



Christmas 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

*“Christmas time is finally here,
It only comes but once a year,
And it’s a time to spread good cheer
To those we love and hold so dear.”*

This January will be the second anniversary of the death of my mom. For many of us who have lost loved ones, as it is in every year, but more so in this year of the pandemic, Christmas can be heart-wrenching ‘to hold so dear . . . those whom we love.’ Not only do we long for the ones we lost to death, we feel so powerless in helping those who are like the living dead, but find themselves alone and no one even remembers to call them or to care.

If you are in grief at the loss of a beloved parent, spouse, friend, animal, or family member, remember how Jesus was often present to you in that beloved one's life. These memories are not only stored in God's heart, but through Jesus, the great miracle of touching the creation with eternal reunion in God's heart will forever be ours.

This miracle is what Christmas is all about. God came to us so we may reach out to others. As we now look back to the First Christmas, we are celebrating the presence of the Emmanuel “God-with-us” and through His love for us, we reach out in love and care to others.

It is no exaggeration to say that God comes to us through us. Jesus, the Emmanuel, becomes present to us through the kindness and care we offer each other. Our gifts to one another this Christmas should be a reminder of the gifts of love and caring we offer.

For us at Sts. Peter and Paul, this Christmas is uniquely different from all others. We are celebrating not only the greatest Gift given us through Mary at the First Christmas, we are also grateful for the gift of the 771 Amana Street, to gather our Faith Formation families and continue the mission of Jesus, to serve in love and care especially the forgotten, the least among us.

Poet Howard Thurman expresses so eloquently our mission after Christmas—*“The Work of Christmas”*.

When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky is gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,

To heal the broken,

To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner

To rebuild the nations,

To bring peace among others,

To make music in the heart.



We wish this kind of Christmas joy to everyone who reads these words! Jesus is born!

Mele Kalikimaka e Hauoli Makahikiho

Fr. Khanh & Fr. Clement