



# SEASONS

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza

The Nativity of Our Lord & January—Year A

Current from 25th December 2022 until 29th January 2023

The Parish Office will be closed from 25/12 until 9/1. During this time you are welcome to speak with Fr Patrick—select option “4” when you ring. Urgent calls for the Sacraments can be arranged by selecting option”5”

**313 Canadian Bay Rd  
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930  
Phone: 9787 7777**

**Email: [MountEliza@cam.org.au](mailto:MountEliza@cam.org.au)**

**Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>**

**Office Days/Hours:**

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Friday 9.30am to 4pm

**Pastoral Leadership Team**

*Fr Patrick Bradford*

*Ruth Hilton Joe Sayah*

*Paul Keane Emma Chapple*

*Sandra Taylor Kathy Raccanello*

## Church Services for December 28, 29,30 & The month of January

Wednesday	Mass	10.00am
Thursday	Mass	10.00am
Friday	Adoration	9.00am
	Mass	10.00am

### **Sunday Mass**

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

### **Reconciliation**

Friday 9.00am - 10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm—5.00pm

St Thomas More acknowledges the Traditional Land owners, the Bunurong people on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the

## Dear Friends



The birth of a child is an exciting moment for the whole family. As parents and siblings lay eyes on the newborn for the first time, they see a glimpse, something of themselves looking back at them. There is a sense of wonder – who will this child grow up to be? What path will they take? What adventures await them? If this is true of ordinary mums and dads, imagine the awe and wonder experienced by Mary, the Mother of God, as she looked upon the face of her child – seeing in her son something familiar from her side of the family, and something mysterious and unknown coming from Jesus dad

Incredibly, Mary (and Joseph) were the first people who would gaze on the face of God. Unlike the brief visions of God from the Old Testament, where our ancestors caught a passing glimpse of the eternal one shrouded in cloud or fire, Mary and Joseph would embrace this divine child as their own. Jesus is someone both familiar and close to us, and yet at the same time veiled and ethereal, beyond this world. His birth is a strange event - God taking on flesh, becoming one of us, entering into our world while remaining almighty and eternal.

The mystery of the incarnation, God living among us changes our lives for ever. Jesus did not live a life of a media personality, royalty, a politician, or an influencer. Instead he lived the first thirty years of his life in blessed obscurity. He grew in knowledge and learning of language, culture, scripture and getting along with others. He learned to work like St Joseph as a carpenter and would provide financially for his mother when Joseph died. Jesus understood pain and suffering, living under Roman Occupation. He grew in his practice of prayer, like us, working to overcome distractions and busyness. He resisted temptation for wealth, power and honor and took the path of humility, trusting in his heavenly father even to the point of death.

Jesus reveals a God who is like us in almost every way, even in the way he entered the world. God is not absent from our world, instead he is hidden amidst it’s ordinariness. Jesus’ birth makes it possible for us to live our life in peace and hope no matter what life throws at us – bereavement, sadness, disappointment, injustice, ingratitude. Whatever we face, Jesus shows us that we become our best selves when our whole life is centred around God and other people and not on ourselves.

I pray that this Christmas Season brings many blessings to you and your family, and that you are able to connect with Jesus’ humanity – his likeness to you and me. When we look at the baby in the crib like Mary and Joseph we see something of ourselves in this child. This is what Emmanuel means – God is with us. God is like us.

