



St. Charles Borromeo Church

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www.ourstcharles.org

Dear Parishioners,

I hope this letter finds you safe and in good spirits. There's no doubt that 2020 has been a year of uncertainty for all of us, but I know that our Catholic faith has guided us through the many challenges of the last several months. Turning this strange year into a successful year means discovering the Lord's will in the circumstances we find ourselves in each day. Into the darkness of this world, God's light shines. Christmas reminds us of the wonderful things God has done throughout history, culminating in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. God has been steadfast and faithful to his people. He became one of us; fully human and fully divine.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) carries such importance within the life of the Church that it is an entire period of liturgical time lasting nearly three weeks. It's the most wonderful time of the year! What a joyous season this is for the Church. Joy to the world! "God is with us." In the person of a helpless infant, the Son of God has been born into our world, into the human family, into our very being.

We are truly blest! This Christmas, as different as it may be, remember Christ is the reason for the season. When you put up lights, remember it is the Light of the World who casts out darkness. If this holiday makes you sad because of some loss this year, know that Jesus understands, loves you and is with you. That's the whole point of Him becoming one of us; that He might know all that we go through and be one with us in sadness and joy. God knows us. God knows the circumstances we live in, the needs around us, the gifts he has given us. God is calling us in and through all these personal details.

This Christmas we will celebrate Masses at 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm on Christmas Eve, and at 8:30am and 11:00am on Christmas Day to allow as many as desire to worship. To ensure everyone's safety, you are asked to make a reservation to come to a specific Mass by visiting our website at www.ourstcharles.org. I hope you will be at Mass to celebrate this wondrous event. I also hope this new year, once we are more normal, you will make it a priority to be at Mass weekly to celebrate the great gift God has given us in the Eucharist. The gift of the Eucharist is a miracle that truly meets our greatest need, our greatest longing.

We especially need your tremendous generosity this year as the Christmas collection is the major collection for our yearly budget. We have been hit hard by this Pandemic. Please consider increasing what you can give. Thank you for your commitment to our parish and to our greater mission as we continue to journey together in faith and forge our path forward.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us take this opportunity to review our response to God's call. Even as we face the ups and downs of life, we are always buoyed by the same faith and hope that inspired Joseph and Mary to say *yes* to God. May the Christ-child be born in our hearts so that others may come to know that God is indeed faithful. May all come to know that the life he offers us through his Son fulfills the words of Isaiah – that the one who is to be born is *Emmanuel*: God with us.

Rev. Canisius Tah

Fr. Canisius Tah

