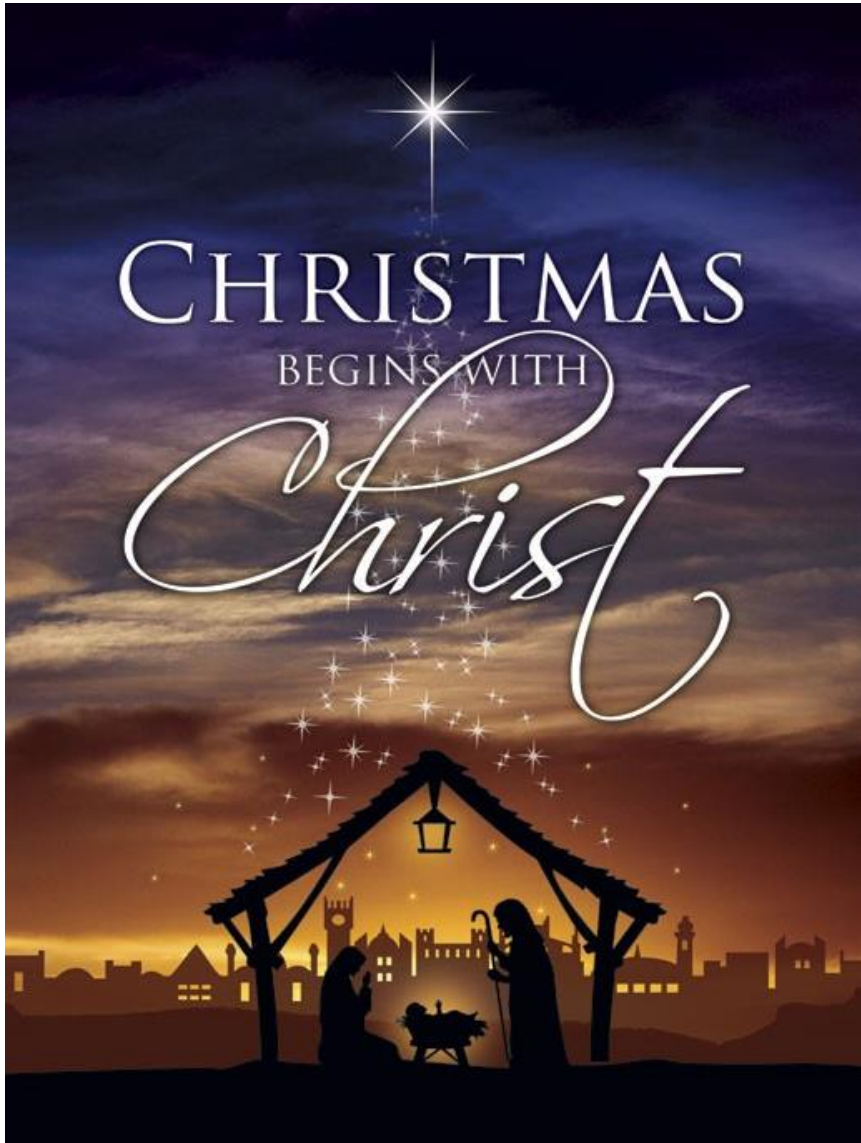


We welcome every parishioner and each guest to all our Christmas Celebrations in Rocky Mountain House, Evergreen and Caroline.

Thank you for coming!



May the Love and Peace of Christ surround you and your family this Christmas and may God bless you throughout New Year 2019!

December 25, 2018 – CHRISTMAS (C)



Rocky Mountain House



Evergreen



Caroline

ST. MATTHEW PARISH IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE AND MISSIONS IN EVERGREEN AND CAROLINE

Rocky Mountain House - St. Matthew Parish

Evergreen - Jesuit Martyrs Parish * Caroline - St. Joseph the Workman Parish

5208 53 Ave., Rocky Mountain House, AB • Box 130 * Rocky Mountain House, AB * T4T 1A1

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HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

Christmas Message from Fr. Leon

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"I bring you good news of great joy to be shared by the whole people."

(Luke 2:10)

The coming of Christ at Christmas brings joy to our world and peace to our hearts. Born of a woman, Jesus Christ is God's promise that, united in His love, we can live in peace. From a crib in Bethlehem, God's love reaches out to embrace us. His birth tells us that in each moment of time, God is breaking into our lives, and in Him we can experience the birth of divine life in our own.

Christmas is that new beginning for which we long. The Son of God comes not as a prince to dominate us, but as a child to motivate us. He comes not to condemn us, but to bring us forgiveness. He comes not to burden us, but to teach us the beauty and joy that unselfish love offers us.

The scene of Jesus' birth speaks to us of poverty. Poverty can be an opening to God and a means to deepen our trust in Him Who saves us. Jesus' own poverty makes us sensitive to the cry of the poor and aware that by serving our needy brothers and sisters we serve Christ Himself. His poverty compels us to speak for the oppressed, to comfort the despairing and to strengthen the weak.

There is no burden He cannot lift, no worry He cannot console, no sin He cannot forgive. From His crib, Christ calls us to leave behind the addiction that grips us, the hatred that imprisons us, the worry that cripples us, the loneliness that gnaws at us, and to welcome into our hearts the abundance of God's love and saving power.

This Christmas, my dear friends, come to the crib and make the decision to let go of the sin that has a hold on you, of the burden that weighs you down, of the despair that seeks to overpower you. Leave it at the crib with Christ and come away refreshed and renewed - accepting God's love for you as if for the first time. Make your Christmas a truly spiritual experience.

My Christmas prayer for everyone is that the simple, generous lesson of God's love may inspire us to greater love of God and one another. **May you and your loved ones have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!**

FR. LEON KLER

Please, take the time and read...

- 'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the town.
- Not a sign of Baby Jesus was anywhere to be found.
- The people were all busy with Christmas time chores.
- Like decorating, and baking, and shopping in stores.
- No one sang "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed."
- Instead, they sang of Santa dressed-up in bright red.
- Mama watched Martha Stewart, Papa drank beer from a tap.
- As hour upon hour the presents they'd wrap.
- When what from the TV did they suddenly hear?
- 'Cept an ad. Which told of a big sale at Sears.
- So away to the mall they all flew like a flash...
- Buying things on credit ... and others with cash!
- And, as they made their way home from their trip to the mall, did they think about Jesus?
- Oh, no ... not at all.
- Their lives were so busy with their Christmas time things
- No time to remember Christ Jesus, the King.
- There were presents to wrap and cookies to bake.
- How could they stop and remember who died for their sake?
- To pray to the Savior... they had no time to stop.
- Because they needed more time to "Shop til they dropped!"
- On Wal-mart! On K-mart! On Target! On Penney's!
- On Hallmark! On Zales! A quick lunch at Denny's.
- From the big stores downtown to the stores at the mall.
- They would dash away, dash away, and visit them all!
- And up on the roof, there arose such a clatter.
- As grandpa hung icicle lights up on his brand new step ladder.
- He hung lights that would flash. He hung lights that would twirl.
- Yet, he never once prayed to Jesus... Light of the World.
- Christ's Eyes... how they twinkle! Christ's Spirit... how merry!
- Christ's Love... how enormous! All our burdens... He'll carry!
- So instead of being busy, overworked, and uptight.

Let's put Christ back in Christmas and enjoy some good nights!

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS, MY FRIENDS!