**We  
pray  
for.....**

**Those who have passed away recently...**



**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**

Margaret Rutherford-Smith, Marianna Landman, Margaret Mc Loughlin, John Mitchell,  
Margaret Bourke, Ria Wilson,

**Those whose anniversaries fall in January..**

George Morrow, John Koppenol, George Grech, Valda Pierce, Narelle Bracken, Tomasine Hennessy, Maurice Carr, Michael Pennefather, Sidney Smith, Karel Merkus, Tony Pinnuck, Brendan Dickson, Agnus McDonald, Aubrey Pearson, Inga Kufer, Rosemary Ivey, Keith Jackson, Michael Gleeson, James Breen, Dr. Ralph Skinner, Elizabeth Morse, Margaret Connolly, Mary McGinty, Mary “Maisie” Horrigan, Doreen Lloyd, Johannes Bruitzman, Doris Clark, John McCartney

**The sick...** Maureen Mirabella, Adrian & Maree Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, Thomas Parrish, Rodney Abbatangelo (kidney transplant 18/8/22) , Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O’Beirne, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Betty Corke, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Rosalie McKiernan, Julian Collins, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequinomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.

**The Parish Welfare Officer for January is Christine Stewart**

**Thank you!**

**Father Patrick’s message to all volunteers**

On Wednesday the Parish hosted a morning tea for all volunteers. This was the reflection offered by Fr Patrick As we reflect on the role of our parish volunteers this is a great moment to reflect on the calling that we each have – as Priests, staff, volunteers and parishioners to build up God’s family in the Parish of St Thomas More. God has given each one of us a vocation, a calling – the Parish and the Church cannot exist without its priest; nor can our Parish exist without God’s people fully participating and sharing their gifts to build up the body. I am so grateful for our volunteers who quietly tend to the different parts of our church, which St Paul calls the body of Christ: the sacristy and building, cleaning altar linens, preparing flowers; who visit and call isolated and vulnerable parishioners; who visit the needy and work for justice here and beyond. There are many people who have stepped up this year – helping to reform the choir, sing at Mass, welcome people to Mass, offer hospitality after Mass. We have hosted our first Parish dinner to celebrate the Feast of St Thomas More. We have celebrated the great feasts of Easter and Christmas with joy and dignity. 2022 has been a big year for St Thomas More. As we have come out of COVID and the preceding two years of uncertainty and change, we have all been involved, as St Francis would say, in rebuilding our the church brick by brick. It means so much to me that I can pick up the phone and call upon people who were once strangers, now friends to seek advice, or to ask for help. I pray that God will continue to bless all of you and our Parish as we give thanks for 2022 and pray for God’s blessings on 2023.

**Parish Social Function  
Fashion Parade**

Parish Community Centre  
Tuesday February 7 at 2.00pm

**U and I Fashions:** a well known brand both in Victoria and the Gold Coast (and daughters of Lois Bracken) will present classic, classy and casual clothing.  
Phone Lois to book before February 1st  
9787 –2970 (after 5.00pm is best)

**Safeguarding  
Committee**

For information:  
Julie Carter 0420 923 859

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority.



### From the Parish Priest

2022 has been a big year for our local community and for the Parish of St Thomas More. As we emerged from the uncertainty wrought by COVID over the previous two years, the clear task which lay ahead for all of us was to rebuild and reconnect with each other. Christmas and the January break provide opportunities for us to reflect on the year that has passed – to celebrate what God has done and to look with hope and trust in his blessings for the future. As we look to 2023 one of the key areas of focus will be renewing our Parish Thanksgiving stewardship programme which was last reviewed in 2015. This will give parishioners an opportunity to think about how we can build up the Parish through our time (volunteering in ministries) treasure (financial stewardship) and talent (offering professional skills and experience). We also hope to renew the parish website, begin work on the new memorial wall and continue to reconnect and reach out to housebound parishioners through teams of regular visitation and pastoral support. I am very grateful for the practical and spiritual support that we have shared and I am hopeful that God will continue to bless and encourage this momentum in the year to come. I particularly want to thank our Parish Staff and all volunteers who have worked so hard throughout the year to build up the life of the Parish. I wish each of you a blessed Christmas, joyful Christmastide and a happy 2023.

