



“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son. . . .”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The wonderful, hope-filled season of Advent is almost over, but Advent never ends without leading us to the most exciting reality. That reality is that the Christ Child is born anew in our hearts once again. The entire world is in eager anticipation of Christmas Eve, and Masses will be said in every language imaginable throughout the world and all for one purpose: to welcome the Lord Jesus into our hearts and lives. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, remain prayerful. Ask the Holy Spirit to sweep your heart clean of anything that pulls you away from our Savior. Look about yourself and find someone to whom you can be a little Christ by making their life more hopeful and meaningful.

In the absolute silence of a stable, in the darkness of the night, a Child was born who would forever change the face of the world. For it was in His wondrous birth that the restless and aimless people of the world found joy, light, and eternal life. In the lowly birth of the Christ Child, the Heavens rejoice. The angels whose songs of great joy made the news known to the shepherds. A star announces the birth of the Messiah and led wise men to worship at His cradle. On Christmas we still find the joy and light of the Christ Child. We still hear the songs of the angels and music of heaven. We still search for the place where we might take our places at the feet of Christ. And Christ still brings, to all who seek Him, the promise of eternal life.

Regardless of your reason for participating in one of our Christmas Masses, there is no better time than the present to renew your commitment to the Christ Child. Let this beautiful season of Christmas be a season of renewed Hope in your life. Recommit to praise God and be edified by Word and Sacrament in Holy Mass each and every week. If you have pushed confession and reconciliation to the backside of your life, make it an active part of staying close to our Lord. If you have strayed from the Catholic faith and have been wandering, then **COME HOME** to Holy Mother Church. Your priests, deacons and fellow parishioners have open arms ready to embrace you! Never forget – God came to us. We must always come to Him!

My hope for you and your family is that you will have a joyous, Hope-filled Christmas with your family and those you love. But, above all, my greater wish is that you will be filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit and that you will feel drawn to love and serve the Lord Jesus in and through His Church. May the peace of the Christ Child bless you and may His promise cause you to serve Him with your whole life.

In His love,

Father Craig Lusk