the Lord. Our nativity scenes form a bridge between the gospel and the culture.
US Army:

National Guard:

US Navy:

US Marines:

US Air Force:
Capt. McLean G. Bethea, Nicholas P. Wright, Rev. Major Timothy Hirten

US Merchant Marine:
Lt. J.G. Eric Stumpel.

US Coast Guard:

US Peace Corps:
Patrick Coons

Holy Land
Fr. Kevin will lead a 10 day Pilgrimage in November 2017

Answers to Christmas Carol Quiz
1. Oh, member of the round table with missing areas = Oh Holy Night
2. The lad is a diminutive percussionist = Little Drummer Boy
3. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis = Silent Night
4. Decorate the entryways = Deck the Halls
5. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element = Silver Bells
6. Oh small Israel urban center = Oh Little Town of Bethlehem
7. Far off in a haybin = Away in a Manger
8. We are Kong, Lear, and Nat Cole = We Three Kings
9. Duodecimal enumeration of the passage of the yuletide season = The Twelve Days of Christmas
10. Leave and broadcast from an elevation = Go Tell It on the Mountain
11. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your yuletide season = We Wish You a Merry Christmas
12. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully = Hark the Herald Angels Sing
13. As the guardians of the woolly animals protected their charges in the dark hours = While the Shepherds Guarded Their Flocks By Night
14. I beheld a trio of nautical vessels moving in this direction = I Saw Three Ships
15. Jubilation to the entire terrestrial globe = Joy to the World
16. Do you perceive the same vibrations which stimulate my auditory sense organ? = Do You Hear What I Hear?
17. A joyful song of reverence relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck = Carol of the Bells
18. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild male humans = God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
19. Rose-colored uncouth dolf is aware of the nature of precipitation, darling = Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindee
And Joseph went up from Galilee to Bethlehem with Mary, his espoused wife, who was great with child. And she brought forth a son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

And the angel of the Lord spoke to the shepherds and said, "I bring you tidings of great joy. Unto you is born a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." "There's a problem with the angel," said a Pharisee who happened to be strolling by. As he explained to Joseph, angels are widely regarded as religious symbols, and the stable was on public property where such symbols were not allowed to land or even hover. "And I have to tell you, this whole thing looks to me very much like a Nativity scene," he said sadly. "That's a no-no, too."

Joseph had a bright idea. "What if I put a couple of reindeer over there near the ox and ass?" he said, eager to avoid sectarian strife. "That would definitely help," said the Pharisee, who knew as well as anyone that whenever a savior appeared, judges usually liked to be on the safe side and surround it with deer or woodland creatures of some sort. "Just to clinch it, throw in a candy cane and a couple of elves and snowmen, too," he said. "No court can resist that."

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Rum pa pum pum. Two women began to argue fiercely. One said she objected to Jesus' birth "because it privileged motherhood." The other scoffed at virgin births, but said that if they encouraged more attention to diversity in family forms and the rights of single mothers, well, then, she was all for them. "I'm not a single mother," Mary started to say, but she was cut off by a third woman who insisted that swaddling clothes are a form of child abuse, since they restrict the natural movement of babies. With the arrival of 10 child advocates, all trained to spot infant abuse and manger rash, Mary and Joseph were pushed to the edge of the crowd, where arguments were breaking out over how many reindeer (or what mix of reindeer and seasonal sprites) had to be installed to compensate for the infant's unfortunate religious character. An older man bustled up, bowling over two merchants, who had been busy debating whether an elf is the same as a fairy and whether the elf/fairy should be shaking hands with Jesus in the crib or merely standing to the side, jumping around like a sports mascot. "I'd hold off on the reindeer," the man said, explaining that the use of asses and oxen as picturesque backdrops for Nativity scenes carries the subliminal message of human dominance. He passed out two leaflets, one denouncing manger births as invasions of animal space, the other arguing that stables are "penned environments" where animals are incarcerated against their will. He had no opinion about elves or candy canes.

