




Parish of St. Barnabas

Christmas 2014

Well, it is that time of year again! December has come with all the stress, excitement and rushing around of Christmas, but let's stop and think for a moment: Christmas is a time for love. Remember, God sent his only son Jesus into the world to born for us...to bring great joy to our world. So let's look at Christmas in a new way this year and really invite Jesus into our hearts.

 **Did you know** St. Francis of Assisi introduced Christmas carols into Church services. He is also responsible for the first nativity scene.

Millions of trees grow every year thanks to squirrels forgetting where they buried their nuts.

The first Christmas stamp was released in Canada in 1898.

In 4<sup>th</sup> century Turkey, a shy bishop named Saint Nicolas gave children presents. The Dutch called him Sinter Klass. Children there would leave their shoes by the fireplace. When the Dutch settlers came to North America they brought this legend with them. Over here he became known as Santa Claus. Coca Cola introduced the red suit for Santa around the year1930.

The letter X in Xmas is a Greek abbreviation for Christ.

Snowflakes have six sides and each is made up of close to 200 ice crystals.

 **Wreath Craft:** What you need- lots of green construction paper, scissors, glue, red paper or a bow. Trace your child's hand on green paper about 10 times, cut them out and glue them together, add your bow to get a wonderful wreath for Christmas! <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas/handwreaths>


**LOOK!** What we have done so far! – We had an awesome Halloween party!



We made the symbols of Christmas which are posted at the back of the church.



We've also been practising really hard for our Christmas pageant "The Christmas Story" – which is happening today! Pictures will be posted in the next newsletter.

 **Jokes:** How do we know that all Christmas trees are girls? –*They wear skirts!* ... sent in by Allison

Why did the elves ask the turkey to join the band? – *The turkey had drumsticks!* ...sent in by Daniel

**"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed" Mathew 2:10 (NIV)**





### Curling by Kylene Mak

Hello there, today I'm going to talk to you about Curling.

Curling is a winter sport, even the Olympics has Curling. In Curling there's 4 people on each team, the first person is called the lead the two others are called the second and the third and the last person is called the skip. The skip's job is to plan the throws and show their team where to aim. The point of the game is to get the stone in the middle of the rings; the rings are called the house. There are three different types of shots in Curling, there's draw, there's take out and there's guard. When you draw you're basically just throwing the stone into the house. When you're doing a take-out you're trying to knock the other team's stone out and a guard is when you're trying to guard one of your stones. When you're throwing you want the stone to go to the other side of the ice. The big stones are 44 pounds and the little stones are 22 pounds. You score points by throwing your stones closer to the middle of the rings than the other team's stones.

### What Christmas is to Me

By Allison Oudabachian

Christmas to me is about sharing and being nice.

It's not about presents, candy, and more. Santa Claus is only real if you believe in him. GOD is real no matter what you believe. Elves are busy at Christmas time, but GOD's children are busy all year round; doing good deeds for others.

Christmas is about our Saviour's birth, because he was GOD's only son.

Born in a manger; no cell phones, no iPads, or TV; but he had everything he needed. He had his FAMILY.

GOD is always watching, he really knows if you've been naughty or nice.

Try to be on the nice list!

Don't forget Christmas time is about being with your family and friends.

Once you have that, you have the most wonderful gift of all.

GOD bless you all and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thank you – Allison O.



### Important Dates

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** – Creche Service, Carols, Holy Communion

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>** - Holy Communion for Christmas

**Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>** – Fundraiser featuring Soul Fusion

**Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>** – Pancake Supper

**Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>** – Ash Wednesday

**Thanks to all..... For an awesome pageant!**



**Remember-** If we feel the cold, our pets also feel the cold, so please bring them inside!

**Congratulations** to Nathan Callender for winning the MVP Award in football!

“And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.”

— [Dr. Seuss, \*How the Grinch Stole Christmas!\*](#)

**Marie-Claire and I along with the Sunday school wish you all a Merry Christmas filled with love, joy, laughter and family.**

**Thanks Kylene, Allison, and Daniel for contributing to the newsletter!**

Newsletter created by Debbie Shane