



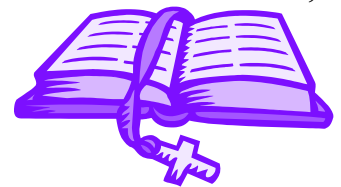
Advent 2008

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us how Jesus was born:

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

We proclaim a virgin birth, announced by an angel, and a baby conceived from the Holy Spirit. We remember that God our Father sent Jesus His Son, to save us from our sins. As Ottawa settles into a snowy season, our federal government hibernates, and OC Transpo strikes, we rejoice in the coming of Jesus Christ Our Lord as a baby. As we prepare for Christmas Day, we continue to be a community of worship and prayer, of Bible reading and of service.



In these past nine or ten weeks, as Priest-in-Charge of Saint James Leitrim, I have learned something of the heart of the parish of Saint James Leitrim. There is love and support here. There exists a deep conviction that the Church who has Jesus as her head must be a place of hope and joy, of ministry and outreach, and support for each other. May God who sent His Son Jesus help us to know and love him more and more, as we await his coming again.

Your prayers and presence are requested for our Advent and Christmas services:



Sunday, December 21. 10:30 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols with Children's Pageant.

Wednesday, December 24. 11 a.m. Christmas at Bridlewood Service.

★ Wednesday, December 24. 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Thursday, December 25. 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service (quiet *BCP* service).

Sunday, December 29. 10:30 a.m. Christmas I.

See your bulletin or the church web site, at www.saintjamesleirim.com for more information about church services and events. The church phone number is 613-739-9796 and e-mail address is stjames@saintjamesleirim.com. Call me at 613-440-0515 or send a note to margo.whittaker@yahoo.ca.

Please bring or send the enclosed Christmas Offering envelope with your donation for the ongoing support of the parish. Please consider using PAR, the automatic withdrawal donation program for regular donations. In 2009, please pray and think about increasing your weekly givings to the church. Thank you.

God bless you this Christmas. My husband, Michael, and our children, Paul and Elizabeth, join me in wishing you all a peaceful, joyful and hopeful Advent and Christmastide.

Yours in Christ's Service,

The Reverend Margo Whittaker

Christmas Day Collect (BAS)

O God our Father,
Whose Word has come among us
In the Holy Child of Bethlehem,
May the light of faith
Illumine our hearts
And shine in our words and deeds;
Through him who is Christ our Lord,
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. Amen