

# DECEMBER 4, 2016 "CHRISTMAS" "GRECCIO"

Christmas is a yearly celebration of God's promise completed.  
Christmas is a past event that is to be lived every December 25th.  
God touches our world with his own presents. God shows us his face!

We, as human beings, share in God's desire to complete our lives as God had originally intended. How unique that God intervened in history to bring us back to him, by becoming "one of us". The creator becomes his creation to remind us how unique we are, "made in his image and likeness."

As in all historical events, this action demands a response. Each Christmas allows us to respond a bit differently on that day than what is usually except it on a daily basis.

Christmas reminds us to dream as God does. Christmas reminds us of our dignity, our worth as human beings. The birth of "the word made flesh" allows us to think like God and not be ashamed.

The birth of Jesus Christ allows us, his children, to really respond by giving gifts to those we know and love, like spending time together, by sharing a special meal, by desiring peace in our lives, our families, and in our world.

We become "divine" as we open ourselves to family and stranger, we think more of others than ourselves, as we desire to give gifts that others have asked for.

We complete their lives, openly express our love, appreciation and respect for others known and unknown.

This year, here at Saint Paul Church, we will remember and relive the birth of Jesus Christ as inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.

What better way to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and to experience his birth as he did. St. Francis's desire to live the gospel inspired him to celebrate Christmas as did the holy family.

What better way, to feel what Jesus, Joseph and Mary felt, then to relive Bethlehem in the dark and in the cold. We will realize not only Gods' unshakable desire to be with us, or the true humble birth of God's mercy, but most importantly, realize that "Christmas is God's gift to us ". "He gave us his son".

Plan to join us outside of church after the Christmas Concert for about 20 minutes. We will celebrate in true Franciscan style, with song, scripture, a live nativity with a human cast, animals and Children's Choir. Christ is our light and our warmth.



*Live Nativity*

THE CHRISTMAS STORY  
COMES TO LIFE