

Dear Parishioners,

The delight of the Holy Season of Christmas is upon us. "I bring you glad tidings of great joy to be shared by all the faithful." Luke 2:10

With Christmas, God has spoken His Word. The Son of God is the Word of God. He is the communication of the Father. The Father sent His Word to us. The angels sang in the night, "We bring you tidings of great joy". The angels are God's messengers, bringing us the Gospel which is the Good News. To evangelize is to spread the Gospel and so pass on the Good Word. (Do invite someone to a Christmas Liturgy.)

The world, our world needs the Good Word. We are not only in touch with one another in sending greetings and good wishes at Christmas, we also commune with God and He with us. We communicate with God in public and private prayer.

I thank God for all of you and your great faith. We all thank God for our families and loved ones. In our worship we thank God for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus, the Word of God, Emmanuel, God with us.

Christmas is the beginning of a new kind of Communication with God. It is as if life matters because love matters. "God so loved the world, He sent His only begotten Son". John 3:16 We are put on Earth a little while that we may learn to bear the beams of love." Emily Dickenson

We each know something of human love which can be very beautiful. We know something of Divine love in Jesus, born humble & hidden, in a stable in Bethlehem, that First Christmas night. Superbly beautiful, it is love divine.

The Angels knew that love, and sang glorious music for the poor shepherds. The angels told them to go and they did. It is clear He came to bring good news to the poor. It was also a clear night; the brilliant star shone in the sky over the place of birth. The high and mighty, knowing what it meant by grace, came from afar to offer royal gifts.

Indeed Christmas is a communication feast. It is an exchange of gifts ,He gave Himself to us, the good Word of God. We give ourselves to Him, the human answer, the returned greeting, the responsive Word. Especially, we give to the poor, to whom He was first made known in the shepherds.

One way you can give back is by participating in the design of a new future for our parish. A strategic planning day with Dr. Dan Ebener will give us the opportunity to fashion the future of our faith community. This day will take place on Saturday, February 11, 2017. More information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter. All are welcome. Please call the office to let us know of your interest in attending.

Christmas green is for life and hope; Christmas red is for the heart of love, the fruit of the tree. Our evergreen holly tree for Christmas was laden with red berries, decorated by nature. A heavy crop of berries foretold a hard winter; God in nature providing for the birds of the air. In a certain way, it foretold another tree, the tree of the cross, which carried the blood of the Saviour, who takes away the sins of the world. As I write, in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus offered mercy to the good thief, "this day you shall be with me in paradise". Luke 23: 43 I invite you to experience God's loving mercy & unconditional love in the Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday, Dec. 12th at 7pm in preparation for Christmas. We will have at least 12 priests to hear your confessions. In the last month we have celebrated 19 priest hours of Reconciliation for grades 5,6,7,8 & 9 (Confirmation one) not including our Catholic School.

So give glory to God in Heaven who gave glory to God on earth in His coming. O Wonderful Counselor. O Wonder of the modern world, Christ, Word made flesh, Son of Mary.

Merry Christmas!

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

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Pastor