

*Christmas - The Feast of Our Re-creation
The Eastern Christian Perspective and You!*



The Birth of Christ, although a historical event, is not an end but a means to the renewal, sanctification, and re-creation of the whole universe. Actually, we commemorate, not so much the birth of a child, but the ultimate rebirth and transfiguration of all humankind and, with it, the whole world of creation. St. Gregory of Nazianzus sums up the Eastern Christian view of Christmas in his famous statement that the Nativity of Christ “is not a festival of creation but a festival of re-creation.” The world, held in bondage by reason of human brokenness and sinfulness – this is the world Christ redeemed. Christ redeemed humanity and by taking

humanity to Himself He redeemed the world.

So, when the Word of God became flesh, He not only became the head of a new race, He became the Lord of a new creation. Christ in His flesh took the whole of creation to Himself that it might share anew in divinity. In Christ Jesus the universe was radically transformed; in His person the world was consecrated and sacramentalized – clay and stone, plant and animal, word and dance – our earth was redeemed, re-created!

But, it is equally true to say that Christ redeems the world. Objectively, humanity was redeemed but in another sense that was only the beginning of a new

world even until now. By the power of the Holy Spirit working in Christians, the world can rise anew. By reason of the love of God made known to it in Christ Jesus our world is alive now, vibrant in our day with life and light. Creation fell by human failure; now it summons us urgently to redeem it by treating all persons and all the elements with Christ-like respect. Our loving actions answer that one great yearning cry: creation’s unceasing call for redemption to be applied through love. Lord, make us instruments of your redeeming grace – your love!

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Experiences, Events, & Exercises

House of Prayer Lists Upcoming Events

Lenten Morning Retreat

Saturday, February 28, 9:15 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Presenter: Rev. Thomas Dansak

Registration Due: February 23.

Offering: \$30, includes lunch

Lenten Afternoon Retreat

Sunday, March 1, 1:15 -5 p.m.

Presenter: Very Rev. Robert Pipta

Registration due: February 24.

Offering: \$30, includes supper

Healing Retreat

Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Presenter: Father William Kiel

Registration Due: March 2.

Offering: \$35, includes lunch

Monday Reading Series

March 9, 16, 23, 30, 10 -11:30 a.m.

Presenter: Sr. Barbara Jean

Registration Due: March 2.

Free will offering



Praying with Scripture

Tuesday, March 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Presenter: Sr. Carol

Registration Due: March 12.

Offering: \$30, includes lunch

Women's Overnight Scripture Retreat

April 24-25, 6 p.m., Friday – 4 p.m., Saturday

Presenter: To Be Announced

Registration Due: April 17.

Offering: \$85

Young Adult Weekend Retreat

May 29-31, 7 p.m., Friday – 11 a.m., Sunday

Presenter: Sr. Barbara Jean and Young Adult Team

Men and Women – Ages 18-35

Registration Due: May 22. Offering: \$100

All programs take place at the House of Prayer unless otherwise specified. Please register early to prevent program cancellation. Individual directed retreats, personal retreats, group retreats and days of prayer can be scheduled from October through July.

For further information, please call the House of Prayer directly at (724) 438-7149 or visit www.sistersofstbasil.org.



In the upcoming Year of Consecrated Life (November 2014-February 2016), Pope Francis has called on the faithful to express their gratitude for those in consecrated life. What better way to offer praise and thanksgiving than in song? Follow the link: [Wake the World with Dawning Joy - English - Steven C Warner - Notre Dame Folk Choir.mp3](#)

Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, or living! It is possible to live differently in this world. We are speaking of . . . the values of the Kingdom incarnated here, on this earth. It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord. . . . religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up." (Pope Francis) November 2013.

Watch the Sisterhood: Becoming Nuns

The all-new groundbreaking Lifetime® series "The Sisterhood: Becoming Nuns" (#TheSisterhood) follows five young women who are considering the life-changing decision of taking religious vows to become Catholic nuns.

Tune into Lifetime, Tuesdays, 10 p.m. or follow this link to watch online <http://www.mylifetime.com/shows/the-sisterhood-becoming-nuns/video/full-episodes>.

Live Nativity - Dec. 14 at Mt. Macrina Manor

Mt. Macrina Manor's 21th Annual Live Nativity will be held on the grounds of Mt. St. Macrina in North Union Township on Sun., Dec. 14, 5-7 p.m.

Mary and Joseph, shepherds tending to their flock, the Three Kings, the Little Drummer Boy and angels will be portrayed. There will also be live animals. The Sisters of St. Basil the Great and as well as other groups will sing Christmas carols.

The event is free of charge and everyone is welcome. For further information, please call 724-430-1021.

Keeping Christmas

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas ...

Are you willing...

- To stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;
- To remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;
- To stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough;
- To bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;
- To try to understand what those who live in the same home with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;
- To trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;
- To make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open –

Are you willing to do these things, even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing ...

- To believe that love is the strongest thing in the world -
- Stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death -
- And that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

- Henry Van Dyke

SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

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*I will light candles this Christmas
Candles of joy, despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage where fear is ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease the heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.*

- Howard Thurman



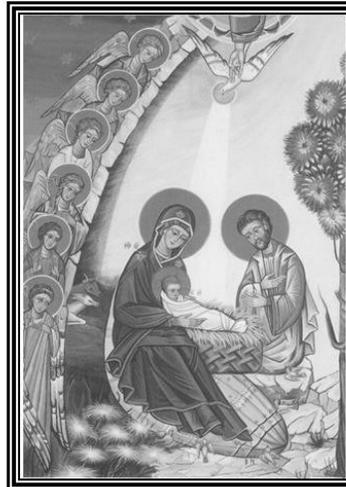
PRAYER FOR PRE-CHRISTMAS

*Good and gracious God,
Your growing light is filling up the world.
We feel your presence grow within us.
We wait with longing for your appearance among us,
for peace you bring to all people.*

*In these last days before Christmas,
help us to make a worthy place within us
where you may dwell.
Let us welcome you
by welcoming others in whom you dwell*

*We wait with open hearts
for your coming.
Come, Lord Jesus, into this broken and suffering world,
for you alone can make us whole. Amen.*

Shop the Religious Gift & Card Shop at Mount Saint Macrina For Your Holiday Shopping Needs



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collection of
Religious Gifts, Icons,
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wrapping is available.**

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Mon. & Thurs. Additional parking is available in the lower lot.**



**Religious Gift Shop at Mount St. Macrina
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