

Trusted.

Always delivering the best local news. All ways.

TwinCities.com  
PIONEER PRESS

The Little Oven

1786 E. MINNEHAHA AVE, ST PAUL | 651-735-4944 | THELITTLEOVEN.COM

Follow Us! Facebook.com/The-Little-Oven @the\_little\_oven

TAKE OUT ONLY — CURBSIDE PICK UP AVAILABLE

LASAGNA

Voted Best in the State by WCCO

6 to 9 cuts .....\$29.99

Served with garden salad, and slice Italian bread and garlic butter...\$39.99

18 to 24 cuts .....\$79.99

Served with garden salad, and slice Italian bread and garlic butter...\$99.99

PENNE

Penne Serves 25.....\$149.99

Penne for 25 served with garden salad, two loaves of sliced Italian bread and garlic butter along with 25 meatballs.

BURGER EXPO

1 for \$5.99 / 2 for \$9.99

• NEW! Pizza Burger

• Spicy Chicken Tender Sandwich

• Bacon Cheeseburger

• Pulled-Pork Sandwich

Add a Side of French fries for \$2.00 or a Basket of French fries for \$4.99

CHICKEN TENDERS...\$5

Chicken tender offer valid thru 12/31/20

Buy One 14 inch Pizza

Get 2nd 14 inch Pizza

FREE

PASTA MONDAY

• Lasagna .....\$5.99

• Spaghetti & 2 Meatballs .....\$6.50

• Beef or Cheese Ravioli .....\$6.99

• Chicken Parmesan .....\$6.99

• Spaghetti Magnifico....\$6.99

FROZEN PIZZA \$5

Sausage, Pepperoni, Cheese, Veggie

HOLIDAY TRAYS \$19.99

Serves 3-4.

Available Frozen, Fresh (cold) or Served Hot (allow 2 hours for pick up)

• Lasagna Voted Best in the State by WCCO

• Manicotti or Cannelloni

• Gnocchi with Vodka Sauce and Italian Sausage

• Penne & Meatballs

Add a Garden Salad to any Holiday Tray for \$10.99

# In a tough year, Vatican Nativity scene leaves some unimpressed

Many viewers are confused by ceramic figures

By Jason Horowitz  
New York Times

VATICAN CITY — A couple stood in front of the Vatican’s new Christmas Nativity scene in St. Peter’s Square, trying to understand exactly what they were looking at. The three wise men, life-size and cylindrical, looked as if constructed from ceramic oil drums. Joseph and Mary, likewise torpedo-shaped, seemed like enormous, Bible-themed Weebles. Two enigmatic, totemic figures stood in the middle of the platform. One held a shield and a decorative spear and had for a head what appeared to be an overturned caldron, carved like an angry Halloween Jack-O-Lantern. The other wore an astronaut’s helmet and held the cratered moon in its hands. “That one there?” Giorgio Banti, 71, asked his wife, Anita, as they gazed at the figures Wednesday morning. She shrugged and read the informational poster. “First landing on the moon.” Every year, the Vatican unveils a different Nativity scene, usually donated by an Italian town, to be displayed next to the ancient obelisk in the center of St. Peter’s Square. Last year’s artists sculpted the holy family, the Magi, angels and donkeys out of 720 tons of beach sand. In 2016, the display featured a Maltese fishing boat to evoke

NADIA SHIRA COHEN / NEW YORK TIMES  
An astronaut figure stands amid the Vatican’s Christmas Nativity scene in St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City on Saturday. The Nativity scene has prompted criticism — and some head-scratching, with some trying to understand exactly what they were looking at.

