

A Letter from your Pastor, Fr. Craig Lusk



For The Nativity of the Lord, Feast of the Holy Family & Epiphany of the Lord

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

Recently, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this Christmas season, I am reminded of how Mary, a young maiden, cried out, ***“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my heart rejoices in God my Savior!”*** upon hearing the most enigmatic and terrifying message from the angel. The Virgin Mary doubtless cried out in anguish at the burden laid upon her young and untried shoulders: she feared for her husband; she feared for her future; she feared for her baby; she feared for her life. Indeed, God gave to the most unlikely of women, the most difficult of duties.

Yet, in her acceptance of the will of God, Mary fulfilled the fondest wish of the Christian heart: to do God’s bidding without question. All Christians ought to pray for the simplicity and strength to please God without hesitation, as the Blessed maiden Mary did.

And now Christmas is here once more!

In the absolute silence of a stable and in the darkness of night, a Child was born who would forever change the face of the world. For it was in His wondrous birth that the restless and aimless people of the world found joy, light, and eternal life. The Heavens rejoiced at the birth of the Christ-child, the angels descended from the skies, and their songs of great joy made the news known to shepherds.

We still find the joy and light of the Christ-child! We still hear the songs of the angels and the music of heaven. We still search for where we might take our place at the feet of Christ. And Christ still brings the promise of eternal life to all who seek Him.

Wishing each of you a truly Blessed Christmas!

I, along with Fr. Joe, Deacon Mike, Deacon Ken, and my extended staff wish the parishioners of the Collaborative of St. Mary & St. John a truly Blessed Christmas! Jesus was born to sanctify us and call us to live a righteous life. In our grateful response, we must reject those things that separate us from God’s love.

2021 has fortunately been filled with more opportunities for normalcy, including regular in-person celebrations of the Holy Mass and the Sacraments of the Church. But, we must continue to be safe and protect our parish family. For my brothers and sisters who are elderly, have pre-existing conditions, or who are too frightened to attend Mass on the weekends, we have a great alternative setting of weekday Masses: Tuesdays at 4pm at St. Mary, Thursdays at 12-noon at St. John, and Fridays at 7:30am at St. Mary. This is a great opportunity to receive Holy Communion in a safe and socially distanced setting. Our Collaborative will also continue to provide weekly live stream of the Sunday Mass, either from St. Mary or St. John (please see your bulletin for details).

May your souls magnify the Lord and rejoice in God the Savior!

In His Love,

Father Craig Lusk, Pastor