



“And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

**Christmas 2017**



## THE PEOPLE WHO WALK IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT!

We call Jesus the Light of the World and for good reason. Because of Jesus, the darkness of sin and death has been vanquished forever. We no longer need to worry about being overwhelmed by the darkness of sin.

The choice is still ours, however, on whether or not we are going to accept the Light and allow it to lead us through our years here on earth.

When we were baptized, our godparents received a lit candle along with the admonition, "Receive the light of Christ." The celebrant then instructed the godparents to keep that light of faith stoked in the child being baptized so that the child would never be overwhelmed.

We live in an overwhelming world, that much is certain. We live in a world where "dog eats dog". The rule of thumb is to do all that we can to get ahead and not to worry about the people we leave in our wake, no matter how wounded we may have made them.

That is not the message of Christmas, however. The message of Christmas is that the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, has been born and is giving us a new way to live. We can choose to live according to the rules of the world or we can be set free from the rules of the world and embrace the law of Christ. That law is both simple and complex: love.

God loved us so much that He made us in His own image. He promised to send His Son to deliver us from sin and death. Today, we celebrate the fact that God delivered upon that promise.

However, today is not the end. It is merely the beginning. That Christ-Child would grow and give His life for us on the cross. Three days later, He would rise from the dead, destroying death and restoring life.

Celebrate the promise today; but, look forward to the complete fulfillment of that promise at Easter. Merry Christmas!

**FAITH ACTION:** In all of your celebration today — and the next few days — remember to take time to pray and to thank God for the gift of His Son.

*Fr. Mike*

There are many people who worked so hard to make sure that Christmas was a splendid celebration. Thank you to all who made this Christmas so beautiful.

To those who decorated the church, who sang in the choirs, who played instruments, who served at the altar, who proclaimed the readings, who led the singing, who distributed Communion, who greeted us at the doors, who ushered: to all of you and any I may have forgotten to mention I give my heartfelt thanks.

I especially want to thank and acknowledge Fr. Jordan & our Deacons for all their hard work. God bless you all!



May God's blessings be with you, your family, and your friends as you celebrate this Christmas season.

May you give thanks to God for all He has given you this year; and if your Christmas season feels anything but "blessed" and "merry," know that Christ can and will give you the grace and strength you need.

After all, God stooped down so that He could lift us up.

*Rev. Jordan C. Wetch*



Greetings! Let the light of Jesus, the light of the World, shine upon us!!!

The Christmas Season is the opportune time to contemplate the humble incarnation of Jesus as a sign of God the Father's love for us. Though He was God, Jesus took flesh and assumed our human nature except sin. Jesus opened heaven for us and gave us the opportunity to share in His divine life, to be in His image and likeness.



Christmas is also the time to rekindle our love and ties with family and friends. In this age of consumerism, computer/internet, social media and easy global access to travel, it is very easy to overlook our lost personal communication with one another. Let the example of the Holy Family of Jesus be a model for us to have a more respectful, loving, sharing and gentle harmonious family life.

Let us all give thanks, praise, love, and honor and glory to our God. May love, peace, and joy abound in our family.

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year to all!!

God bless,

*Deacon Napoleon and Lynn Tabion*

As we prepare for the season of Christmas, we hear about the coming of Jesus. We hear about His coming to us as an infant in the manger, when there was no room for Him in the inn. We also hear about His second coming in glory. However, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming and to reflect on His second coming, it is important to remember that Jesus comes to each of us each day in many ways.

He comes to us in the Mass, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and in each of the sacraments we celebrate. He comes to us when we pray, and when we read the Scriptures. Jesus also comes to us each day in our family, friends, coworkers and the strangers we encounter each day. He comes to us in the poor and the sick, which we are charged to care for.

Someday, when He comes again, Jesus will ask each of what we did for our brothers and sisters, for that is what we did to Jesus Himself. My prayer for each of you this Christmas Season is that you, like Mother Mary, learn to recognize Jesus in each of His 'comings' in your life and that you welcome Him each time. Welcome Him at Mass, welcome Him in the Eucharist, welcome Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and welcome Him in every person you encounter each day. If you are able to welcome Jesus each day, when He comes again He will welcome you to spend eternity with Him, and that is the best Christmas gift anyone could ever receive.

May God bless you and yours this Christmas Season,

*Miss Emily Hackett*

*Director of Religious Education*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we celebrate Christmas, we are thankful for the gift of faith, a gift of **Good News** that opens up for us the beautiful message of this holy season, namely, that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to redeem us and to show us the way to the Father in heaven.