Signs declaring "Free the Bethlehem 2" began to appear, referring to the obviously exploited ass and ox. Someone said the halo on Jesus' head was elitist. Mary was exasperated. "And what about you, old mother?" she said sharply to an elderly woman. "Are you here to attack the shepherds as prison guards for excluded species, maybe to complain that singing in
Latin identifies us with our Roman oppressors, or just to say that I should have skipped patriarchal religiosity and joined some dumb new-age goddess religion?" "None of the above," said the woman. "I just wanted to tell you that the Magi are here."

Sure enough, the three wise men rode up. The crowd gasped, "They're all male!" And "Not very multicultural!" "Balthasar here is black," said one of the Magi. "Yes, but how many of you are gay or disabled?" someone shouted. A committee was quickly formed to find an impoverished lesbian wise-person among the halt and lame of Bethlehem.

A calm voice said, "Be of good cheer, Mary, you have done well and your son will change the world." At last, a sane person, Mary thought. She turned to see a radiant and confident female face. The woman spoke again: "There is one thing, though. Religious holidays are important, but can't we learn to celebrate them in ways that unite, not divide? For instance, instead of all this business about 'Gloria in excelsis Deo,' why not just 'Season's Greetings'?" Mary said, "You mean my son has entered human history to deliver the message, 'Hello, it's winter'?" "That's harsh, Mary," said the woman. "Remember, your son could make it big in midwinter festivals, if he doesn't push the religion thing too far. Centuries from now, in nations yet unborn, people will give each other pricey gifts and have big office parties on his birthday. That's not chopped liver." "Let me get back to you," Mary said.
Flower Offerings for Christmas

