



December 23, 2018



Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church’s liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer. He is, the “ruler . . . whose origin is from . . . ancient times.” He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse and anointed king. God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever. Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom. He is “the shepherd of Israel,” and He has “come to save us.”

In two days’ time, we, the believers will sing, “Joy to the world, the Lord is here.” Away from all the consumeristic drama centered on Santa Clause; away from materialistic approach assigned to the Christmas tree which stands as the tree of material gifts that temporarily cheers our hearts; may we Christians, the believing community find the spiritual meaning to the celebration! Let Jesus, the Prince of Peace and the Reason for our season, be the center of our celebration. Are we, then, ready to give heed to the call of angels singing that a savior is born and are we ready to journey with the Shepherds in search Him? Let us not forget that He is ‘out there’ waiting to be discovered, and let us not shy away from searching Him among the poor, needy, underprivileged and the exploited.

Jesus is God’s divine gift—the true embodiment of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Along with the Staff and our Deacons, I extend warm greetings to all our parishioners; may the blessings of this holy season be with you! Wish you all a meaningful, Spirit filled Christmas celebration this year, God Bless you!

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony

FOR MY ST. PETER PARISHIONERS – I thank you from my heart for the blessing of your prayers and support, upon the death of my mother, Maria Alangaram! It means so much to have know you are with me in heart and spirit, both while I was in India, and now as I adjust to my mom's absence from earth.
Thank you! Fr. Michael

Thank You!

Your help to defray the costs of flowers for our Christmas and Easter celebrations is very much appreciated!



UPCOMING RETREATS:

HEALING AND WHOLENESS AFTER ABORTION — Winter holidays are traditionally a time of reflection, and those who have lost children to abortion are reminded of the loss, the regrets, the if-onlys. Decide now that it is time for hope and healing — why wait any longer to heal? Experience a Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat, **February 15-17 (2019) in Portland, or March 15-17 (2019) in Medford.** It’s a SAFE, Confidential, and Compassionate environment! For more info call: 541-942-2861, or email: projectaurora@aol.com, or visit the national website: www.project-aurora.org.

OPEN HOUSES AT LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

Faith-based education where students are known, challenged, and given the tools to be successful!



Marist High School: Preview Day on **January 12th** (Saturday) **1pm** — register at **12:30pm**, or online at: www.marisths.org.

O'Hara School: Open House on **January 27th** (Sunday) **11am—1:00pm** — register online at: www.oharaschool.org

St. Paul School: Open House on **January 27th** (Sunday) **1130am—1:30pm**... for info call 541-344-1401

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2019 **National Education Contest** is open to all students grades 4-12. You may be enrolled in any school or home-schooled to enter. There are two themes (choose one): "**HERE I AM LORD, I COME TO DO YOUR WILL**" (Ps. 40), or "**DOING MY BEST TO DO GOOD**". For a list of official rules and an entry form ask your parish office or visit the National CDA website: catholicdaughters.org or contact Julia Kelso at cdacourtoregon118@gmail.com. Entries are judged at the local level with first place winners moving to state and then the national level. Entries are due by January 30, 2019.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Scholarship for any **8th grader entering 9th grade at a Catholic High School**. Requirements 1) You must be Catholic. You do NOT have to have a relative who is a CDA member. 2) You must be attending a Catholic High School in the Fall. 3) An essay of approximately 250-300 words typed and doubled-spaced entitled "**HOW WILL I BE COMPASSIONATE AND BRING THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO OTHERS?**" Entries must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2019. For the application/cover sheet and further instructions please visit the National CDA website: catholicdaughters.org

WHITE ELEPHANT & COOKIE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL — Join Eugene Catholic Young Adults' (ECYA) on **Friday, Dec. 28th**, for an evening fun, with goodies and a white elephant gift exchange — held at 385 Bushnell Ln (97404). ECYA is for everyone, ages 21-39. For more info. and other events coming up, contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com (541-270-9329) & facebook.com/EugeneCYA.

..... **ALSO — *Theology on Tap*** every **2nd Thursday** at the K of C Hall

Come, Lord Jesus!



Yes, it has finally come upon us. The fourth Sunday and Week of Advent. But, wait, what is this? Dec. 23rd? Oh, no! That means we have even less time than we thought we did. PANIC!!!!

Or ... perhaps, we can try something else. This last full day of preparation can be hectic — maybe even mind-boggling. But only if we let it! Keep in mind the reading of Micah, where we hear, "From Bethlehem, the smallest clan of Judah, shall come forth one whose origin is from of old, from ancient times...and **he shall be peace.**"

The Prince of Peace — whom we all prepare to meet — not the prince of stress, not the prince of perfect decorations, not the prince of harried household schedules. Try to do all you can today to remain focused. *For this is the day in which our Advent promise of hope is realized*, and we all give witness and proclaim the glory of the birth of Christ, of our Emmanuel, of our God who is with us!