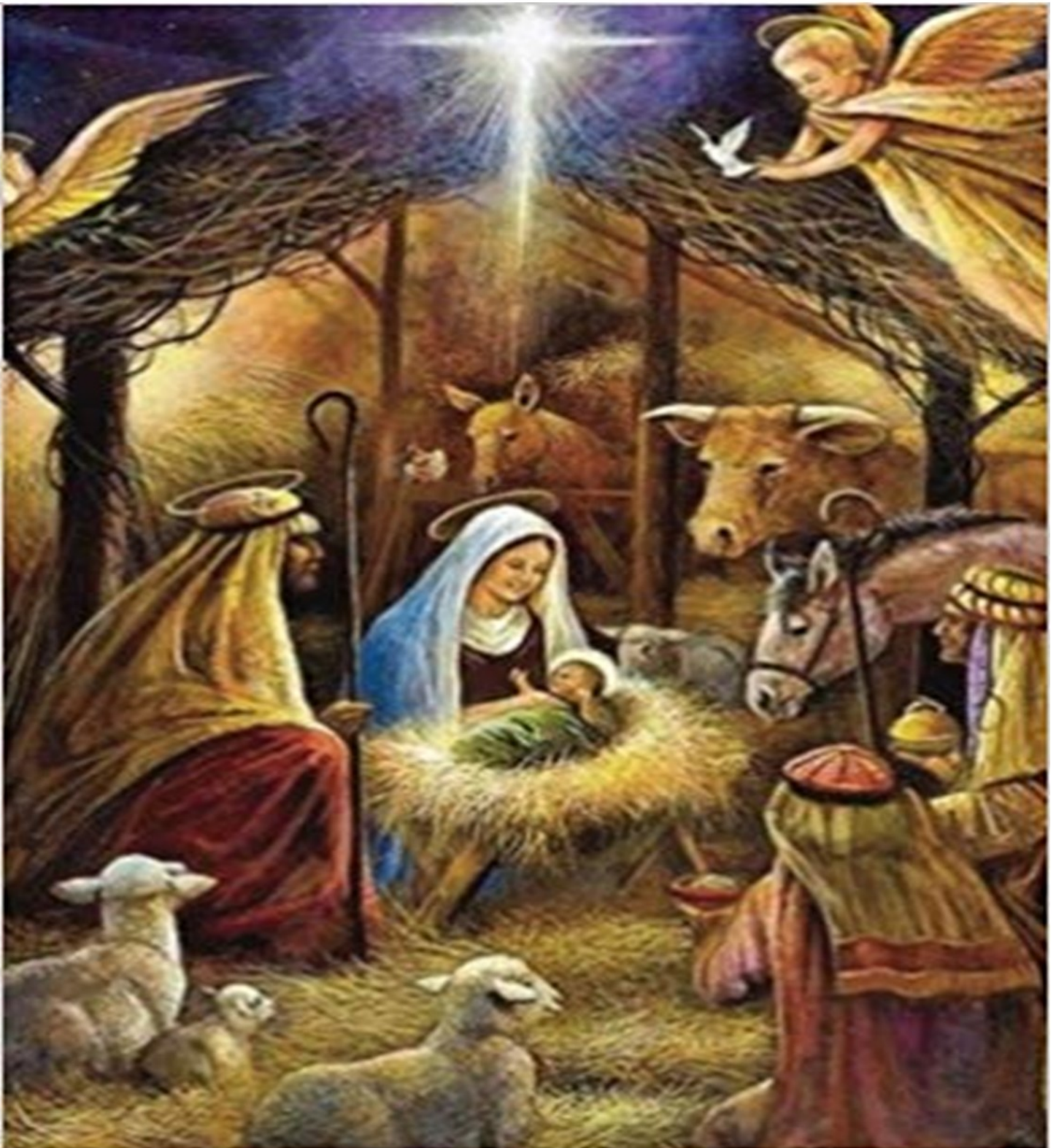




## **CHRISTMAS 2019**

**Welcome to the parishes of  
St. Viator's and Corpus Christi**

**For the  
Nativity of Our Lord**



# Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord

## December 24 and 25



On this day the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God became human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. We need no other special saint today to lead us to Christ in the manger, although his mother Mary, and Joseph, caring for his foster Son, help round out the scene.

But if we were to select a patron for today, perhaps it might be appropriate for us to imagine an anonymous shepherd,

summoned to the birthplace by a wondrous and even disturbing

vision in the night, a summons from an angelic choir, promising peace and goodwill. A Shepherd willing to seek our something that might just be too unbelievable to chase after, and yet compelling enough to leave behind the flocks in the field and search for a mystery.

On the day of the Lord's birth, let's let an unnamed, "un-celebrity" at the edge of the crowd model for us the way to discover Christ in our own hearts - somewhere between scepticism and wonder, between mystery and faith. And, like Mary and the shepherds, let us treasure that discovery in our hearts.

### **Merry Merry Christmas!**

My dear friends, It is said that at Christmas "all roads lead home." Indeed, there is something special about Christmas that seeks to have us wrapped up in the love of family and good friends. No matter where we find ourselves at this time of year, our hearts are with loved ones.

Christmas is still one of the few times in the rolling year when the whole Christian world pauses to give thanks to God for our blessings and to share His love with each other. It is that time of year when we reflect upon the love of a God who would make Himself small that we might not be afraid of Him. Christmas reminds us that we are never alone, even when the world about us seems so distant and frightening. May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope, the spirit of Christmas which is peace and the heart of Christmas which is love. I wish each and every one of you, A Very Blessed and Merry Christmas. Father Michel :)