



CONSOLATA SHRINE THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 25TH DECEMBER 2016



A Child Is Born To Us
*The light was brought into the world by
the child of Bethlehem and the light shone
brightest for the poor*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

“All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God”

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns”. Listen, your watchmen lift up their voice, together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98:1.2-3ab.3cd-4.5-6 (R. 3cd)

Response. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. *(Response)*

The Lord has made known his salvation,
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth for the house of Israel. *(Response)*

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song,
and sing out your praise. *(Response)*

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the Lord. *(Response)*



SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-6

“God has spoken to us by a Son.”

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created

the ages. He reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature, upholding the universe by his word of power. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has obtained is more excellent than theirs. For to what angel did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you?" Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son?" And again, when he brings the first-born into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him".

The word of the Lord



GOSPEL

Alleluia

Alleluia. A hallowed day has shone upon us: come, O nations, and adore the Lord; for today a great light has come down to earth.

Alleluia



John 1:1-18

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us".

The beginning of the holy Gospel according to John



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father. John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'" And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only-begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

NEW SONG: DR. SCOTT HAHN REFLECTS ON THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Church's liturgy rings in Christmas with a joyful noise. We hear today of uplifted voices, trumpets and horns, and melodies of praise. In the First Reading, Isaiah foretells Israel's liberation from captivity and exile in Babylon. He envisions a triumphant homecoming to Zion marked by joyful singing. The new song in today's Psalm is a victory hymn to the marvelous deeds done by our God and King. Both the prophet and psalmist sing of God's power and salvation. God has shown the might of His holy arm, they say. This language recalls the Exodus, where the people first sang of God's powerful arm that shattered Israel's enemy Egypt. The coming of the Christ child into the world fulfills all that the Exodus and the return from exile prefigured. In Jesus, all nations to the ends of the earth will see the victory of God over the forces of sin and death. Jesus is the new King. He is the royal firstborn son and Son of God promised to David, as we hear in today's Epistle. And as our Gospel reveals, He is the

Word of God, the one through whom the universe was created, the one through whom the universe is sustained. In speaking to us through His Son, God has unveiled a new age, the last days. The new age is a new creation. In the beginning, God spoke His Word and light shone in the darkness. Now, in this new age, He sends us the true light to scatter the darkness of a world that has exiled itself from God. He is the one Isaiah foretold – who brings good tidings of peace and salvation, who announces to the world that God has come to dwell and to reign. So we sing a new song on Christmas. It is the song of those who have believed in the Christ child and been born again – by grace given the power to become children of God.

EMMANUEL God with us

God is with us. Emmanuel. Close your eyes, quiet your heart and hear the word pass through your lips and realize what it means.

This is the thing that makes Christianity unique. This is what makes the Christian faith more than a philosophy or a legend. It's what makes it the real deal. This is what renders every other belief in every other god meaningless and a sham.

The Incarnation is the most tender, most revealing, most daring love letter ever written:

"I love you so much. I long for you. You cannot become as I am, so I will become as you are. You cannot reach Me, so I will inhabit you. There shall never be anything between us ever again. Your darkness is now My light. There is no part of you I refuse. I withhold nothing from you."

Jesus came. He shed His robe of glory and put on vulnerable flesh. He became one of us, clothed in our skin and bones and blood and sweat and tears. He blessed and restored our humanity by inhabiting it Himself and closed the gap between mortal and immortal. By taking that mortal flesh to the cross to shed His precious and perfect blood, He bridged the impassable chasm between us and our Creator.

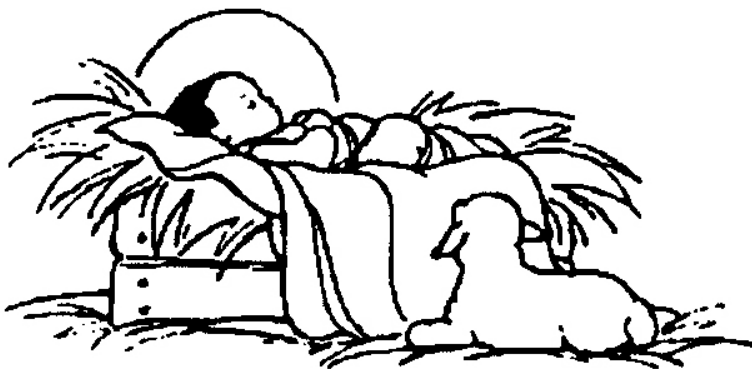
Our God has done the unthinkable, the unimaginable, the impossible, the radical, and the incredible. He came, and He remains. He is with us still. Does a God of anger or arrogance humble Himself and take on the very form of His created ones in order to save them from their own sin? Does a God of contention lay His authority down and subject Himself to the law of the world He created? Does a vengeful God surrender Himself to an unjust death for the sake of those murdering Him?

