

# *Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish-Shrine*

## The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 25th, 2016



The Italian National Parish of the Archdiocese of Chicago  
Served by The Missionaries of Saint Charles – Scalabrinians  
1101 N 23rd Ave - Melrose Park - IL - 60160  
P (708) 344 4140 — F (708)344 0902

### *Staff*

#### *Pastor*

-Fr. Miguel Alvarez, C.S.

#### *Associate Pastors*

-Fr. Augusto Feccia, C.S.  
-Fr. Juan F. Aguiar C.S.

#### *Parish Deacons*

-John Battisto  
-Giulio Camerini  
-Jose Ramon Arenas

#### *Secretaries*

- Nancy Díaz  
- Daniel Michel

### *Office Hours*

#### *Sunday*

-8:00am—3:00pm

#### *Tuesday- Friday*

-8:30am—8:30pm

#### *Saturday*

-8:30am — 1:00pm  
-2:00pm—5:30pm

#### *Monday*

- We're Closed

### *Sunday Mass Schedule*

5:30pm - Sat. Vigil Mass  
7:45am - English  
9:00am - Español  
10:30am - Italiano  
12:00pm - English  
1:30pm - Español  
5:00pm - Español

### *Weekly Mass Schedule*

#### *English*

-Monday - Saturday at 7:45am

#### *Español*

-Martes y Jueves a las 6:30pm

#### *Italiano*

-Sotto richiesta

THE SCALABRINIAN MISSIONARIES  
AT MOUNT CARMEL SINCE 1905



Our Lady of Mt Carmel, is served  
by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St.  
Charles – Scalabrinians – .

We are an community of Catholic religious  
serving migrants and refugees of different cultures,  
religions and ethnicities in 32 countries.

The Congregation was founded in Italy  
on November 28, 1887,  
by Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini (1839-1905),  
bishop of Piacenza (Italy).

Our missionary focus is to be migrants  
with the migrants and to be in mission  
with people on the move,  
with a special priority for the poorest  
And neediest migrants.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP  
Blase J. *Card.* Cupich

Christmas 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Peace be with you and with all people of good will in this holy season.

After observing the Jubilee Year of Mercy and as we begin a journey of renewal in the Archdiocese of Chicago, we have come to know fresh hope in our hearts. We do not find the source of our hope in our own strength. With the Blessed Virgin Mary, we recognize that our hope comes from God. As her son took flesh within her womb, she proclaimed, “God has remembered his promise of mercy.” The birth of her son Jesus is also the birth of our true and lasting hope.

In this moment, we find ourselves challenged in so many ways. Together, we face the plague of war, violence, and a lack of respect for life and for the dignity of all people. On a personal level, we all struggle in different ways, whether with family issues or work or illness or in trying to do the right thing. Still, we hope, because “God has visited his people.”

Pray with me that our celebration of the birth of Jesus may truly renew our hope in God, the only hope that can sustain us on the journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago



***Church Services***

We encourage all to register  
at the Parish-Shrine.

+++

*Les invitamos a registrarse  
en el Santuario Parroquial.*

***Support Staff***

Business Manager  
Alexander Sanchez 708.345.3632

Religious Education  
Modesta Martinez 708.344.4140

Activities Coordinator  
Miguel Aldana 708-345-3632

Music Coordinator  
Ann Marie Nabor 708.579.5373

Community Center Site Director  
Pablo Cruz 708.345.3632

***Sacramental Life***

Confessions *Confesiones*  
Saturdays—*Sábados*

4:00pm—5:30pm or by appointment/ *o con cita*.

Baptisms *Bautizos*  
Come to the parish office. *Pase a la oficina parroquial.*

Weddings *Bodas*  
Contact the priest at least six months in advance.

