



A Christmas Note to you, dear believers at Resurrection and Riderwood.

Christmas Eve Dec. 24th 2 pm Mass@Riderwood Chapel

4pm w/pageant, 6pm, 8:30 p.m. Masses@Resurrection.



**Christmas Day 9am Mass @ Riderwood Chapel
10:30 am and 12:30 p.m. Masses at Resurrection.**



Hello from Fr. Barry. It was just back in 2020 when we had what scientists speculate was “*the Christmas Star*” over us at Christmas. It was the mysterious conjunction of two planets to resemble one bright star-looking object, that being Saturn and Jupiter. The science and math put it as once the case two millennia ago. It

comes rarely over us, say astronomers, as it was eight centuries ago recent to happen that this *original sign* that possibly led the magi to seek Christ and find Him in Bethlehem. The rare shining 'star' will appear again in just fifty-seven **Starry Night** years on March 15, 2080. Planetarium shows are made to show it.

Here's your sign. It's Jesus. All points to Him. A Person. We won't need to wait for that heavenly rarity again to seek and find Christ, as He is come as the Word Incarnate, to “be with us always until the end of the ages” Matthew 28:16-20. and He IS Christmas and the Star of the Sacred Liturgy (as in each Mass) and He is the Saving One and Joy of our hearts now. “Rise in splendor, your light is come” does proclaim the Word in the Epiphany Mass.

Now we are the wise ones to see Him, led by God in our own way to His Son, The Savior of the world. So hear Him call and note His sign(s) to you, and come be with us in church, His body ^{EPH 1:23} as the Christmas song beckons “O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!” We are His parish home in Resurrection Burtonsville, and yours and my soul are each His indwelling for celebration. So let’s celebrate Christmas! (*Originally called Christ’ Mass or The Mass of Christ’ Nativity*). Let our hearts cry out the song “Peace on earth, and Mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful all ye nations rise!”

In these recent years, more disruptions have come to Christmas for peoples around the world, as many have been separated from their homes from war or instability or hasty immigration for a new start somewhere. Let us pray a Christmas Mass for them. Some others have had persecution for their Catholic faith. Some other orthodox views of the two millennia long Catholic Faith have become challenged strongly, too, as if like an anti-Christ spirit has been raging up—against Christmas and Christ the Sacrifice and Only Savior. Some indifference has also crept into the Flock. Let us come out and be the ones to celebrate Whom we have and Who loves us: Jesus Christ. **O come, all ye Faithful...**(to the One) born the King of ages... (for) He rules the world with truth and love, and makes the nations prove the glories of His Righteousness and Wonders of His Love.”

The illustration of the Magi’s visit illustration starts out this Note, in appreciation of how simply that Christmas card shows the Holy Family alone on the hill, and while they had people of Bethlehem and Jerusalem first about them in their opening days with Babe Jesus, soon it would be that they fled and went out on the road, out of their routine and home, and to be secretly put in a flight into Egypt soon. Yes, Christmas has been threatened since the First One, yet not before the Christ Child had been presented in The Temple, and now was greeted by these God-sent visitors of the world (the Magi)—to show how one day Jesus would be the Light of the Gentiles, as Hebrew King Messiah, as so to fulfill His own term of being “Light of the World.” He claims so in John 8:34 in Scripture. From that First Christmas to this 2023 A.D. Dec. 25th feast of the Church, more and more people do

receive Him in. They come and see The Light. Please get into the Joy of the Gospel and invite others to come know Him as their salvation. Christmas is a celebration of Salvation come in Jesus.

As I close this page, I send along greetings from all the staff, with two new ones this Christmas on your parish team of service, Anne Lee and parochial vicar Fr. Dan Gallagher, and last Christmas we had not Fr. Pius covering White Oak Hospital as Chaplain—but now we do, with a full team of service-----a first since I got here in 2017.

It is my honor to be on this staff of service to this fine parish. They greet you glad tidings in Jesus, as do I.

Yours truly, **Fr. John Barry**



Christmas Season Masses >>> Christmas Octave continues with our usual weekday Resurrection and Riderwood Masses from Dec. 26 Tuesday to Monday January 1st 9 a.m. (A holy day on Jan. 1st with 9 a.m. Masses) The Holy Family Feast is Dec.30-31, and Epiphany is on Sunday, Jan.6-7.

Drawings by parish youth for Keep Christ in Christmas.