### Worship and Sacraments

In December last year we were able to celebrate Christmas Masses without restrictions on numbers for the first time in two years. The outdoor Family Mass was a great celebration of faith which brought us all together again, supported by the choir from St Thomas More School and one of our regular parish musicians, Emma Chapple. Planning and preparing for the Mass was led by a dedicated team of school mums and dads, directed by Claire Manning.

Several St Thomas More Parishioners are involved in the work of Pregnancy Assistance Frankston who offer a range of practical and spiritual supports for expectant mothers in our area. At the suggestion of one of our parishioners, beginning in 2022 on the first Saturday of each month a 10am Mass is offered to pray for the unborn, for their families and all those who support them. This Mass is a small way we give respectful witness to the beauty and sanctity of human life. After Mass morning tea is shared at the Corner Pantry Café. All are welcome to join us.



This year we have celebrated thirty five baptisms of younger children, as well as one older child who made their personal decision to be baptised. Parents and Godparents of younger children attend a preparation meeting prior to the celebration where they are prepared for the Sacrament and helped to understand the joys and burdens of nurturing the faith of their children.

St Thomas More School has helped prepare nearly a hundred children to receive their Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Eucharist at ceremonies throughout the year. Bishop Anthony Ireland celebrated Confirmation for the parish and school candidates here on April 2nd. Faye Sayah is our Parish catechist and she works throughout the year to prepare our children to know more about their faith and to receive the Sacraments well. Catechism Classes run throughout the year on Tuesdays and the children attend the 7pm Mass with their families. Next year the Sacramental programme will focus especially on the importance of the Holy Spirit and having a strong personal faith. Children preparing for Baptism and Confirmation will be guided through the Youth Alpha Programme, where they will share a meal together each week. I thank Faye for her great work in helping children and their parents to understand and live their faith in a deeper way.

In 2022 The Parish celebrated the funeral rites for twenty four souls. We have journeyed with each of these families through their time of grief and loss. Saying goodbye to our loved ones is never easy, and this year we have been deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic passings of some of our long-established parishioners, notably Dennis and Shirley Cleary. We also remember with fondness Les Harper and the tremendous work he did supporting the people of East Timor through donations of cash and goods which were sent each year by container. It is appropriate that St Thomas More which has been a place of refuge and consolation for so many is the place where that faith is acknowledged through the ancient and comforting prayers of the Church.

I have had the privilege of journeying with four couples preparing for the Sacrament of marriage this year. Angelo and Graziana had their wedding delayed several times due to COVID and were overjoyed to finally be wed in Italy

amongst friends and family. Steph and Rob grew up in Mt Eliza and were married at St Thomas More in September. Danielle and Daniel are parishioners here and married at St Joseph's South Yarra in November, and we have another couple preparing to exchange their vows in April at St Thomas More. We keep them all in our prayers.

### **Lent**

During lent we looked at "a Biblical walk through the Mass". This series of seven videos studied the connection between the Mass and the Scripture, as was attended by a devoted cohort each week. On Fridays during lent we prayed the Stations of the Cross together at 3pm.

### **Music**

The Second Vatican Council taught that Sacred Music expresses the "soul of the people" and it promotes singing of the Mass parts and hymns as an important way to deepen our experience of worship. Following the easing of COVID restrictions, we have re-introduced live music to the Masses at St Thomas More to replace recorded music. This year we have built up a regular roster of musical volunteers who lead the 10am congregations three Sundays a month. I am particularly grateful to Karen Low who took the initiative to restart the choir, which was ably led by Maureen Mirabella prior to the lockdowns of 2020. Emma Chapple leads a contemporary style of worship on the second Sunday, and Ruth Hilton plays the Organ on fourth Sunday of each month. The PPLT are working to build up our music programme so that live music accompanies all of the Sunday Masses at the Parish. We plan and hope for this to happen by the end of 2023.

