



**January 2026**

***Happy New Year!***

**It's hard to believe that another year is behind us and that we are once again thinking about the new year ahead. Hopefully, the past year has provided some special moments for you and some wonderful new memories were made. From the garden volunteers' perspective, it was indeed a year to remember. So much was accomplished by our wonderful corps of volunteers.**

**Much thanks to all the folks involved with the 2025 Creche Festival. This first newsletter of 2026 is dedicated solely to the event, and I have let Paul Meyer's photos tell the story. I'm sure you will appreciate them as much as I do. So, if you could not attend this year's Festival or was not able to get a photo of your favorite item, you will find below dozens of photos of the Nativities on display. For those who did attend, it is hoped you will enjoy seeing these wonderful objects one more time.**

***-- LuAnne***

## ***Spotlight on the 2025 Crèche Festival – Part 2***

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mepkin Abbey Crèche Festival ended on December 6th and by all accounts it was a great success. There were more than 9,500 attendees to this year's event and more than \$320,000 was raised for the Abbey through donations, silent auctions, gross sales in both the Abbey store and the Creche Store, and cookie and coffee sales.

***Thanks to Paul Meyer for all the photos that follow.*** For those who could not attend the festival, this large sampling of the many photos Paul took of the displays will detail for you all the creative ways in which this year's theme, "Nativity in Wood and with Wood," was presented. Visitors were treated to scenes of the Nativity recreated and reimagined by wood carvers and artists through a variety of woods, wood-like materials and products made from wood.

When you are done strolling through the pages here, you may also want to view a video tour of this year's festival that was posted by the Abbey at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).



Crèche (cont'd)



Crèche (cont'd)



Crèche (cont'd)



Crèche (cont'd)



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Crèche (cont'd)



Crèche (cont'd)



Crèche (cont'd)



**#1**



**#2**



**#3**

*This Year's Top Five Winners - #1, #2, and #3...*

Crèche (cont'd)



**#4**



**#5**

... #4 and #5

***By Special Arrangement***



*Thank you, Ursula, for sharing this photo of the Christmas greenery  
adorning the door of the Church during December.*

Arrangement (cont'd)



*And, thanks to Linda Chiappone for sharing this photo taken by Larry Robinson, a Creche volunteer, of The Community Nativity Mosaic beautifully backlit by the sun.*

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***May we all resolve to keep the glory of Christmas in our hearts and allow it to provide the light for our plans and our pathways throughout the coming year. Let the mosaic above remind us that as individuals we come in all different shapes, sizes and colors, but oh, what we can do when we are brought together in community in common cause. It is then that we realize we are all part of something so much larger and far more meaningful.***