

Merry Christmas

From the parishes of

St. Viator's and Corpus Christi



Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord

December 24th and 25th



Today the Church celebrates the Birth of Jesus Christ, the first day in the octave of Christmas. Throughout Advent the Church longed ardently for the coming of our Savior. Today she celebrates His birth with unrestrained joy. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Son of God became man to give us a share in that divine life which is eternally His in the Blessed Trinity.

The Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us. The longings of the patriarchs and prophets are fulfilled. With the shepherds we hurry to the manger and adore the Incarnate Son of God, who for us and for our salvation descended upon earth. The purpose of the Christmas feast is beautifully expressed in the Preface of the Nativity: "For by the mystery of the Word made flesh the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind; so that while we acknowledge Him a God seen by men, we may be drawn by Him to the love of things unseen."

Father Michel's Christmas message 2020

The Blessed Virgin Mary was surprised by the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation and Joseph was surprised by the angel in his dream, which told him to take Mary as his wife. But it is on the night of Christmas that the biggest surprise comes: The Most High is a small child. To celebrate Christmas, then, is to welcome the surprises of Heaven on earth. My favorite name for Jesus has always been Immanuel, God with us.

There is a beautiful song called "Make Room" that exhorts us to that reality of opening our hearts to Jesus. To inviting Jesus to be born anew not in a manger but in our hearts. But to do that we first must be silent. Christmas is preferring the silent voice of God to the noisiness of consumerism. If we can be silent in front of the crib, Christmas will be a surprise even for us, not something seen before. "Be silent in front of the nativity go before the nativity and stay in silence." The daily Gospels in Advent warn against becoming weighed down by the anxieties of daily life. These days we are filled with anxiety and fears. I believe this is the opposite of the peace Jesus wants for us. We will celebrate Christmas well, if, like Joseph, we will give space to silence; if, like Mary, we say here I am to God; if like Jesus, we will be close to those who are alone; if, like the shepherds, we will leave our enclosures to be with Jesus. So let's try to make room in our hearts for Jesus this Christmas.

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