### **St Joseph**

In April this year, the statue of St Joseph suffered a fall. After a long time searching for a suitable repairer, St Joseph was taken to Holy Art studios in Preston to be repaired by Michael Siracusa. Interestingly, Michael restored the same statue around twenty years ago, which dates back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when it was moulded in Australia. Michael sadly passed away in September but this important work was completed by his assistant and St Joseph was returned to us beautifully restored in October. He now rests securely on a plinth near the confessional and is regularly visited by parishioners. We are very grateful for the generous support of a parishioner who financed his repair.

### **Bishop Hilton Deakin**

Bishop Hilton was the founding Parish Priest of St Thomas More Parish and he worked hard to establish the spirit and charism of our fledgling community when he was appointed here in 1979. Under his direction the Church was built, Parish Office opened, various groups established to encourage prayer, outreach and community. His special devotion to St Thomas More and Our Lady of Walsingham, as well as Charles Lwanga has left a deep spiritual legacy which lives on today. After his long service in the Church as a Priest, Pastor, academic and advocate Bishop Hilton passed away peacefully on 28<sup>th</sup> September this year. A prayer Vigil service was held at St Thomas More for him in October. The Church was full for this occasion hosted by Frs John Petrusis and Martin Flemming, followed by a joyful reunion in the Parish Community Centre of the key figures Fr Hilton brought together.

### **Memorial Garden**

Some great work has commenced in working to develop the Memorial Garden area to create a beautiful space where parishioners can come to pray and spend time with their departed loved ones. A wall is being planned as another option for parishioners which respects our faith and belief in the resurrection for those who wish to be remembered at St Thomas More. The new wall will enable ashes to be interred in a niche and commemorated with a memorial plaque. Graeme Hannan has been working with various professionals to research the necessary plans and permits and to prepare a proposal for consultation with the Parish Community next year.

### **Social Justice – Housing Affordability Forum**

In April the St Thomas More Social Justice committee hosted a forum on the Housing Affordability Crisis at our Primary School Gymnasium. The evening attracted around 80 people from the area who came to hear from three guest speakers, plus a short address from MP Clare O'Neill on the important work happening across political parties in Canberra. These men and women spoke from their experiences working with Government, in Not for Profit and the Private Sector to create better public policy and work together for practical solutions to help those in need of afford-



ble housing. We learnt that accessing affordable housing is a growing problem that is affecting more of our society and people from all walks of life. The meeting ended with a time of fellowship over tea, coffee and sandwiches. The leftovers were donated to help feed the homeless. The forum was a great opportunity for our parish to become a “home” for those working towards justice and promote the teachings of Our Lord—”whosoever you do this to, you did it to me”.

### **St Thomas More School**

Each fortnight during school terms a Mass is celebrated with the whole school community at 12:45pm on alternate Fridays. This Mass is also attended by parents and grandparents who come to support their children. These Masses are a great way to unpack the scriptures, to find practical ways to understand faith and for children to be involved in preparing the prayers and readings for Mass. Throughout the year I visit the classrooms on Thursdays and support the teachers in presenting the RE curriculum. There are always lots of great questions from the students who appreciate the chance to speak with a priest on their own home turf. This year I have met with prep families, explained the different programmes the Parish offers and welcomed them to experience Parish life. I have been blessed to be a part of the information evenings for children and families making their Sacraments. In November this year our current deputy, Mr Chris Todd announced his resignation. While we are sad to see Chris go, we are excited to welcome Sarah Anderson who will move across from the classroom to become Deputy Principal commencing next year.

