

17955 Leslie Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 9A4

PH: 905-853-5009

FAX: 905-853-9391

EMAIL:

st.elizabethseton@rogers.com

Website:

www.stelizabethsetonparish.com

Mass Times

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 4:30pm

Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am

*Polish Mass: 5:00pm on the last Sunday of each month.

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Monday to Thursday: 9:00am

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

905-898-4264

Website: sjcses.blogspot.com

Catholic Community Services

of York Region: 905-770-7040

Catholic Cemeteries: 905-889-7467

St. John's Cemetery

905-898-4137 ext. 226

New Parishioner?

Welcome to St. Elizabeth Seton!

If you would like to register, forms are available at the church entrance or the parish office.

Parishioners with a change of address, please inform the Parish office.

Envelopes may also be acquired at the office.

Please introduce yourself to Fr. Roy Roberts after Mass!



Parish Schools

Good Shepherd School

905-895-0303

St. Elizabeth Seton School

905-853-0340

Our Lady of Good Counsel

905-478-4242

Sacred Heart High School

905-895-3340

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish

Feast of the Holy Family

December 27, 2020



Pastoral Team

Fr. Roy Roberts, Pastor

Deacon Marian Pawliszko

Deacon Stephen Pitre

Parish Staff

Parish Administrator ~ Ann Lynch

Sacramental Coordinator - Grades 2 & 7 ~ Jennifer McAvoy

Rectory Administrator—Nancy Rojas

Regular Office Hours

Mon. 9:00am—4:00pm

Tues., Wed., and Thurs. 9:00am—8:00pm ~ Fri., 9am—1pm

Sat. 2:00pm—6:00pm Sun. 8:00am—1:00pm



Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday ~ 3:00 - 3:30 pm

Or By Appointment

Sacrament of Baptism or Marriage: Please contact the office.

For those interested in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children of Catechetical age please contact Fr. Roy Roberts

Christmas came Late

In the time of the early Church, the celebration of birthdays was considered an undesirable pagan ritual. For the early Christians, one's death was considered the real birthday as it indicated the birth into glory with God. So the infancy narratives found only in Matthew and Luke and not in Mark or John were not as important as the Passion narrative and the accompanying feasts of Good Friday, Resurrection Sunday, and Pentecost. It wasn't until over 300 years after the resurrection that the birth of Jesus took on spiritual significance in the universal Church.

Of course records of dates of birth were never kept, and since Jesus' life prior to his public life starting at around age 30 are pretty much a mystery, therefore the actual date of Jesus's birth is unknown. But in an oral culture, where details and statistics upon which we thrive, were insignificant and unimportant. So the early Church looked to their world to pick a date to celebrate that birth. Nature gave them the perfect rhythm to highlight the coming of the Light - the winter solstice, the time when the light begins to conquer darkness once again.

It is disputed as to whether Christmas was the Christianization of the Roman pagan festival of Saturnalia, but with the early Church trying desperately to disassociate itself from the pagan world, it is unlikely that they would have taken a pagan festival and made it its own.

Another theory is that Christmas is derived from the spring equinox which heralds the arrival and rebirth of Spring. This was connected with the fourth day of creation when the sun was created. The annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary was celebrated then, and so nine months later was the celebration of Christmas. Early records show that the first mention of a Christmas celebration in Rome was 336 a.d., but it wasn't until the 9th century that Christmas was part of the universal Church calendar with its own Mass. Now it has four distinct Masses with their own sets of prayers and readings.

Live Streamed Masses

Christmas Eve - 4:30 pm
(Choir begins at 3:45) (here)
from St. Michael's Cathedral with
Cardinal Collins 8pm

Livestream - St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica
Christmas Day - 11:00 am (here)