*Contactar al sacerdote seis meses antes de la ceremonia*

Quinceañera  
*Contactar a la secretaría cuatro meses antes de la ceremonia.*

Presentaciones  
*Contactar la Secretaría al menos dos semanas antes*

***Religious Services***

Recitation of the Holy Rosary  
Mon—Sat at 7:00am

Adoration *Adoración al Stmo. Sacramento*  
Wednesdays 6:00pm—8:00pm

Novena & Benediction  
Wednesday/Miércoles 7:30pm

Grupo de Oración Carismática  
Martes a las 7:00pm

Grupo de Estudio Bíblico  
Miércoles a las 7:00pm

***Other Services***

Gift Shop Hours *Venta de Artículos Religiosos*  
During the regular office hours.  
*Durante las horas de oficina*

Community Center *Centro Comunitario*  
Social outreach *Servicios a la comunidad* (708) 345 - 3632

Food Pantry *Despensa de comida*  
Wednesdays 4:00pm—6:00pm

Religious Education—*Catecismo*

Saturday - *Sábados* 3:30pm — 6:30pm  
Sunday - *Domingos* 10:00am—1:00pm

- Mass Included—*Incluye la Misa*

**For the Month of**

Dec 26th Mon/ Lun

7:30pm Misa por la Paz

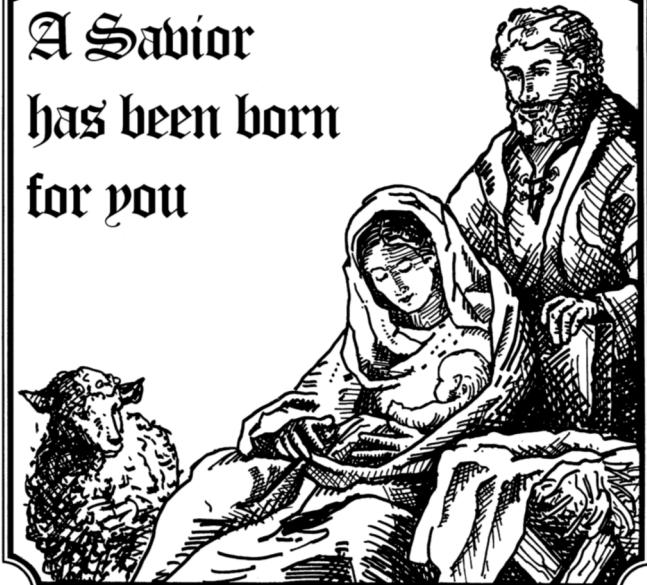
Dec 31st Sat/Sab New Year's Eve

5:30pm Bilingual Mass of Thanksgiving

Jan 1 Sun/Dom

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
Regular Sunday Schedule

A Savior  
has been born  
for you



The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
— John 1:5

***Weekly Offering***

December 17 – 18, 2016

Regular Sunday Collection: \$4,086.00

Children: \$185.00

### From the Pastor's Desk

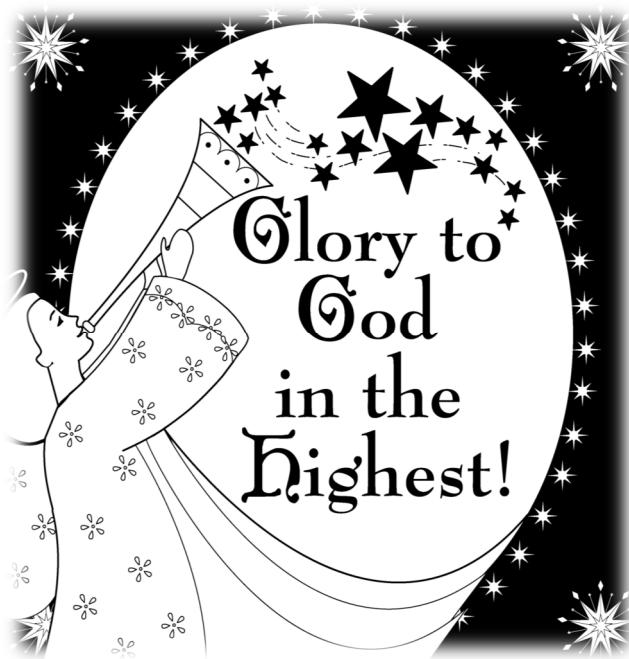


**Glory to God in the Highest!** The season of warmth and good wishes has arrived, the time to embrace those who are near and those who are far is here, the opportunity to fill the heart with good memories and stain them with nostalgia is upon us! The birth of the savior provides believers -and even those who do not believe in Christ- with the opportunity to get the best out of ourselves and strive to make the world a better place. This is indeed the best season to be humans... when we remember the moment the Son of God became one of us and thus blessed humankind with Graces beyond telling.