### **Parish Pastoral Leadership Team**

Beginning this year, the PPLT membership team was in need of renewal as most of its members had reached their three year terms limits, as well as some members moving away or stepping down from leadership. In February and March we advertised in Seasons for anyone interested in joining the PPLT to attend a discernment meeting. In April we engaged the Mission Team from the Archdiocese to lead a series of workshops which helped bring parishioners together to listen to the Holy Spirit and begin rebuilding our community following two years of COVID. Following some robust and thoughtful discussions the new PPLT was officially introduced to the Parish and blessed on the Feast of St Thomas More. Membership terms are for two years, with a further two year term possible. It is intended that every two years this partial turnover enables us to benefit from the insights of new members as well as the experience and wisdom of existing members. The PPLT has met seven times this year on Saturday afternoons. Meetings always begin with prayer offered for our group and the Parish community that we serve. This year we have been working through the book “Forming Intentional Disciples” with a view to helping us understand more deeply outreach, mission and renewal of the Parish while also finding ways to support and equip our active community. We have identified building community and worship at Mass as key areas of focus for the next two years. I am grateful to Kathy Raccanello for her leadership of the PPLT. The Senior Leadership Team is comprised of three members from the PPLT who meet weekly to offer support, challenge and guidance for Fr Patrick in the day to day matters of the Parish. I am very grateful for their generous availability and thoughtful advice.

### **Maintenance and Parish Site**

In March and November we hosted working bees attended by a small but determined group of volunteers who looked after gardening, maintenance and cleaning the church. In addition to routine care of the site, there were four maintenance projects that needed attention this year. In April one of the lighting towers near the Parish Community Centre collapsed. It was not feasible to replace the tower, so new security lighting was installed at the PCC and around the eaves of the Church to help guide visitors back to the carparks at night. Lights now come on automatically at the top carpark and Church each evening. In July the fire hydrant near the memorial garden was dug up and reconnected to the plastic pipe on a solid concrete base. In August we had a severe hailstorm which caused a flood in the sanctuary. The new hardwood flooring which replaced the damaged carpet has transformed this sacred space. This project was made possible with the support of a generous parishioner. In September it was discovered that the church sound system was damaged – partly because of rats chewing through two cables (!) as well as equipment malfunction. When the speakers were reinstalled, they were also moved further away from the sanctuary which has allowed for greater clarity and volume to be put through the system without feedback. Total cost of these projects is \$15,850

### **Former Social Club**

In May the Social Club met to discuss new ways of bringing parishioners together while also reducing administration. It was decided to move to a decentralised model where members take turns hosting a different event each month. Events have included lunches; a Mass and prayers for the deceased; a fashion parade (!) and visits to the mov-



ies. The committee agreed to donate any remaining funds to support the work of Vinnies and provide for the continued care and maintenance of the memorial garden area at St Thomas More, a space which has an enduring relationship to the Social Club and its members. These funds have enabled the garden to be regularly tended to by professional gardeners. I would like to sincerely thank and acknowledge the work of Caroline Gascoigne in guiding these successful reforms.

### Community and Fellowship

This year around the Feast of St Thomas More in June a special Mass was celebrated on Sunday by Fr Austin Cooper, OMI. Fr Austin holds a Doctorate in Theology and is a professor lecturing in Church History at Catholic Theological College. Fr Cooper's homily helped us to understand the deep faith and conviction of our Patron Saint, Thomas More. Following the Mass a festive "medieval dinner" was hosted in the Undercroft with the support of our local Vinnies Chapter. Period 15<sup>th</sup> century music was beautifully performed by a duo of flautists. Following the three course dinner, "A Man for All Seasons" was screened in the Parish Community Centre. The day was a great success and it is hoped this will become a regular event at the Parish where each year we learn more about our Patron Saint.

Further social initiatives: The PPLT identified an important need to build up our Parish community and provide an opportunity for fellowship after Mass. Under the direction of Joseph Sayah a "welcoming committee" was established to welcome visitors to the 10am Mass, and encourage them to stay for refreshments after Mass. Next year it is hoped hospitality will be offered after the 5pm and 8am Masses too. "Barista Coffee" has been a successful supplement to the after 10am gathering. At this stage, it is hoped that donations raised through this offering will enable the Parish to send some young 'Baristas' to World Youth Day in Lisbon next year.

