

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2022**

### **GREETING:**

**Welcome! During the Advent season we remember the people who were waiting for the Savior, Jesus to come. The prophets had told the people of His coming. They waited and prayed. And then it happened! Jesus Christ the Son of God was born. God, our Father gave us this precious gift. He sent His only Son to teach us, to save us, and to show us how much He loves us.**

**Let us now bless ourselves and join in prayer thanking our Father.**

### **OPENING PRAYER:**

***(In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen).***

**Dear Father in Heaven,**

**Thank you so much for sending Jesus to us to be our Savior, teacher, and Lord of our lives. Help us never to take this wonderful , precious gift for granted. Help us too Lord, as we attempt to re-enact and honor what you have blessed us with. In your most Holy name Jesus we prayer.**

***(In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen).***

**FIRST NARRATOR:** Welcome to Our Lady of Peace's Christmas Pageant. The children of our parish will now reenact for you the blessed birth of Christ Jesus. So sit back, join in singing the hymns and enjoy! (*PAUSE*)

Long ago, on a holy night, a child was born. He was given the name Jesus. He was God's Son. He came to tell the world of God's love. He came to forgive our sins.

Come with us now on a very special journey through time. Listen and see as we go back to that night.

*(Mary comes from back of church and kneels in front on first step, facing Mary's altar as soon as Narrator starts)*

**SECOND NARRATOR:** One night long ago, a young girl knelt and prayed, as she did each night. Her name was Mary. She was very special to God.

*(Angel Gabriel comes from sacristy and stands in front of Mary. Angel raises his/her arms over Mary and looks tenderly at her.)*

**THIRD NARRATOR:** Suddenly, an angel appeared. He said -

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** I am Gabriel. God is with you, Mary. You are special to him. Believe what I am telling you. You have been chosen to have God's Son. He will change the world forever. He will teach people to love. You will name him Jesus.

**FIRST NARRATOR:** Mary was afraid at first. She did not understand. What was the angel telling her?

Mary asked -

**SECOND NARRATOR:** How can I? How can this be? I love and am engaged to Joseph, but we are not yet married.

*(Angel Gabriel walks down to Mary and places hand on Mary's shoulder)*

**THIRD NARRATOR:** The angel said to Mary -

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** Do not be afraid. God knows how much you love Joseph and how much he loves you. Do not forget how much God loves you. Your love and God's grace will make this miracle happen. The Holy Spirit will fill you, and everything will be just as I told you.

Mary replied –

**FIRST NARRATOR:** Yes, I believe God loves me. I do not understand, but I am the Lord's humble servant and will do what God wants of me.

*(Joseph starts walking slowly from back of church)*

**SECOND NARRATOR:** With that, the angel left her.

*(Angel Gabriel exits to left (sacristy), as second narrator finishes last words. Joseph comes from back of church. As he gets near, Mary stands quickly and turns to him. They join hands, look into each other's eyes, and freeze)*

**THIRD NARRATOR:** Joseph loved Mary with all his heart. They were engaged, but not yet married. Joseph tried to understand what Mary told him, but his heart was not sure. He didn't know what to believe or what to do.

*(Mary gently lets go of Joseph's hands and exits down main aisle. Joseph watches her go to baptismal font at break. Looking troubled, and putting his hand to his forehead, he turns and kneels in prayer facing the altar)*

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** Joseph knelt and prayed. God heard Joseph's prayer and knew what was in his heart. God sent an angel who appeared to Joseph that night.

*(Second Angel enters from right down two steps, stands over Joseph, and puts both hands on Joseph's shoulder)*

**FIRST NARRATOR:** Do not be afraid, Joseph. God has heard your prayer. He has sent me to help you. Believe in Mary and in your love for her. Trust her and all she told you. Mary loves you very much. Go to her and love her. God is with you both.

*(Second Angel points down the aisle. Joseph stands and then exits down the main aisle. Second Angel goes back to sacristy)*

**SECOND NARRATOR:** Time passed, and the miracle grew. At that time Caesar Augustus was king. He ordered everyone to go to their hometown and register.

*(Soldiers march up center aisle to front)*

**THIRD NARRATOR:** By order of the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, everyone in the world must be counted and registered. Each person must be counted in the place where they were born. (Music begins)

**MUSICAL SELECTION:** *"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"*

*(While choir sings Mary and Joseph walk slowly up center aisle to back of Church and Innkeeper and wife stand beside baptismal font holding "No Room" sign.)*

*(Crew sets up crib)*

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** Joseph was a carpenter. He was descended from King David, and Bethlehem was his ancestral home. Even though Mary's time was near, Joseph and Mary left Nazareth and made the long, difficult journey to Bethlehem.

