

Parishes of St. Viator, Dauphin and  
Corpus Christi, Winnipegosis  
Welcome you to our Christmas celebration

A detailed illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a bright, multi-pointed star shines in a dark, starry night sky. Below the star, the words "Merry" and "CHRISTMAS" are written in a white, elegant script and a bold, gold-colored serif font, respectively. The scene depicts a stable with a manger where the infant Jesus lies, surrounded by Mary and Joseph. Several shepherds in traditional robes are gathered around, some with their hands clasped in prayer, and a flock of sheep is visible in the foreground. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a deep blue and purple twilight sky.

Merry  
CHRISTMAS



## **A Christmas Prayer**

Holy One,  
Despite the pain and chaos of the  
world, Christmas comes again.

Let the tree and lights and gifts  
remind us of your presence with us,  
of your everlasting love for us,  
of your deep call on our lives.

Thank you for those we gather with  
in body and those we gather around  
us in spirit. Fill our hearts with joy  
as we  
celebrate the Word made flesh.  
Amen.

### **Pastor's Message for Christmas 2023**

When I was a little boy one of my favorite Christmas traditions was to visit the St Boniface basilica with my mother. She would hold my hand and we would go to kneel in front of the life size Nativity scene. I looked forward to looking in awe at the wonderful statues of Joseph and Mary surrounded by angels and barnyard animals all focussed on the little baby in the manger. Of course I had no idea how important Jesus would become for me as I later came to realize he had come to be so beautiful a saviour. There is a lovely 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."

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.

Many Blessings to all my parishioners of St Viators and Corpus Christi.

Merry Christmas!

Fr Michel Nault