### Youth

We began this year with a series of "Youth Dinners" which invited young people aged up to 35 to come an informal dinner at the Presbytery. The dinners were co-ordinated by some of our young people who sent the invitations and hosted the gathering. Food was provided on a roster by parishioners as a practical support for this work. The dinners proved to be a learning curve for our team and the meetings were suspended in June. Next year we will spend some time working out the best way to proceed and reach out to the young adults segment of our Parish, from 18-35.

Earlier this year the Parish invited Fr Nicholas Pearce from the Youth and Chaplaincy Office of the Archdiocese to speak to parents of younger teens in our parish about different models of youth ministry, and how we can best reach out to young people to experience their faith. Emerging research from the US shows that with the growth of secularism the traditional model of youth ministry based on recruiting large numbers of youth to big gatherings is no longer effective. By contrast, the most effective models are based on how Jesus himself operates – personal invitation and spending quality time with a small group who become disciples and friends. St Thomas More has accepted the offer of being an early adopter of this programme and we hope to commence this with a group for younger people sometime in 2023.

In November Fr Patrick took two parishioners to an information evening hosted by the Archdiocese in the city. Here the different pilgrimage options for World Youth Day 2023 were released, and young people were invited to begin thinking and praying about attending. At this early stage we have three very interested parishioners and will be presenting the different options to the broader Parish community for a general invitation to attend. They will partly support themselves, seek sponsorship and have the backing of the Parish. These powerful faith experiences provide a great encouragement to young people from all over the world and have been decisive moments for many vocations to the Priesthood, Religious Life and Marriage.



**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**1st January 2023**

Entrance Antiphon: Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King, who rules heaven and earth for ever.

First Reading Numbers 6:22-27  
They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them

Responsorial Psalm:  
May God bless us in His mercy.

Second reading Galations 4:4-7  
God sent His Son, born of a woman

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now He speaks to us through his Son Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 2:16-21  
The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby lying in the manger.

Communion Antiphon Heb 13:8  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

**Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**15th January 2023**

Entrance Antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

First Reading Isaiah 49:3,5-6  
I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth

Responsorial Psalm:  
Here I am Lord, I come to do your will

Second reading I Cor 1:1-13  
May God, the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace

Gospel Acclamation John 1:14.12  
Alleluia, alleluia! The word became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:29-34  
Look: there is the Lamb of God

Communion Antiphon Ps 22:5  
You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst

**The Epiphany of the Lord -**  
**8th January 2023**

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in His grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading Isaiah 60:1-6  
Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Responsorial Psalm:  
Lord, every nation on earth will adore you

Second reading Ephesians 3:20,3,5-6  
It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 2:2  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12  
The visit of the Magi  
Communion Antiphon Mt 2:2  
We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord

**Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**22nd January 2023**

Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord, all th earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honor in his holy place.

First Reading Isaiah 8:23-9:3  
In Galilee of the nations the people has seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm:  
The Lord is my light and my salvation

Second reading I Cor 1:10-13,17  
Make up differences between you instead of disagreeing among yourselves

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2  
Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23  
He went and settled in Capernaum: in this way the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled

Communion Antiphon Ps 33:6  
Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

**Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time**  
**29th January 2023**

**Entrance Antiphon**

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to you holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

**First Reading**                      **Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13**  
In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Happy the poor in spirit, the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**Second reading**                      **I Cor: 1:26-31**  
God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, to shame the wise

**Gospel Acclamation**                **Matthew 5:12**  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in heaven. Alleluia!

**Gospel**                                      **Matthew 5:1-12a**  
How happy are the poor in spirit

**Communion Antiphon**    **Ps 30:17-18**  
Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

## **MASS PARTS FOR DECEMBER/ JANUARY**

**Penitential Act**

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and  
in what I have failed to do,

**And, striking their breast, they say:**  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

**Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest and on earth  
peace to people of good will.  
we praise you, we bless you,  
we adore you, we glorify you,  
We give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty  
Father  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