In Memory of

Mary P. Stapleton from Patrick Stapleton; The Deceased Members of the Doud, McHugh, Zihal & Vislocky Families from the Zihal Family; Bernadette & Marvin Vadnais from Carol Vadnais; The Corliss & McKenna Family from Rosann Corliss; Grace & Harry McCloy from Daniel McCloy; Alice, Floyd & Kevin Grodotzke & Jaspar Mazella from the Mazzella Family; Salvatore Misciagno & Victor Squeri from Florence Misciagno; Joseph Capobianco from Christine Capobianco; Joseph & Gilda Nunes from the Malone Family; Assunta Falcone from the Sorrentino Family; The Donnelly & Stauber Families from the Donnelly Family; Joel Langdon from Anita Langdon; The Deceased Members of the Romanelli & Christiansen Families from the Christiansen Family; The Balestriere & DiMeglio Families from the Balestriere Family; Millie Menza from the Menza Family; Johanna Fels from the Mueller Family; Carol S. Burkart from the Burkart Family; Elizabeth Salvetti from the Brodley Family; Donald E. Wallace from Jean Wallace; Mary Madonia & Jerome Agnello from the Agnello Family; The Priester & Casassa Families from the Rose Family; Gunnen, Burke & Gleason Families from the Gleason Family; The Darwell Family from Mary Darwell; Mr. & Mrs. R. Aquita, Mr. & Mrs. P. Sposato & Mr. & Mrs. Tortora from the Sposato Family; Sgt. Frederick J. Burns, Frederick W. Burns, Julia V. Burns & Margaret Foster from the Foster Family; Grace V. Jakubowski from Ted Jakubowski; Grace & Thomas O’Toole from the King Family; Kathryn & Andrew Sinikovic, Peter Foti, George Vandenheusel from Andrea Northacker; Almas Purgatorio from Karina Valencia; Seven from the Merle Family; David & Kathleen Uttenendorfer & Arthur & Patricia Kerley from the Kerley Family; The Camillery & Abdilla Families from the Camillery Family; Jack Palumbo from Carol Palumbo; Guy L. Maniet from the Maniet Family; William Cook from Christine Cook; Agnes & David Fitzgerald from Bridget Reicherter; Our Deceased Family Members from the Murphy Family; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Corichi from The Corichi Family; Angela Nespoli & Edward Schacor from the Salamone Family; Vincenzo D’Auge from the D’Auge Family; Lino P. Tretta, Raffaele Iuliano, Giuseppina Iuliano from the Tretter Family; Helen Matkovic from The Matkovic Family; The Deceased Members of the Maier & Curran Families from the Maier Family; Andrew Yager, Elizabeth Yager, Frank Collins, Ami Giribon, Raymond Collins from the Yager Family; Stephen A. Clifford from the Clifford Family; Grandpa Richard Auslander from Melissa McDevitt; Antonio T. Vieira, Frances C. Vieira, Onofre Escendar, Anthony Vasaturo from the Vieira Family; Michael Pierce & Donald Irwin from the Pierce Family; Barbara Ann Gibson from the McNiff Family; Anne & Charles Yannello from the Schoepfer Family; Family & Friends from Daniel O’Leary; Bridget & Michael O’Shea from the Norkett Family; Mary Perrotta from The Lupardo Family; Joseph Mangiaracina from Frances Mangiaracina; James T. Stafford, Jr. from the Stafford Family; The Deceased Members of Kane, & Rugis Families, Mecabe & Morgan Families from the Kane Family; Clarence Anspake & Lisa Anspake from Grace Anspake; Anne & Daniel Killien & Daniel Bahasci from Helen Killien; Josephine Recchia from the Recchia Family; Adeline & Peter Villella, Jr. from Peter Villella; The Hirten & Agostinacchio Families from the Agostinacchio Family; William & Isabel Kapps, Francis Castanio from Rosemary Noce; Joseph & Leona Daley from Patricia Daley-Jimenez; Thomas Ferris from the Ferris Family; The Luhrs Family & Siegler Family from the Siegler Family; Thomas Brian Ferris & the Rivera & Riley Families and Richard Arab from Margaret Ferris; Gloria Fabisiak from William Fabisiak; Joseph, Helen, Michele and Paul Serwan from the Roskop Family; Mary & Nick D’Alleva from the D’Alleva Family; Mr. & Mrs. C Carboy Sr. & Mr. & Mrs. L. Howard from the Carboy Family; Jim & Chris Curry from the Curry Family; John & Mabel O’Shaughnessy from the O’Shaughnessy Family; The Cacace & Nunziaia Families from the Cacace; Mary & John Caso from the Caso Family; Olimpia
Gabora from the Gabora Family; Helen Burke & Dorothea Zuerker from Kevin Keegan; Vera Carlson, Charles Carlson, Blanche Lipper and Joseph Keller from the Keller Family; All the extended family members of the Kiley Family from the Kiley Family; Helen, Stephen, Joseph and Daniel Nekulak, Frida & Joseph Tomitz and Ann Marie & Herb Ruppenstein and Eve Adams from the Tomitz Family; Amy & Dennis Rich from the Rich Family; Antonio Marsico from Lidia Marsico; Antonio Marsico from Catherine Brooks; Frank Sicurella, Heinrich & Robert Hilsbos from the Sicurella; Angela Perrotto from Kathleen Gabelman; Anthony Cardona; Ed & Joanne Sawicki from the Williams Family; Maurizio & Beatrice Felicetti from Filomena Felicetti; The Wehnes & Arrabito Families from the Wehnes Family; Bennie Bryant from the DiFranco Family; The Jedlica Family; Stella & Richard Morra from the Streicher Family; Don & Peter Storer from the Storer Family; Emily & Harold J. McFadden from the McFadden-Garrett Family; The Bloniarz, McNamara & Tuohy Families from Eileen Bloniarz; The Bloniarz, McNamara & Tuohy Families from the Bloniarz Family; Richard & Mary Laun and Patrick & Ruth Guy from their family; Harry Devlin from Eileen Devlin; (Nanny) Joan Healy from the McClain Family; Annmarie Friedmann from the Friedmann Family; Rocky Laun from the Laun Family; The Deceased members of the Pekoff & Cronin Families from the Pekoff Family; Maria & Giuseppe Rutligiano & Angelo & Palma Sorranno; Bernard & Mary Ference from D. Ference; Mr. & Mrs. William Kirkham from the Moore Family; Richard & Patricia Grinrod from D. Ference; James Valentino from Margie Valentino; Vito J. Orlando & Charles, Arthur & Charlie D’Alessandro and Vito & Frances Ugenti; Linda Caneco