



“On this day of joy, we are all called to contemplate the Child Jesus, who gives hope once again to every person on the face of the earth. By his grace, let us with our voices and our actions give witness to solidarity and peace. Merry Christmas to all!”

[*Pope Francis, Christmas 2016*](#)

Dear Parishioners:

As we observe the various events happening around the world, we might feel that everything is falling apart and that we may react with helplessness. Several places on the planet are experiencing on going wars, strife, protests, and violence. In our local situations we may find ourselves amid ambiguity. Politicians seem to be fighting for this and that as well as being taunted with threats and so on. Unfortunately, we could end up descending to a point of wondering as to how these affect us. Opponents may use fear as a method of getting their way without concern of hurting communities. Nonetheless, these things that are happening now is not new. These kinds of situations have been around since the beginning of time.

The Scriptures for the celebration of Christmas speak about the joy of God answering the prayers of his people. His arrival among us in the stable brings us back to the reality of his presence in the uncertainty that surrounds us. There is no guarantee that everything about us will be perfect. Yet, we are given an assurance that our relationship with Christ will help us navigate anything that we encounter. We hear about light, joy, lifting of burdens, birth, justice, travel, being turned down, finding a place to stay, angels, singing and sending forth. These concepts portray an openness to not be overcome by fear.

We might think that there is nothing that we could do to alleviate our fears. However, the Lord shows us that anything is possible when we trust him. The Christ Child teaches us that trusting in God will help us to be calm and to examine the most important aspects of what we are doing where we are. The Christmas event is not a serene scene. It is a very powerful expression of God being vulnerable. It's an example of how things can be accomplished by being present. The simplicity of the night that Jesus was born is the place in our hearts that reveals that believing and trusting in him will make us whole. We take our cue from Jesus as he lived during a difficult historical time and that no matter what we are not alone!

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may God give you many blessings today and every day!

Fr. Sebastian Amato



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

On this Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord (aka, Christmas!), we recall how the Almighty God, Creator of the universe, entered His creation as a man and vulnerable, as a baby. This great Solemnity is the celebration of the overwhelming love that God has for each and every one of us. A Love that invites us to a deeper friendship, every day, with Him! It is also a Love that continues to be offered to us every time we go to Sunday Mass.

St. Francis of Assisi, writing to his community of brothers, reminded them: "*Look, he humbles himself every day, as when from the royal seat he descended into the womb of the Virgin; every day He himself comes to us in humble appearance; every day He descends from the bosom of the Father on the altar in the hands of the priest.*"

The overabundance of Love we celebrate in the Nativity of Our Lord, December 25th, is celebrated at every Mass, when Jesus Himself comes down to us in the Eucharist - His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity!

May this celebration and the celebration of every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass be a joyful reminder of the Lord's over-abundant love for you: a personal love inviting you in deeper friendship with Him!

With my prayers and blessing,

Fr. Michel Quenneville