

# St. Jerome Roman Catholic Church

26 Carmel Road, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 3N9

Phone: 705-949-1072 Fax: 705-949-5992

Email: [stjerome@diocesessm.org](mailto:stjerome@diocesessm.org)

[www.stjeromeparishssm.com](http://www.stjeromeparishssm.com)

## A Christmas Message 2020...

Christmas is upon us! We rejoice in the announcement of our God becoming flesh and living among us. The Celebration of Christ fills our hearts with gratitude for the gift that Jesus is for each of us.

This past year 2020 has been like no year in our history. Lockdowns and isolation; masks and social distancing; physical and mental illness; and the death of many thousands are the result of a virus that indiscriminately spread across the world. The despair of this pandemic has left many feeling a sense of hopelessness.

But Christmas is upon us! The light of Christ shines into the darkness and in reflecting on this past year's struggles we can identify more than ever with Christ's Nativity. We can identify with Mary and Joseph as they leave family and friends behind to make the journey to Bethlehem, to be turned away into the night, to give birth in a stable...isolated from the world. We can identify with the shepherds in the fields tending their flocks by night, who live on the periphery of society and who Angels appeared to announce the birth of the Messiah...isolated from the world. We can identify with the Wise Men who travelled to foreign land trusting in a sign to find the Christ, King of the Universe...isolated from the world. We can identify with Jesus, the Son of God laid in a manger because there was no room at the Inn, who is the true light, who enlightens everyone, and come into our world.

Let us remember that that light has come into the hearts of our world. We blessed by our God and this gift of faith strengthens us to live like Christ the true light. This Christmas is a time to appreciate all that the light of Christ reveals in you.

On behalf of the whole St. Jerome's family be assured of my continued prayers as we move forward into the New Year.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Fr. Pat