from Paul Larocchia; Skinner & Hanrahan Families from the Skinner Family; Margaret & Harold Kelton from the Hanebury Family; Nicola Dragonetti from Carmela Deturris; Douglas R. Smith, Ruth Smith Amelia Viera, Pat Craig and Mr. & Mrs. Mike Fiechter from the Fiechter Family; Melissa Giorgio from the Giorgio Family; Deirdre Ann Curtis, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick L. Tracy, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Horan Sr. and Rose Connor and Deborah A. Horan from Fred Tracy; Mr. & Mrs. B. Agliarolo from the Caliendo Family; Mary & Joseph McNulty from the Perno Family; Michael Grassi, Mary Sessa and the Vento Family from the Vento Family; Bellitti, Ponzio & DeSimone Families from Angela DeSimone; Josephine, Edwin & Robert Rezny from Elaine Rezny; Sturniolo & Salerno Families from Annmarie Sturniolo; Louis Grandwilliams from Rosemary Grandwilliams; Papa George from the Argila Family; Sean Majkowski & Robert Scully from the Majkowski Family; Donald Williams from Eileen Williams Rose Ann Tetro from the Cardona Family; The Karchinski and Pizzulli Families from the Karchinski Family; Rose Wagner from the Burlew Family; Margaret & Dominic Stasia from the Nevelik Family; Thomas F. Dunn from Carol Dunn; John Luksch from the Lamuro Family; Edward P. Nallan, Anthony & Mary Nallan and Tom, Giovanni & Filomena Corillo; Timothy Hickey from the Hicky Family; Anne & Vincent Buonocore & Julia & Joseph Ferriso; Stefan Banas from the Raehse Family; Christine & Frank Sutrera from the Cordova Family; Kayla Donnelly Smith from Alicia Brodsky; the Gasparro & D’Andrea Families from Antoinette Gasparro; Jack & Henrietta Simons & Harold & Veronica Murray; Antonetta Tommaso from the Esposito Family; Edmund Albert & Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pantesco Higbee from the Higbee Family; Maraget & John R. Forgione & Eward J. Dombrowski from the Dombrowski Family; Philip Brian McCaul Jr. & Philip B. McCaul Sr. from the McCaul Family; Toni Totino from Dominick Totino; Alan J. Schwall from Therese M. Schwall; Theresa & Walter Beatty, Christopher Buckhief, Peg & Hugh Mason III from the Mason Family; Agnes Schmitt & Theresa Kenny from the Schmitt Family; the Guiolfoyle & Prior Families from the Guiolfoyle Family; Pat & Tom Fenton from the Farmer Family; In Memory of Gerard Bahnken & Anna & John Brady from Anne Bahnken; James & Mary Butler from Jeanette Butler; Carmel & Josephine Sant from the Caillery Family; Eleanore F. & Victor J. Rydberg from Linda Rydberg; John & Nora O’keefe from the Villanteuva Family; the Deceased Members of the Glynn & Zullo Families; Jane Accurso from Patricia Accurso; Schiebel Family From the Joseph Schiebel; Grace & Tom Giaquinto from the Robinson Family; In Memory of Leonard Benedetti from Lidia Benedetti; Frank Seminara from the Seminara Family;
Brian, William Sr. & Millie Dione & the Fontaines Family from the Dione Family; Rose & Frank Massalin from Julia Rutter Family; Grace & Christian Juergens & Frank Lisi from the Juergens Family; Babato, Maria & Anna DeRosa from Johanna DeRosa; Ruth Palazzolo from the Palazzolo Family; Rae & Richard Falcone from the Rocco Family; Joseph Occhipinti from Lorraine Occhipinti; Jennifer Madigan from Danny Williams; John K. Geiger from the Geiger Family; Robert Coons & Anna Hayden from the Coons Family; Andrew Kollar, Charles & Gisella Malkich, Ilona Guild and Cory Kollar from Mary Kollar; Catherine & Ed Iannielli from the Bonacasa Family; Arthur & Patricia Kerley, Dorothy & Joseph Byrne from the Byrne Family; Angelo & Palma Monteforte & Edwardo & Rose Voli from the Voli Family; Raffaela Rossoano from Carol Ann Rossoano; the Berry & Mousslan Families from the Berry; MaryAnn DiGregorio from Frank DiGregorio; Clematine Wheela from the Volosevich Family; Dorothy Camileri & Kenneth Drusmet from Louis Camilleri; Simhance & Matave Families From Kathleen Foti; the Marich & Wilde Families from the Marich Family; Patricia E. Klein from John J. Klein; William O'Malley from Ellen O'Malley; Albert Wildeman & Joan Petito from Rosemary Petito; Francis J. Barrett from Diane Barrett; Emma Antonio Ceballo, Elizabeth & Herman Luecke from the Luecke Family; baby Deirdre Carrino, Madelyn & Walter Robinson from the Carpano Family; FDNY Captain Vincent M. Giammanna, FDNY Vincent F. Giammona, Maragaret & John Julian & Mae Monahan from the Julian Family; Joseph Gilda and Stephen Nunes from Lisa Malone; John F. Malone from Lisa Malone; Molly Andersen from the Andersen Family; Anne & Clement Solieri from the Solieri Family; Susan & John Iengo from the Solieri; Sr. Mary Louis LoBosco from the Solieri Family; Brian Roche from Kathleen Roche; Mr. & Mrs. J. McDevitt; M. & Mrs. A. Rizzo & John McDevitt Jr. from Mary McDevitt; Members of the Geraghty Family from the Greene Family; Jane & Joseph DePuy, Bill DePuy Kathlene & William Wynn and Edward Wynn from the DePuy Family; Alex Kevin & Kathleen Rose from Bridget Rose; Mom & Dad, Son & Father in-law, Grandparents Reilly, Grandparents Flynn, Ed Gowen, Gerry Flynn, Aunt Anne Petty, Aunt Beryl Flynn, Dolores Coleman and Friends from Linda Wood; the Manney & Williams Families; Diego Gentile from Marie Gentile; Ian Anthony Fricano from Linda Wood; Deceased Members of the Benevento Family from the Benevento; Frank & Toni Rabitto from the Dreichsel; Carole A. Henderson from Robert Henderson; the Smith & Chiariello Families from the Smith; Baby Christopher Murphy from Griessback Family; Thomas F. Fox from Joan M. Fox; Edward and Patricia Woodward; Ellen & John J. Wilson and George O'Shea; Carmel Gardner; the Berlese & Ferrera Families; Arlauskas, Smith, Roskop, Croker and Strasser from Emily Smith; Niedzieler & Lach Families from the Lach Family; Schiavone, Salvini & Vleg Families; Harriet E. & Jannes Markin from Linda Rydberg

