



Christmas Season 2006-07

Parishioners of Saint Joseph Church and
Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, Coatesville

Dear Parishioners,

Dreams die when they are too small or too timid to be worthy of enduring life. Great dreams are big and wild and universal, and they lie in the heart of child and adult alike. They are found in the lives of people in every culture and every century, and best of all in Isaiah, the great poet of Israel and prophet of Christmas, who declared that "swords shall be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks" and that "nations shall not train for war again."

Isaiah knew that God would choose to offer the gift of divinity in the wrappings of a baby boy. God became a newborn, and His cry in the night pounds forever on the consciousness of humanity, demanding our attention as only a baby can — our attention to gentleness.

Christmas is the dream of a gentle world, the true world that lives in our hearts. So regardless of the stark reality around us, let us try, for one shining moment, to have friendship and hospitality as the rule, to make our homes warm and welcoming, to gift each other with our presence, to give to the poor, to light up our trees and our streets and our windows and our faces.

The holidays that we remember with gratitude are occasions of personal sharing and celebration. They are times when we listen to the struggles and growth of the people we love. They are days when we smile at ourselves and see the hope in other people's eyes. They are times when we share table fellowship by breaking the bread of our lives. They are moments when the life of God within us leaps and laughs at the sound of another's voice.

Christmas, dearest friends, is a time to tell once again our faith-story into the darkness of the night, and to know that He who is our Day-Star will indeed win out. God love you this holy day, tomorrow and always!

Merry Christmas!

Sincerely in Mary's Child,

Father John Oulds

Please refer to the seasonal schedule
printed on the reverse side of this message
for the occasions of Mass and Confession.

REMAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

In Saint Joseph Church, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available
on Saturday, December 23rd, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.
on Sunday, December 24th, from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

In Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available
on Saturday, December 23rd, from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
on Sunday, December 24th, from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

In Saint Joseph Church, festive Christmas Masses will be offered
on Christmas Eve, December 24th, at 9:30 p.m., preceded by a
Choir Program of Sacred Song at 9:00 p.m.
on Christmas Day, December 25th, at 10:30 a.m.

In Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church, festive Christmas Masses will be offered
on Christmas Eve, December 24th, at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a
Choir Program of Sacred Song at 5:30 p.m.
on Christmas Eve, December 24th, at 12:00 midnight, preceded
by a Choir Program of Sacred Song at 11:30 p.m.
on Christmas Day, December 25th, at 9:00 a.m.

Note:

Falling on a Monday, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, observed on January 1, 2007, does not have the obligation of attending Mass usually attached to it. It is hoped, however, that personal Marian devotion would prompt one to participate in Mass honoring the holy Virgin-Mother. A Festive Mass that day will be offered at 9:00 a.m. in Saint Joseph Church.

One of our most significant financial sources in support of our respective West End Catholic Parishes is the Christmas Collection.

In light of ever-rising ordinary costs, as well as the burden of newly added extraordinary responsibilities, please be as generous as your means allow to this annual appeal. Allow the lavish generosity of God in giving us His Son to be the standard of your giving to the Savior's Mystical Body, the Church, this Christmas.