As you come to Church to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I take the opportunity to wish each one of those who walk through our doors a Blessed Christmas! May the infant Jesus and His gentle mother, shower your life and the lives of those you love the most with abundance of Graces. This is a special time indeed, I know many who are not considered our regular parishioner visit our Parish-Shrine with devotion and piety on this special occasion: may your visit this day fill your existence with the certainty of God's love for you. Jesus came into the world so that all may have life, and have it to the full, says the Gospel, so I pray that today you feel indeed much more blessed because of your decision to be here. To all our devoted parishioners, those who day in and day out struggle with us in the building of God's Kingdom here on earth, may your faithfulness and devotion to our Parish-Shrine and our Lady of Mount Carmel, be rewarded by the One who was born in a stable to teach us the value of simplicity.

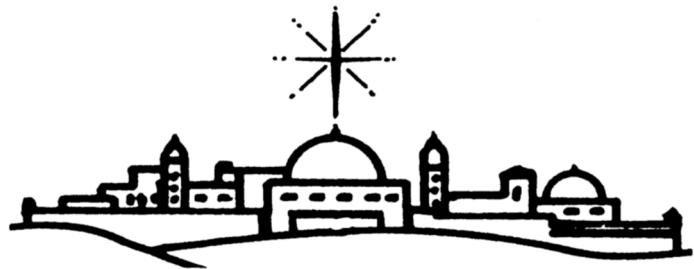
As I kneel before the infant Jesus, I raise my heart in prayer for each one of you! For the one who is near, and for the one who has walked astray; for the ones who have suffered the loss of a dear one, and for those who are joyfully celebrating in the company of relatives and friends; for those who experience health and wellbeing, and for those who are struggling with a difficult illness; for those who feel the warming presence of God in their lives, and for those who experience solitude and loneliness, for each one of you I pray while reminding you all: Jesus came to us on a holy night... in the middle of the night, to remind us that God is at our side every single night of our lives!

*Adsum,*



#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The Church office will be closed on Friday December 30th and January 1st due to the holidays.
- The Community Center will also be closed on Friday the 23rd, Monday the 26th, Friday the 30th of December, and Monday the 2nd of January .



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

## THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.



### Mensaje del Párroco



**Hoy, ¡un Hijo nos ha nacido, un niño se nos ha dado!** Al celebrar el día glorioso cuando el Hijo de dios nació en Belén partiendo en dos la historia humana, quiero aprovechar para desear a cada uno de ustedes toda clase de Bendiciones y Gracias celestiales. Que desde el pesebre donde reposa, el Niño Jesús les alcance todo lo que necesitan y desean. Que, al sentarse en familia a contemplar el nacimiento, cada uno de ustedes puedan descubrir en ese pequeño que descansa en pajas, el amor tremendo e incondicional del Dios que en su hijo nos ha elegido para que fuésemos su Pueblo Santo.

