

SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER 2011  
CHRISTMAS DAY:  
CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

*All are welcome as we gather  
to celebrate in word and ceremony  
the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ!*

**Announcements**

**Men's Breakfast**—Sat 31 Dec at 8:00 a.m. at the Small Town Café (formerly Jeff's Place) in Deseronto.

**Bishop's Levée**—Sun 1 Jan, 4:00 p.m., at St Thomas's Church, Belleville. Join the Bishop in a celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a reception.

**Epiphany Celebration**—Fri 6 Jan at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Church. We will mark the end of the 12 Days of Christmas with a celebration of the arrival of the Magi to worship Jesus and to present him with gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. Incense given to the Chapel Royal by The Queen will be used at this solemn Eucharist.

**Parish Fun Night**—Wed 18 Jan, 7-9 p.m. at the Queen Anne Parish Centre. Bring a game, a friend, and a snack!

**Annual Meeting of Vestry**—The combined service for January will be moved to Sun 22 Jan (8:30 a.m.) and the Vestry meeting will be held afterwards. Vestry reports are due by Sun 8 Jan.

**Keep in touch!** The parish has a Facebook page and an extensive website. If you haven't "liked" us on Facebook, visit [www.parishoftyendinaga.org](http://www.parishoftyendinaga.org) and look for the "Find us on Facebook" link. The recently overhauled website now has a new visitor friendly home page. If you haven't checked it out lately, please take a look! The website is the source of lots of historical information about the parish and has up-to-date listings of worship services, news, and events.

*We wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas season!*

THANKSGIVINGS

The plants in the churches are given  
to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Rhonda Labignan from Ardeth, Jim, & family  
Reg Brant from Marion & family  
Brian Maracle from Anne and family  
Clifford, Jean, & Clayton John from Sandra & family  
Mitchell Brinklow and their parents from Elena & Cyril Betts  
Charles (Bud) & Jeff Maracle from Shirley & family  
Lloyd Woodman and Betty Loft from June  
Anthony from Mother Madeline  
Clare Brant from Ann and family  
Sheridan, Geraldine, Jerry & George Maracle from the family  
Gladys & Clifford Maracle from the family  
Sadie, Lazarus & Clayt Brant from the family  
Rodger & Mike Brant and Ed & Muriel Peeling from Pat & family  
Walter Brant from Beatrice & family  
Ron Spencer from Donna & family

Ivan Clement from Gail Clement  
Ada & Stafford Claus and Eldon Hearn from Marion Hearn  
Carl Maracle from Della Maracle and family  
Edith Wilson from Dave & Lynn Wilson and family  
Ken & Marion Barnhardt from Sam & Carla Barnhardt  
Helena & Earl Murphy and Fletcher & Freda Vick from Cathie & Dennis  
Vick and family  
Marion Green from Billie & Doug Green  
Marlon Maracle from Wilma Maracle

**The Naming of the Lord - Sun 1 Jan**  
**8:30 a.m., All Saints'**  
**10:30 a.m., Christ Church**

**Epiphany Celebration - Fri 6 Jan**  
**7:00 p.m. - Christ Church**

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION

“Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name.” This is the last line of Psalm 97, which is one of the three psalms appointed for reading on the feast of the Incarnation (which is commonly called “Christmas”). It is the whole Christmas story wrapped up in two lines: in them we can hear the rejoicing of the heavenly chorus, we can see the star of Bethlehem pointing shepherds and wise men to the cradle of the new-born Babe, and we can share in the joy of two ordinary people whose lives have been caught up in a most extraordinary event.

As we remember once again the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, we are called to join with this uncommon cast of characters in lifting our voices to sing “Glory be to God on high” and to give thanks for the gift of our salvation. For those of us who are here, there is little doubt that we have come to be reminded of “the reason of the season” and to ensure that we “keep the Christ in Christmas”.

But this is not a one-night commitment. Christmas does not end with an early awakening on Boxing Day in order to get the best deals at the mall, nor is it over when the kids get back on the bus. Christmas is not a day, but a season—and it continues until Epiphany, the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, when we remember the arrival of the Magi (wise men) so they could pay homage to the infant King.

Over the season of Advent, which is the four week period of preparation the Church observes before Christmas (and which ends at sundown on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December), we have not only been preparing for what has become the secular celebration of a Christian holy day. While, to be sure, most of us have been buying gifts and preparing to visit with family and friends in order to celebrate Jesus’ birth, we have also been reminded in Advent that we should always spare a thought for the reason Jesus was born, why the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

This Christmas, I invite you to take time away from the busyness of the celebration to pray and reflect on the coming of the kingdom of God. Christmas is, at its heart, not about gifts, or even about family, but about the promise that God is working to renew the face of the earth. Let this Christmas Eve/Day be only the first day of many where you give thanks to God for entering into the creation as a human being in order that Jesus might show us a better way: a way of justice, peace, compassion, and love.

Each day of your life, hold before you the promise God makes to all God’s people: ““See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.””

“To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Thanks be to God! Alleluia!