Christmas 2020

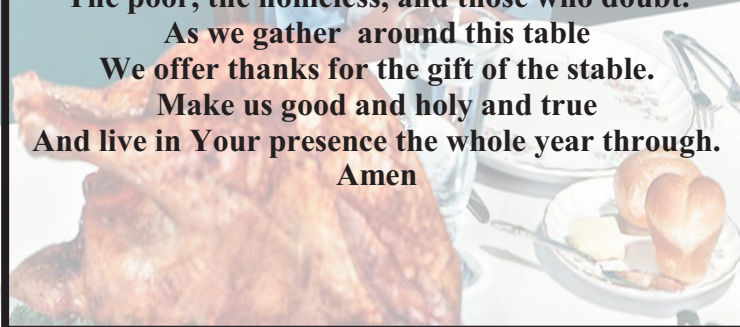
'Twas Christmas this year as an 'annus horribilus'
With protocols and restrictions that were quite rigorous.
Social distancing became the mandated norm
The wearing of masks was the new social form.
Some found it difficult, the isolation was hard
Some have even been emotionally scarred.
We introverts though, there wasn't so much to miss
The quiet and slow pace was an introspective bliss.
There was lots of new vocabulary to articulate
The favorite word of the year is 'particulate'
The churches were closed but then opened in part
Allowing truncated worship to have a re-start.
Limits on everything like music and seats
Processions and communion and even song sheets.
Thankfully we connected via live stream
Right to your homes our signal was beamed.
It's certainly different, kind of weird one might say
And now we are relegated to the restrictive zone grey.
So for Christmas this year, things are all changed
Our annual rhythm is severely deranged.
It is really surreal, kind of betwixt and between
A Christmas like in my lifetime has never been seen.
Like all the Whos from Whoville according to Dr.
Seuss
Nothing can stop Christmas, nary an excuse.
So whether apart, or alone or just wanting more
We never truly know just what may be in store.
The unknowing and uncontrollable demand our faith
trust
Believing in our God who is merciful and just.
Christmas is not found in presents, nor gifts nor trees
It's not found in gatherings nor food not even
nativities.
It emerges from our hearts when we have courage to
love
Which weds our lives with the Life from above.
From the Word that took flesh, it has ever been thus
The Incarnation continues, God is born in us.
Merry Christmas.

Fr. Roy



Christmas Grace before Dinner

As we bow our heads to pray
Bless us Lord this Christmas day
Grant us peace the whole year through
With family, friends and the whole world too.
Send us Joy deep within
That conquers woe with but a grin.
Make us Love that knows no bound
That in those we love You may be found.
Make us grateful for all you give
For family, and friends and food by which we live.
Let us always remember those without
The poor, the homeless, and those who doubt.
As we gather around this table
We offer thanks for the gift of the stable.
Make us good and holy and true
And live in Your presence the whole year through.
Amen



Christmas Quiz

1. What does the word Bethlehem mean?
2. How many magi were there?
3. Jesus was descended from a King. What was the king's name?
4. What month was Jesus born in?
5. What were the three gifts that the magi presented to Jesus?
6. How many days is the Christmas season?
7. What is traditionally the last day of Christmas called?
8. King Wenceslaus looked out his window on the day after Christmas. Which saint is celebrated the day after Christmas?
9. Approximately how many years after the resurrection of Jesus was the first Christmas officially celebrated?
10. In Canada, besides Sundays, there are only two solemnities that are also Holy Days of Obligation. These feasts rarely fall on a Sunday. What are these two celebrations?
11. Christmas was banned in England in 1647, Scotland in 1640, and in Boston in 1659. One of the reasons was that Christmas was considered a papist invention. What Protestant sect was behind these actions?
12. For how many days do we celebrate Christmas?

Why 'Merry' Christmas

It is Happy Easter, Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Birthday. Why is it not Happy Christmas? Now before all the English write it, let me explain. Although the actual reason is unknown, there are a couple of ideas. Now the Queen always wishes us a 'Happy Christmas'. Some speculate that the word 'merry' was rather a commoners' word, associated with making 'merry' with rowdy, raucous lower classes, despite it being Bishop John Fisher who wished Oliver Cromwell a "Merry Christmas" in a letter dated in 1534. "Happy" became a higher class and more proper expression demanded by the dignity of Christmas.

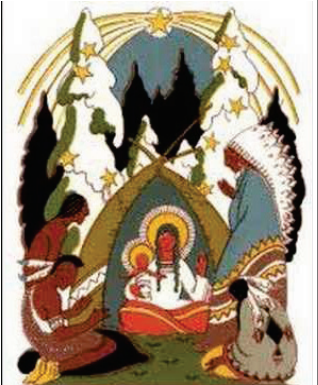
Historians postulate that it comes down to grammar. 'Happy' is a passive state of being, and 'Merry' has more dynamic to it, more of an invitation to be 'rowdy and raucous'. Perhaps in this time of pandemic when 'raucous and rowdy' is frowned upon, we should or could greet each other as 'Happy Christmas' and save 'Merry Christmas' for more exciting possibilities. Maybe the French say it best, 'Joyeux Noel' - Joyous Christmas.

Have a good
Christmas, eh!



The Huron Carol

This song has its origins in our Archdiocese, long before the Archdiocese existed. It was written in 1642 by St. Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary to the Huron or Wendat people at St. Marie among the Hurons in Midland. St. Jean used imagery familiar to the Wendat community to convene the arrival of Jesus. It was written in the Wendat language using the tune of an old French folk song. The carol has seen many variations to its original lyrics but still evokes a sense of earthiness to its themes. The song has been covered by some of the most popular Canadian singers, from Bruce Cockburn, Loreena McKinnett, Crash Test Dummies, Bare Naked Ladies, the Canadian Tenors and Sarah McLaughlin. Tom Jackson a Canadian singer and actor created an annual tour across Canadian in support of local foodbanks called the 'Huron Carole Tour'.



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