



St. Matthew Parish

A Parish of Many Cultures But One Faith

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DECEMBER 25TH—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



What comes after
Christmas day?
More Christmas!
December 25–January 11

When the secular world moves on after Christmas day, let's keep our lights on and candles lit and keep celebrating the joy of Christ's birth and his gift to all of us

Go to archseattle.org/
Christmas on way to celebrate
all season long



MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

Here are some movies recommended by Our Sunday Visitor as worth watching: during Christmas:

"A Christmas Carol" (1951)—about an old humbug, (Scrooge) whose transformation into a loving human being is a pleasure to behold

"A Christmas Story" (1983)—re-creates what it was like to be a boy yearning for a genuine Red Ryder air rifle for Christmas in the Midwest of the 1940s.

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)—about the joys and trials of a good man facing financial ruin on the eve of Christmas, whose guardian angel shows him how meaningful his life has been to those around him.

"The Man Who Invented Christmas" (2017)—tells the origin story of "A Christmas Carol".

"The Nativity Story" (2006)—Dramatization of the New Testament birth narratives from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

"Miracle on 34th Street" (1947)—a department store Santa strives to convince a lonely little girl that he's the genuine Santa.

Dear St. Matthew Parishioners and all our friends who are joining us today as we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord!

This is a special time of year where we gather as family and friends, not just to make merry with Christmas presents, but to also reflect on the wonderful gift of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Centuries ago His birth brought hope into the world, and again, this Christmas we welcome Christ into our hearts and homes as a sign of hope for today's world.

During this Christmas Season, we are reminded that there are many in the world, and in our local area, who are suffering wars, hardships, famine, and poverty. Our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites us to pray this prayer today:

Gracious Lord, Child of Bethlehem, As you were born into a family who fled to Egypt as refugees, help us grow in solidarity with refugees everywhere, to know we are all refugees, until our hearts find refuge in you.

As you were born under an oppressive regime, let us grow in solidarity with those whose governments deny them their rights and try to undermine their dignity. Help us work for just governance everywhere.

As it was workers, the shepherds, who first came to know you, the carpenter's son, let us remember the dignity of human labor—that you share a special love for those who work hard for their sustenance, and toil beside them.

Let us honor you, in work and in prayer, that livelihoods may be secure, and that workers not be exploited.

As you were adored by the Magi who came from far-off nations to honor you, let us bring to all nations the great good news that is your love.

As your coming was joyfully sung by angels, let us with joy celebrate the gift of life every time a child of God is conceived, and honor that gift with our care.

As you were denied any birthplace but a stable, help us to open our homes, our lives, our hearts to the coming of God and his presence in your people.

Be born this time into our hearts, dear Lord. Gracious Lord, Child of Bethlehem, through the cradle of our hearts, be born into our world.

From all of us at St. Matthew parish, we wish you a very blessed and hopeful Christmas Season!