Private Intentions

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Waters, J. Cowhey, Mr & Mrs. Richard Klimkowski, Mr. & Mrs. Laurence F. Oakley, Mrs. Norma Murphy, Mr. Richard Field & Ms. Ethel Kleinhans, Mr. & Mrs. John Dimartino, Ms. Rosemarie Arcuri, Mrs. Joan Walsh, Mrs. Mary Kline, Mr. & Mrs. P. Guzman, Mrs. Dora Devito, Ms. Joyce Little, Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Negron, Mr. Thomas Caraccio, Mrs. Sieglinde Zencheck, Mr. & Mrs. R. Rebentisch, Mrs. Maria Cuello, Mr. Robert Walsh, Mr. & Mrs. John Ferrante, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Facinelli, Mr. & Mrs. Ramon Limbog, Mr. & Mrs. Casimir Rappa, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Barat, Mr. & Mrs. James Heron, Mr. & Mrs. William Fitzgerald, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McHugh, Mr. & Mrs. John Scuderi, Mr. & Mrs. James Gillen, Mr. & Mrs. James Witt. Mrs. Elsa Mass, Mr. & Mrs. John Sammut, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Irwin, Mr. & Mrs. William Mallon, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Wuchte, Mrs. Margie Giuliano, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Iadevait, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Sproule, Mrs. Joyce Quinn, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kenny, Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Ripert
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made.

There was a man sent from God whose name was …

The true light – Jesus! – was coming into the world. Those who believe in His name become the children of God.

He talked about a person who is the true light for the world.

Shade in the shapes with a ★ to find his name.

Find the hidden letters in the picture.

BELIEVE
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

Add and subtract letters to create a word. Fill in the blanks below.

- ON + - IR = 1
- PS + - OS = 2
- SK + - CA + - TTE + OG = 3

In Him was ________, and that ________ was 1
the ________ of all ________

1 2 3

Find 15 differences in the bottom picture.

He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.

Find the 12 underlined words in the word search.

To all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.