The best Christmas gift we can give each other is to share our faith with loved ones and strangers alike, proclaiming the joyous tidings that God is with us. And we should not just share our faith but we should reach out to one another with all the blessings God has given us, especially the gift of peace

Christmas. Just the mere mention of the word brings up all sorts of thoughts and emotions. For many, Christmas is a time spent with family and friends and is a joyous time of year. For others, it is a time spent alone due to family difficulties or losses and is a time of isolation. Many likely think of presents under the tree and the excitement of children. We think of hot chocolate, peppermint sticks, and the proverbial white Christmas. Christmas is so much more; it is more than cards and Claus.

Christmas is about Christ, nothing more and nothing less. It is about the gift God offered to humanity through the giving of His Son, the one who shed His blood at Calvary and paid the full price for our sins so that we might experience eternal life with Him by placing our simple faith and trust in His work on the cross. Will you, this Christmas, place your faith and trust in Christ? There is truly no better gift you can receive.

May the beauty, peace and joy of this most blessed season envelop you all with the infinite love of God, and the wonder of the birth of His only Son, our Savior and brother, Jesus.

A joyous and blessed Christmas to each of you!

*Deacon Joseph and Joyce Stodola*



### **A Christmas Prayer**

Dear Lord, We thank you for the wonderful gift of your Son. We are grateful for the multiple gifts that you have given us in our lives, more countless than the stars in the sky.

We are sorry for all the things we have done that have taken us away from your love and subtracted us from remaining close to you.

We add up all the gifts of family and friends that you have blessed us with throughout our life.

We are most sorry for the divisions we have created that have separated us from that which is most important.

Knowing dear Lord, that the sum of your love this Christmas is greater than all of our parts. Amen

Merry Christmas,

*Deacon Dave and Kathy Kapala*

Black Friday is now also every day of the week going back to October or early November for sure. We are not even at Halloween and the shopping craziness for Christmas is started.

The cause of Christian joy isn't presents. The cause of Christian joy isn't a trouble-free life. Sure, the presents are a part of Christmas but presents should not be the focus of Christmas. The cause of Christian joy is Jesus Christ, God-With-Us.

If you haven't done it so far this Christmas, let's open up space for God. How?

10 minutes a day for prayer.

- The next eight days are particularly dedicated to celebrating Christmas. In the Catholic tradition, this is called the Octave of Christmas.
- So from today up until (and including) January First, let's commit to dedicating 10 minutes a day to prayer.
- Here's a suggestion. Pick up the Bible. Go to the Gospel of Saint Luke, Chapter 2, verses 2-20.
- Read those passages and meditate for a few minutes.
- Then speak with Christ. Thank him for the gift of his presence. Ask him how he's hoping we respond. Ask him to help us love him more.

As we do this, we're opening up space for God to give us his strength and joy. And let's not stop on January 1st!

We have received the Eucharist at Mass on this Christmas Day— God Is With Us. The Word became Flesh and made his dwelling among us over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. Now in the Eucharist, he makes his dwelling in our souls.

Jesus gives us God, let us rejoice and be glad! Let this Christmas be the start of a new closer relationship with our God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year!

*Lady Mary Lou Zurawski, LCHS and  
Deacon Daniel Zurawski, KHS*

I've been thinking of all of the customs we participate in during the Christmas season. Sending Christmas cards, baking, giving gifts to loved ones and friends, helping those in need, decorating our homes and hanging stockings to name a few. I am sure that you and your family have your own customs or traditions that you follow year after year. These traditions can be an important part of who we are and how we celebrate.

Another less visible tradition is to take time every Christmas to reflect and focus or re-focus on what is really important in our lives. It is an opportunity to celebrate with our family the tremendous love God has for us and the gift he gave us, His only Son, Jesus Christ. We can joyously celebrate the truth that Jesus Christ, the light of the world, has saved us from a life a darkness. We truly have a reason to celebrate!

Wishing you and your family a Christmas filled with love and joy and a 2018 filled with peace, laughter and an abundance of spiritual blessings.

Merry Christmas!

*Noreen Bickel*

*School President*

*Parish Director of Finance*



“Keep Christ in Christmas” is more than a simple cliché! It is a profound truth for us believers.

Let us this year, by our attitudes and by our actions, be a living testimony to our neighbors and co-workers, our family and friends, and especially our children, of what Christmas truly means.

Wishing each and every one of you a Christmas filled with holiness and true joy.

May 2018 be filled with health, peace, happiness and an abundance of spiritual blessings to you, your family, and those whom you love!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Jay L. Harker  
Principal*