

December 2020

Emmanuel

GOD WITH US



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'd like to take this opportunity once again to wish you and your family a very Merry and Blessed Christmas Day and Season.

Well, 2020 certainly has been a strange year. Let's all hope and pray for a much better new year!!! I've absolutely missed each and every member of our parish that has not been able to attend Mass during this time of pandemic. It's understandable that some have not been able to attend during these months due to health conditions. But please know that you are greatly missed and in my daily thoughts and prayers for your safety and our Lord's protection.

I know we've all been dealing with the uncertainty of COVID-19 and many of our family members, friends and co-workers becoming ill and facing the potential consequences of infection. Let's continue to pray for each other's health, wellbeing and protection. Also, our hearts and prayers go out to all who may have lost their jobs and may face economic hardship. We sure do have a lot to pray for! From the bottom of my heart, I long for all of us to be together again. In due time we will be. As long as we hold each other in prayer, we are still as united together as ever as a parish family.

Despite the challenges we all face, we must not allow the joy of the Christmas Season to be quelled. I think of the song Joy to the World. As Heaven and nature sing, we are reminded of the importance of having a song of joy in our hearts at the birth of our Savior. Let it be a prayer of thanksgiving to God who loves us so deeply that he found humanity worthy to receive Him. Obviously, God saw in the human race something very good and something very lovable. We are entering a season of love.

Even though for most of us, Christmas will be different this year, we must celebrate all the more that Christ, the Son of the Living God, is born for us...for US!!! We need Him more than ever to dispel the darkness of this pandemic and any darkness that we may have within us as our faith has been challenged and our discipleship tested. Our Savior born for us is very real hope for gloomy hearts. Even though many of us may feel a sense of isolation or a feeling of disconnectedness this Christmas, it's SO important for us all to remember that beautiful name for Jesus...Emmanuel...GOD WITH US. We are certainly not alone. By His birth Jesus Christ, son of Mary and Joseph, is embracing each and every one of us with the warm embrace we've all been longing for. Let's all welcome that warm embrace and let it fill our hearts with overflowing joy and gratitude. While we cannot embrace as we're used to, how about a spiritual embrace by way of a Christmas prayer for each other. And so, I'll end my letter here with a spiritual embrace to each and every one of our dear parish family. Please be assured of my continued love and prayers as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

May Jesus, Son of David, Emmanuel, bless you and yours with good health, His loving protection. May He bless you with a joyful happy heart that echoes the voices of the angels.... Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to people of good will. Have a blessed Christmas Day and holy season and a happy healthy New Year!!!

Love and Peace!!! MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

Fr. Peter

Peaches and Prince

