

Christ the Savior is born.



Christmas 2020

All Saints Parish

Rev. Jacek J. Bialkowski, Pastor



Dear Friends,

2020 has been a challenging year for us as a nation and for many of us as individuals; the Coronavirus pandemic and the major transitions in Washington, D.C. And so much more.

However, I want to encourage you to finish the last portion of this year, strong. You may feel like throwing in the towel; but don't. You may feel like packing your bags and running away; but don't. You may even feel like walking away from the faith; but don't. No matter what happens, keep the faith. No matter what happens, keep pushing. And no matter what happens, make sure you **FINISH 2020 STRONG!**

The Christmas season brings about a renewed sense of hope. Hence, I pray let this holiday season bring about a renewed sense of hope in our life; a renewed sense of hope for the future; a renewed sense of hope for the impossible (or, for what appears to be impossible); a renewed sense of hope for broken relationships that need to be repaired; a renewed sense of hope in a dream that once died; a renewed sense of hope in yourself (that you will be able to overcome and conquer that bad habit that you have been wrestling with all year long), and a renewed sense of hope in our faith.

I don't care how dark the night of despair gets; let us keep in mind that every dark night has a bright end. It is my prayer that this renewed sense of hope would overtake us and lead us to do things that we never even thought were possible. And when this divine urge moves us to do something; to fix something; or, to finish something...let us not second guess it, just do it—and, be led by the Spirit.

Led by this Spirit of God, let us reclaim the true meaning of Christmas, the spirit of joy and sharing with each other of the love and care for each other today and in each day that follows. God has brought great comfort to His people, to us, so let us comfort each other. God has given us Jesus the Messiah so let us ponder the meaning of this gift everyday this next year. Let us rejoice and bring true joy to the world in song, in deeds, in our words and in our faith. This is the gift that will truly change our life and that of others. His is the gift that will not be forgotten or put away. This is the gift of Jesus our Messiah. So as the angels sang to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" On us who God favors!

Have a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.



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Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God



The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. The title "Mother of God" is a western derivation from the Greek Theotokos, which means "God-bearer". On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ's birth was made possible by Mary's fiat, or sanctioning of God's plan with her words, "Be it done to me according to thy word". Calling Mary "mother of God" is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the "Prince of Peace", the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God honors Mary as the "Queen of Peace". New Year's Day is also designated as the "World Day of Peace", further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.