the travails of refugees. The one in 2017 highlighted works of mercy with a man visiting a prison cell and another burying a shrouded body, complete with a dangling pale arm. This year, the Vatican went in another direction, toward Castelli, a town in the Abruzzo region of central-eastern Italy known for centuries for its ceramics. Between 1965 and 1975, students and teachers at a local art school there sought to revive that tradition by using ancient coiling techniques — rings of ceramic stacked in sections like marble columns — to create more than 50 Christmas-themed figures. They graced Rome’s Trajan Markets in 1970, and made it to Jerusalem in 1976. They survived earthquakes in 2009 and 2016, and a bad snowstorm in 2017. Finally, this year, they made it to the big show, the “churchyard of Christianity,” as the crèche’s official description put it. The reviews haven’t been so hot. “It’s hideous,” said Anita Banti, who looked at the ceramic menagerie of animals — chicks that looked like fallen meteorites, a camel made of ceramic cubes — with horror. “Why do they have that one with the horns?” she asked. “What is that? A turkey?” The critiques have been amplified by conservatives who see in the ceramic figures a further erosion of church traditions and customary images they hold dear. They also tend to criticize Pope Francis for an overzealous spirit of inclusion. Francis, who has shown an interest in space exploration, also seems willing to push the crèche limits. Last year, he issued a document, “Admirable Signum,” in which he defended a more open-minded approach to the Nativity scene.

frank murphy

Premier Fashions Since 1931

Shop our Gifts!

30% OFF Storewide

Great gift ideas and free gift wrapping!

Coupon Code: 30fmrose. Valid through December 31, 2020

Now at Rosedale Mall for the Holidays

Next to Williams Sonoma with outside entrance & easy parking.

\*Discount does not apply towards previously purchased items. Not available with any other coupons or promotions. Cannot be applied to special orders.

Great Gift Ideas With Style!

Over 500 Rugs Available!

KAZEMPOUR ORIENTAL RUGS

Handmade Rugs For All Budgets!

Call for Appointment: 612-672-0434

5707 W 36th St | St. Louis Park, MN 55416

Review our Gallery online: [www.kazempourusa.com](http://www.kazempourusa.com)

Oriental & Persian Rugs – Selling, Cleaning and Consulting since 1991

Schatzlein Saddle Shop

Family Business since 1907

Boots • Jeans • Hats • Apparel • Belts • Gifts • Horse Supplies

Now Open Sundays for the Christmas Season 12-5PM

Levi's \$5 Off Men's 501, 505, 510, 511, 514, 517, 527

Western Boot Sale Mens - Ladies - Kids \$10 off REG. PRICE Sale Ends Dec. 24th, 2020

413 West Lake St. Mpls., MN • 612-825-2459

Park FREE in our lot by the alley side of the store!

[www.SSaddle.com](http://www.SSaddle.com)

Mon.-Fri. 9:30am-6pm • Sat. 9:30am-5pm

New Holiday Special Gift Product Launch!

Betty Crocker Red Lipstain (as shown in pictures) - Matte! Can be worn for up to 16+ Hours! The perfect lip product to be worn under any face mask! GUARANTEE no mess or smear. All Lipstain's are Vegan, Cruelty Free, Paraben Free and Gluten Free. Lipstains available in 9 different shades.

Yumi Betty Crocker Lipstain Matte Red All Day Lip Stain

E-Gift Certificates Available!

YUMI Cosmetics P.O. Box 390696 Minneapolis, MN 55439 [www.yumicosmetics.com](http://www.yumicosmetics.com) • Phone: 612-405-2421

We sell Quality, Open-Ended Toys from all around the world, curated vintage clothing for children and sweet treats for everyone.

Order online. Curbside Pick-up and Private Shopping appointments available on our website at KINOKOKIDS.COM

3803 Grand Ave. S, Minneapolis MN 55409

MIXTAPE

THE SONG AND SCENARIO CARD GAME

MIXTAPE

Interpretive Dance

MIXTAPE

unique. funky. affordable.

Holiday Hours:  
Mon 12/21 – Thu 12/24 10-6

Closed Christmas Day

2000 S 4th Ave • Minneapolis  
612.870.9300 • [electricfetus.com](http://electricfetus.com)

THE ELECTRIC fetus

Holiday Savings Event

SAVE UP TO 40% ALL MONTH!

BRIZO DELTA TOTO

Faucets, Toilets, Vanities and Tops

STAR SUPPLY

bath & kitchen Showroom

Sinks | Faucets | Tubs | Toilets

Hours: Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM  
Closed Dec 24 & 25, Closed Jan 1, 2021  
[www.starsupplyinc.com](http://www.starsupplyinc.com)

651-644-3668 • 410 Syndicate St. N, St. Paul