*(Joseph and Mary arrive at baptismal font and Joseph puts his arm around her to comfort her. Innkeeper and wife are standing by with arms folded.)*

**FIRST NARRATOR:** The city was crowded. Everyone had come to register. Mary and Joseph went to the inn where travelers stayed. Joseph asked the innkeeper –

**SECOND NARRATOR:** Do you have room in your inn for my wife and I? We are very tired.

The innkeeper replied -

**THIRD NARRATOR:** I'm sorry, all my rooms are filled.

*(Innkeeper's wife gestures toward Mary and pulls on her husband's arm)*

The Innkeeper's wife said –

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** But husband look. She is going to have a baby soon. Don't we have anything?

The innkeeper replied -

**FIRST NARRATOR:** If you would like, you may stay in my stable on the outskirts of town. At least there you will be warm and dry.

*(Mary and Joseph follow the Innkeeper and wife to the stable in front by the altar)*

**SECOND NARRATOR:** A stable was all there was. There the Virgin Mary gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. That night God kept his promise. God's Son was born to us.

*(Star above manger is brought forward. Mary takes doll wrapped in blanket from behind crib, holds him in her arms for a moment, then places him in the manger.)*

**THIRD NARRATOR:** That night, a beautiful star appeared. It was not like any other star in the heavens. It was big and bright and its light filled the sky. It came to rest over the stable where Jesus was born.

*(Shepherds come down the center aisle and stop at the second pew. They point towards the star and look as if they are talking among themselves. Music begins)*

**MUSICAL SELECTION:** "Star of Wonder"

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** There were shepherds out that night. They were watching over their flocks. Suddenly, an angel appeared to them.

He said –

*(Second Angel enters from sacristy. Shepherds then kneel covering their eyes in fear)*



**FIRST NARRATOR:** Don't be afraid. I have good news. Wonderful news. God's Son has come to you! He loves you and has come to tell you how much God loves you. God's own Son is here. Go and worship Him. Look for a baby born in a stable. He is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

*(Second Angel points toward stable. Shepherds get up, go to stable, kneel around manger. Second Angel follows them along with Angel Gabriel and remains standing to the right for rest of narration and leave room for Wise Ones in front of manger)*

**SECOND NARRATOR:** Suddenly, the sky was filled with angels. They were singing and praising God.

In one voice they proclaimed -

**THIRD NARRATOR:** Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

*(Little angels enter from back doors and walk down center and side aisles and take their places on the altar. Music begins)*

**MUSICAL SELECTION:** "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** From the East, from a place far away, came three who were wise. Together they followed the star when others would not. They found the babe lying in the manger and somehow, they knew.

*(Wise Ones come slowly up the aisle, carrying gifts, and stopping at the baptismal font and pointing to the star shining above the stable)*

*(Wise Ones proceed to stable as music begins.)*

**MUSICAL SELECTION:** "WE THREE KINGS"

**FIRST NARRATOR:** They brought the child gifts, very special gifts.

Wise king #1 said -

**SECOND NARRATOR:** I've brought him gold - the sign of a king  
*(king bears gift forward and kneels).*

Wise king #2 said -

**THIRD NARRATOR:** I've brought him frankincense - the sign of a priest  
*(king bears gift forward and kneels).*

Wise king #3 said -

**FOURTH NARRATOR:** I've brought him myrrh - the sign of a promise (*king bears gift forward and kneels*).

**FIRST NARRATOR:** Somehow, they knew this child would one day give His life for us and be our Heavenly King.

**SECOND NARRATOR:** As time went on the news of Jesus's birth had spread and many people came to the stable to worship him. One little boy gave Jesus the gift of his music.

*(Drummer boy enters up center aisle and drums to the beat of the song. Music begins)*

**MUSICAL SELECTION:** "DRUMMER BOY"

**THIRD NARRATOR:** And so, on this night, holy and bright, God came to save us. He was born a child to remind us we are his children. He came like us so we might one day be like him. Jesus came in a way we would understand - a way we could never forget.

*(All freeze at the manger as a living Nativity scene. Music begins)*

**MUSICAL SELECTION: "Silent Night"**

**ALL NARRATORS READ FINALE:**

**Whenever we wrap our presents for others**

**And dream of the gifts we'd like best**

**Let us remember God's gift of a Savior**

**The gift that outshines all the rest! (Music begins)**

**MUSICAL SELECTION: "JOY TO THE WORLD"**

*(All cast members join in singing Joy to the World. After song, hold places for photo and announcements.)*

***THE END!!!!***