



*A Christmas Letter from the Pastor*

*December 20, 2020*

"THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS  
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT;  
ON THOSE LIVING IN THE LAND  
OF DEEP DARKNESS  
A LIGHT HAS DAWNED."

**ISAIAH 9:2**

Greetings from your Pastor,

The year 2020 will soon be in our past, and all of us are eagerly looking forward to its end! This year has seen month after month of difficulty on so many levels for so many of us and our families. With the effects of a global pandemic still taking place; of chaos, hate, and division, it seems there are many reasons for **Hope**.

There are varied opinions about a vaccine and the hope it would provide. There can be no doubt, many are optimistic for the best. But we need something more.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you my dear brothers and sisters of the fact that in Christ "**Hope came down**" to dwell among us over 2,000 years ago. He continues to dwell here by the power of the Holy Spirit and, through His Death and Resurrection, provided the perfect "vaccine" for humanity's oldest problem – sin. Sin always leads us and our societies in the wrong direction!

You may be going through what might seem to be a hopeless situation right now during this Christmas Season. If we continue to cast our gaze and focus upon Jesus, we will never be disappointed. Perhaps it will be years before we can look back and appreciate the way God has led us. He has a way of bringing **Hope** into every situation.

Jesus came into this world over 2,000 years ago. While technologically it was a different world, it too was filled with strife and confusion. In the midst of what some would call a hopeless situation, He was born as the Savior of the World. The **Hope** was there and still is here, and His Name is **Jesus!**

As Christians, we know our happiness cannot come from the governments of this world. We know that this world is only our temporary home. We are merely passing through to a more excellent place – to life eternal with Jesus, our **Hope!**

While this year may seem a bit different than other years, I invite you to celebrate Christmas with all its beauty. As Father Dominik mentioned a few weeks ago, encouraging you to decorate your homes with Christmas lights and ornaments. Doing it with great joy that the Lord is coming, just like every year.

As we approach this very special time of the year in which we celebrate and appreciate the birth of Jesus Christ, I would like to invite you to experience the love and appreciation of the Clergy, our Staff, and all the Volunteers who continue to serve so faithfully, who go "above and beyond" in so many ways to be a blessing to St. Mark's.

Whether you can celebrate with us in person here at St. Mark the Evangelist or are only able to join us online via our streamed Mass, please know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and prayers during these challenging times.

On behalf of Fr. Dominik, our Clergy and Staff, we wish you Blessed, Hope-Filled Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Father Rafal Kandora

---

## HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

---

### **Thursday, December 24, 2020**

*Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord*

Christmas Eve 4:00 PM and 9:00 PM (*livestreamed*)

(Celebration Choir's Candlelight Ceremony begins at 8:30 PM )

*Office closed*

### **Friday, December 25, 2020**

*The Nativity of Our Lord Friday*

Christmas Day 8:00 AM; 10:00 AM; 12:00 Noon

(*livestream the Diocesan Mass - a link will be on our website*)

*Office closed*

### **Thursday, December 31, 2020**

*Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

New Year's Eve 5:00 PM

*Office closed at 12 PM*

### **Friday, January 1, 2021**

*Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

New Year's Day 8:00 AM (*livestreamed*) and 10:00 AM

(*No noon Mass today*)

*Office closed*

*January and February Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Lamps are still available.*

*If you have loved ones whom you would like remembered,*

*now is the perfect time to make your request.*

*Forms are available at the office or can be downloaded from our website.*

**ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

7081 SE HWY 42, SUMMERFIELD, FLORIDA 34491 | (352) 347 9317, EMAIL: RECEPTION@STMARKRCC.COM