La celebración de la Navidad de Cristo nos ofrece la oportunidad para hacer contacto con el corazón y descubrir la importancia de llenarlo con recuerdos positivos, pensamientos alegres y deseos buenos. Esta es la época cuando la gente hace el esfuerzo para dar lo mejor de sí mismo, y al esforzarnos en la construcción de un mundo mejor, estamos colaborando con el propósito de la venida de Cristo al mundo: hacer de la historia humana una autentica Historia de Salvación. Aprovechemos pues de este tiempo y esforcémonos por

aligerar el paso... vacíemos el corazón de todo aquello que pesa y nos hace la existencia más difícil para llenarlo de la Paz que los Ángeles cantaron en los capos de Belén cuando Jesús nació. Hagamos el esfuerzo este día de dar el mejor de los regalos a quienes más necesitan de nosotros: una palabra amable, una llamada telefónica que restaure la relación lastimada, una mirada de perdón que suavice la relación con quienes estamos distantes, un gesto gentil que haga olvidar ese resentimiento añejo que cargamos en la mente... En fin, al contemplar a Cristo hecho un niño en el pesebre, podamos descubrir en El, el regalo más grande que Dios pudo habernos hecho y entonces, inspirados en el Padre de las Misericordias, ojalá nos atrevamos nosotros a regalar misericordia.

A cada uno de ustedes, los cercanos y los distantes, los parroquianos de siempre y los que vienen en esta ocasión como visita, a los que sufren y a los que se alegran, a los que enfrentan la vida con valor ya los que se sienten doblados por la tragedia, a los que hoy están llenos de alegría y a los que están llenos de nostalgia, a todos y cada uno: ¡Feliz Navidad!

*Adsum,*



### AVISOS IMPORTANTES

- La oficina parroquial estara cerrada el viernes 30 de diciembre, y el lunes 1 de enero.
- El Centro Comunitario estara cerrado el Lunes 26, y el Viernes 30 de Diciembre. Tambien el Lunes 2 de Enero.





## TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Hoy celebramos el nacimiento de Jesús, comenzando con la Misa de Gallo. A esta Misa se le añade la tradición popular que ha comenzado en el hogar con pesebres, comidas y regalos. Se nos haría difícil imaginar terminar el año sin la Navidad. Pero el calendario cristiano sólo la ha festejado algunos 1800 años. Los primeros cristianos únicamente celebraban la Pascua de Resurrección, siguiendo lo que todos los evangelios nos relatan de los eventos de la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Jesús. Sólo Mateo y Lucas mencionan su nacimiento.

Alrededor del año 200 d.C., los cristianos egipcios empezaron a conmemorar el nacimiento de Jesús el 20 de marzo que era el noveno mes de su calendario. Con el tiempo, la idea de festejar el nacimiento del Mesías se extendió a otras comunidades cristianas, pero con diversas fechas como el 19 de abril, el 6 de enero, el 28 de marzo y otras. Fue hasta el siglo cuarto que se fijó la fecha para el 25 de diciembre, gracias a Juan Crisóstomo y al Papa Julio I. Otras fuentes señalan que en el año 366 los cristianos comenzaron a celebrar el nacimiento de Cristo, sol de justicia, precisamente el 25 de diciembre.

En realidad no sabemos cuándo nació Jesús, pero sí sabemos que hay que celebrar el hecho que Dios se hizo uno de nosotros.



## EL DON DE LA PALABRA DE DIOS

En este día de recibir y dar regalos, parece apropiado que tomemos un momento para reflexionar sobre el gran don de la Palabra de Dios. La Palabra de Dios es creativa y por eso siempre apunta a su autor, siempre nos llama a responder. La Palabra de Dios es poderosa y puede enlazar lo sublime con lo ridículo, lo trascendente con lo inmanente, lo divino con lo humano. La Palabra de Dios es llena de gracia, establece una relación de intimidad profunda entre nosotros y Dios.

En el corazón de la Palabra de Dios yace una tensión seductora entre lo misterioso y lo mundano. En nuestra celebración litúrgica, esta tensión sin resolución revela el significado de la vida para nosotros y también nos llama a responder para actuar según ese significado.

