

*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*

*Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo.*

En este Domingo antes de Navidad, la Liturgia de la Iglesia revela la verdadera identidad de nuestro Redentor. El es, el "gobernador ... cuál origen es de .... tiempos antiguos." ÉL vendrá de Belen, donde David nació de Jesé y ungido Rey. Dios prometió que un heredero de David reinaría en su trono para siempre. Jesús es el heredero, el que prometieron los profetas que restauraría las tribus de Israel a un nuevo Reino. Él es "el pastor de Israel," y Él ha "venido a salvarnos."

En dos días, nosotros los creyentes cantaremos, "Alegría al mundo, el Señor esta aquí." Lejos de todo el consumismo del drama centrado en Santa Claus; lejos del materialismo asignando un árbol de Navidad el cual esta como árbol de regalos materiales que temporalmente alegra nuestro corazón; que nosotros los cristianos, la comunidad creyente encontremos el significado espiritual a la celebración! Dejemos que Jesús, el Príncipe de la Paz y la Razón sea nuestra temporada, que sea el centro de nuestra celebración. Estamos preparados, para prestar atención al llamado de los ángeles cantando que un salvador ha nacido, y que estamos preparados para caminar con los Pastores en su búsqueda?

No olvidemos que, Él esta ahí esperando ser descubierto, y no, nos dé pena de buscar a Jesús entre los pobres, los necesitados, los menos afortunados y los que son explotados. Jesús es un regalo Divino – la verdadera encarnación de Esperanza, Paz, Alegría y Amor. Junto con el personal y nuestros Diáconos, yo les extiendo mis mejores deseos a todos los feligreses; que las bendiciones de esta temporada santa estén con ustedes! Les deseo un significativo Espíritu lleno de celebración de Navidad este año, Dios les Bendiga!

*Padre Miguel Jeeva Antony*

FOR MY ST. MARK 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*

## 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 12<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) **1pm** — register at **12:30pm**, or online at: [www.marisths.org](http://www.marisths.org).

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

**St. Paul School:** Open House on **January 27<sup>th</sup>** (Sunday) **11:30am—1:30pm...** for info call 541-344-1401




**WHITE ELEPHANT & COOKIE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** — Join Eugene Catholic Young Adults' (ECYA) on **Friday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto:eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com) (541-270-9329) & [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://facebook.com/EugeneCYA).

## 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-lys. 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](mailto:projectaurora@aol.com), or visit the national website: [www.project-aurora.org](http://www.project-aurora.org).

**RETROUVAILLE — FIND A NEW BEGINNING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE** by attending a Retrouvaille retreat .... Rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship. Retrouvaille is not a spiritual retreat, not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering .... For confidential information or to register for the **January 18-20 (2019)** weekend, go to: [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org) or call 1-503-225-9191.

*Come, Lord Jesus!* 

Yes, it has finally come upon us. The fourth Sunday and Week of Advent. But, wait, what is this? Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>? 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!