

PAGEANTS OF CHRISTMAS



Holy Cross School students couldn't have asked for a better Yuletide treat when folk singer Mark Curtis arrived for two performances Friday morning. The young audience in his first show was instantly fascinated by his repertoire of witty and playful tunes, which made audience participation irresistible. A pastoral assistant and a recording artist of religious music for the younger set, Mr. Curtis, who is barely 23 years old, proved himself quite an entertainer judging by the applause which followed. (Herald photo)



Hark, said four little angels at Park Public School Thursday night. Part of a play about the birth of Jesus, the angels were (left to right) Kim Mizener, 9, Heather Lovegrove, 9, Emma Lewzey, 9, and Jenny Williams, 9. The Grade 4 students are part of the school's Christmas concert. (Herald photo)

Mormon congregation extends greetings

Herald Special
Local church leader Bishop Corrado Miseri of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has sent out the following Christmas statement concerning his congregation's feelings about the divinity of Jesus Christ:

"At his holy season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we want to extend our love and Christmas greetings to the people of Halton Hills.

"Nearly 2,000 years ago on a still and starry night, the wondrous cry of a newborn babe was heard in a humble shelter in the little town of Bethlehem.

"For unto us a child is born, wrote the prophet Isaiah, 'Unto us a son is given...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace'.

"With the sounds of Christmas bells and carols in our ears, we join our voices with our other Christian brothers and sisters to praise Jesus Christ. We too know and declare his Divine Sonship. We pray that all families of the world will be blessed with the sweet



influence of the spirit of the Lord, not only during this special season, but always.
"We know that Jesus Christ is literally the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of the World. We join with the multitude of the heavenly host and all mankind to say, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.'"

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IN THE CHURCHES



By Bob Ollivier

Many myths surround Christmas. Some carry over from pagan religious rites. Such stories as the poor man taking pity on a child when he himself is destitute, and miracles taking place. All on Christmas Eve. The child, of course, being the Christchild.

Many of these fables or legends concern Christ as a child, and almost all involve poor folk.

Flowers and various plants and animals are woven into many Christmas fables as was natural with people living close to the land and the sea. The two major festivals of Christianity, Easter and Christmas, are fraught with stories of this nature, all untrue. The real facts are in scripture and if not found there, can be discounted.

Don't get me wrong: Christmas and Easter are very important to me, and I give gifts as per Esther 9:22 "and they gave gifts to the poor and portions to one another". Do you recognize and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas? Christ was born, the most significant event in history.

Gifts to the Christian: A study book or

inspirational book would often be appreciated. A little time spent in the bookstore, "The Hope Chest", would give many ideas, and at a wide range of prices.

An unusual gift, but one that is filled with meaning is a jar of honey. Look at the significance of honey in the Bible, and you'll see why it would make a fine gift. Good to eat, too. Write some of the best representative verses to go with the gift; I

found 52 references or one for each week of the year. More programs for the Christmas season in our local churches:

Norval United Church will hold its Sunday School concert Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. On the 26th a Christmas Eve service will include communion and the Forever Choir. Dec. 26 is family worship, there will be no Sunday school on this date.

Holy Cross Parish will observe family mass at 7 p.m. Christmas eve, and of course midnight mass preceded with a carol service. On Christmas Day, mass will be said at 8 and 10 a.m. and noon. Dec. 26 mass at 8, 10 and 11 a.m. and noon. New Year's weekend masses are at 7 p.m. New Year's Eve and 8 and 10 a.m. and noon New Year's Day. Jan. 2 at 8, 10 and 11 a.m. and noon.

If all or part of your church's program or events has been missed, it is due to the late arrival or non-arrival of the necessary information.

From my family to yours, and from my church to yours, a very blessed Christmas and a special New Year's prayer for a closeness to Christ.

What of Elizabeth and Mary?

Elizabeth to Mary—Luke 1:42-45

Among the women, blest art thou,
And also blest, thy Child,
For He is come to save us now,
And God is reconciled.

And whence am I so blest with joy
To have, within my room,
Meehah's mother? How my boy
Rejoices in my womb!

And blest is she who trusts the Lord,
Believes the Word He sent,
For He shall keep that gracious Word,
Fulfill its full intent.

Mary to Elizabeth—Luke 1:46-55

My soul exalts the Lord, the King!
I long to lift my voice!
Salvation makes my spirit sing,
Exult, exclaim, rejoice!

For God has graced my lowliness,
A maid He chose to save,
A servant whom His folk shall bless,
Who bears the Son He gave.

For mighty works the Lord has done
To take away our blame,
To save us, sent His only Son,
And holy is His name.

His mercy comes to those who fear
The Lord in every age.
The Child is God, is with us here
As told on sacred page.

The Lord has showed His gracious strength,



CLERGY COMMENT

By Dr. J.M. DRICKAMER
Immanuel Lutheran Church

His mighty, saving arm.
The longed-for One is come at length
To keep our souls from harm.

He scattered all who trust their might,
The proud in heart and thought.
For all are guilty, none is right,
And pride is brought to naught.

But humble ones admit their sin
And know their low degree.
By grace exalted, they have been
Forgiven. They are free.

The ones who hunger shall be filled
With righteousness and peace
From God, Whose anger has been stilled,
And all their thirst shall cease.

But those who think that they are great
Are not allowed to stay,
And in their empty, errant state
Are surely sent away.

The ones who trust what they possess
Are barren, arid clay,
For wealth is not the righteousness
That counts on Judgment Day.

So God has helped His chosen folk,
Remembering the grace,
He promised, as the prophets spoke,
A Lamb to take our place.

The Lord would come, the fathers heard,
Bestowing sacred mirth,
And how my heart and soul are stirred,
For I shall give Him birth!



ANGELS THREE

There were dozens of angels like these at the Holy Cross Roman Catholic School Christmas pageant Thursday morning. Grade 2 students (left to right) Deanne Fowler, 7, Julie Myers, 7, and Elaine Kennedy, 7, joined their pals on stage to perform the nativity for parents and the senior grades at the school. Julie said she'd never been an angel before, but she liked being one. That ought to please her mother.

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