Una vez que la aceptamos y la abrimos, el don de la Palabra de Dios es un regalo que sigue dando y sigue llamándonos a dar a cambio. Nos reta a ser como el dador de regalos y a convertirse en regalos para los demás, no solo en Navidad, sino en cada momento de la vida.



**La luz brilla en la tinieblas,  
y las tinieblas no la recibieron.**

### Fr. Feccia's Reflection



**Mentre tutto è immerso in un profondo silenzio, nel cuore della notte,** il Verbo, «rivolto verso Dio e che è Dio», si è fatto carne. A tutti coloro che lo accolgono, «dà il potere di diventare figli di Dio» (Giov. 1,12). È il centro del mistero che si celebra a natale.

Non si tratta di un mito, e neppure di un'ideologia: il messia Signore e salvatore, è nato in un dato giorno, in un determinato luogo. Nulla viene detto della sua nascita, ma si vede Maria, la sposa verginale, sposa di Giuseppe, occuparsi lei stessa del bambino. «*Madre e levatrice!*» esclamerà san Girolamo, viene così custodito il mistero della manifestazione di questo primogenito, unico al mondo, perché uomo e Dio.

Subito si palesa la delicatezza di Dio verso i piccoli e gli umili, oggetto della sua benevolenza: l'annuncio della nascita del buon pastore viene recato prima di tutto ad un gruppetto di poveri pastori. E il segno che viene dato loro è quello della povertà in persona (2Cor. 8,9). Un simile messaggio non può che avere una profonda eco nel loro cuore. Per essi, la parola che il Signore ha fatto loro conoscere è sicuramente qualcosa di reale, un «avvenimento» (Lc 2,15). Accorrono quindi senza indugio e trovano ciò che il loro desiderio cercava: non la ricchezza, la potenza, ma il bambino, la realtà del segno che era stato loro dato. E questo basta. Sono in sintonia con lui, e subito diventano i primi missionari del vangelo, diffondendo nei dintorni la buona notizia.

E noi? Sappiamo unirci ai pastori nel rendimento di grazie? Non basta chinarsi con stupore sulla mangiatoia: bisogna credere e vivere la propria fede. Come Maria, che serba tutte queste cose nel suo cuore per continuare a meditarle, testimone per eccellenza del mistero.

**Figlio di un popolo**— Matteo sempre preoccupato di vedere in Gesù il compimento delle scritture, resta fedele alla tradizione biblica, dandoci la genealogia di colui che sarà il protagonista del vangelo. Ne ricorda i principali antenati, soprattutto quelli che hanno creduto alle promesse divine. Dio chiama anche Giuseppe a collaborare, oscuramente, col compito di inserire legalmente Gesù nella famiglia di Davide, secondo la promessa di Natan (2Sam. 7,12). L'incarnazione avviene in questa collaborazione degli uomini. Perché Cristo possa «nascere» anche oggi, come parteciperemo noi, nel mondo attuale, alla sua nascita?

### Un bambino è nato per noi

Per riconquistare gli uomini, per sollevarli verso di sé, per parlare con loro, Dio è venuto quaggiù come un bambino, come un balbettio che è facile soffocare. E molti effettivamente lo soffocano. Lo soffocano facendo del Natale la festa del consumo, dello spreco istituzionalizzato: festa dei regali e dei lustrini, della tredicesima e del panettone, festa di una certa poesia di generale bontà, di un sentimentalismo che si vernicia di generosità e commozione. Altri soffocano Dio-Bambino impedendogli di crescere: Dio rimane bambino per tutta la loro vita: una fragile Statuetta di terracotta, relegata in una scatola, che si depone nella bambagia una volta all'anno; solo una scusa per dare un certo «colore» religioso alla grande baldoria del natale pagano. Le parole che questo Bambino ha portato agli uomini non sono ascoltate: sono impegnative ed inopportune mentre un cristianesimo-caramella è molto più comodo.





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**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**