And still, the world doesn't get it! Still, the reality of Christ's unabashed love for us is not understood. Still, He is with us, unnoticed. Still, we forget the magnitude of what He has done. Still, we are unaware of who He is.

Rejoice! There is no distance between us and our God. We do not stand outside His door weeping, begging for a glance from His furrowed brow, or a crumb from His table. He has demolished the wall between us and carried us inside His house to enjoy everything He has, including the food of Himself.

Our God alone is worthy of praise and honor and awe and obedience because He has left no measure of separation between us and Himself. Out of love our King became our servant. Love compelled the spotless Lamb to become every wretched, repulsive, disgusting sin in order to free us, cleanse us and make us new. Love compelled the Lord who owes us nothing to pay everything to cancel our debt.

There is none beside Him. Only Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Nothing in this world is more deserving of our attention, especially this season. Whatever else may be going on, our gaze should be fixed on Emmanuel. We should be looking expectantly at that manger with



grateful hearts. We not only can rejoice, we must rejoice.

Of course, life will go on, and our obligations must be met. Work must be done and should be done. Important current issues must be dealt with and not ignored. But heaven forbid we blow past Advent in our haste, worry and stress, and fail to open our minds and our hearts each day to the miracle of Emmanuel.

Heaven forbid we do not read this love letter. It is an astounding reality our language cannot articulate. It is the summation of our every need; the complete expression of God's desire. The Word made flesh. It's the only word the world needs to hear.

Emmanuel - God is with us! Rejoice!

By Jennifer Hartline - Catholic Online

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Parish is organizing the Pilgrimage to Holy Land during lent in preparation for Easter. For more information, please look at the posters outside the Church or pick a brochure from the tables outside the church.
2. The Bible Dairies 2017 which include daily reflection are available at the desk outside the Church and in the bookshop. Get a copy for yourself and make it a Christmas gift to your loved ones.
3. Monday 26th Public holiday, Masses will follow the Saturday Schedule. (7 and 9am, and 5.30pm)
4. In case that 27th will be Public Holiday, again, masses will follow the Saturday schedule.
5. This year, the Feast of the Holy Family will be celebrated on Friday 30th December
6. Due to the festive season there will be no PMC and Children Sunday Services until 5th February 2017.
7. The programme for Saturday 31st evening starts with a thanksgiving mass at 6pm followed by one hour of Adoration and at 8.30 a special film on peace. The New year eve mass will start at 11.45pm.
8. Next Sunday 1st of January 2017, being the first Sunday of the month, there is second collection for St. Vincent de Paul to assist the needy of our parish.
9. We shall pray the Rosary in front of the Blessed Eucharist for peace in the world after the twelve o'clock Mass next Sunday.
10. Finally, on behalf of the Pastoral Team and the whole Parish Merry Christmas to all!



CONSOLATA SHRINE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Let's use social media to spread God's word.

Remember to "follow" and "like" us.

 @ConsoShrine  Consolata Shrine, Westlands, Nairobi

DAILY READING

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4.6.8.16-17;
Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2.5-6.11-12; Jn 20:2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5- 2:2 Ps 124:2-5. 7-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2-3.5-6; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:3-7.14-17 or 3:2-6. 12-14; Ps 128:1-5;
Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-15.19-23

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2. 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

Sunday: 7.30 am **Kiswahili**

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon and
5:30 pm **English**

Saturday: English 7.00 am, 9.00 am
and 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am
and 1.15 pm, 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

Parish Website: www.consolatashrine.org • **Parish E-Mail:** info@consolatashrine.org

Parish Priest's E-Mail: parishpriest@consolatashrine.org

Parish Mpesa Business Number: **508702** • P.O. Box **14930** - **Nairobi** • Cell Phone: **0722 615 105**