

Christmas 2021



Share the faith. Celebrate the faith. Live the faith.
That would be the best birthday present
you could give to the Christ-Child today.



WE CAN DO THIS

“I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.” ~ Norman Vincent Peale

"Hark the Herald Angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'" Today is a day of great triumph. It is the culmination of a hope that had been nursed for so long among God's people. For generations, they had awaited the birth of the Savior that had been promised to them. The wait was long and hard. They found themselves in exile and captivity. They found themselves crushed and defeated. But they always hoped that God would fulfill His promise to them.

God is, indeed, a keeper of promises. Of that we never have to worry. The promise of a savior was fulfilled by the birth of Jesus Christ. Yet the promise of redemption would not be fulfilled until Jesus would rise from the dead, destroying death and restoring life.

The birth of a child filled the earth with great rejoicing. Even the heavens were filled with angels singing God's praises. Yet, this birth took place in a manner and locale unexpected. Who would've thought that the Lord of all would be born in such stark and impoverished conditions. Should not a King be born in a palace?

Jesus' birth began a life of threat as well. Herod wanted the child killed because he saw the birth of Jesus as an obstacle to his reign. People would threaten the life of Jesus for years until, ultimately, they had their way and nailed Him to a cross. Yet it was for that moment that Jesus was born.

We celebrate today the birth of a Savior and remind ourselves that our Savior will come again in all of His glory. In order to prepare ourselves for that moment, we need to keep our faith in the Lord strong and to share that faith with others because God wants us to bring others with us to the Kingdom. Share the faith. Celebrate the faith. Live the faith. That would be the best birthday present you could give to the Christ-Child today.

FAITH ACTION: If you gather with family or friends today, do your best to spend some time sharing your faith and singing some Christmas songs in order to keep the spirit of Christmas vibrant and alive.

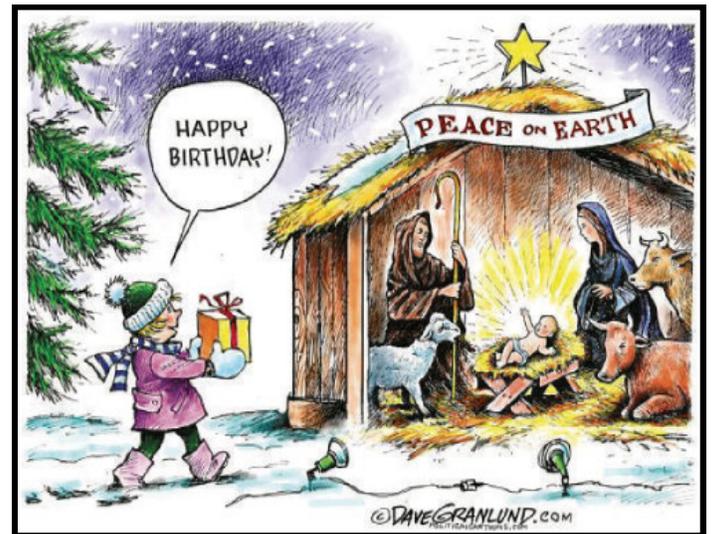
Fr. Mike



To those who decorated the church, who sang in the choirs, who played instruments, who served at the altar, who proclaimed the readings, who led the singing, who distributed Communion, who greeted at the doors, who ushered: to all of you and any I may have forgotten to mention, I give my heartfelt thanks.

I especially want to thank and acknowledge our Deacons and MCs for their hard work and faithful service. God bless you all!

A very Merry Christmas to you and yours as well as a Happy, Healthy, and Holy New Year! *Fr. Mike*



My wife and I and our entire family wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year filled with peace and hope for a brighter year.

Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays in the world. It is a time for families to get together with their loved ones, relatives and friends. A time also to reconnect with those we have not been in touch with for awhile. And a very good chance for us to extend a helping hand to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.



Christmas for Christians, has an important meaning. It is the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. God the Father, in His ultimate love for all of us, sent His only begotten Son to assume our humanity except for sin. In His love for us, Jesus gave up His life to redeem us from our sins so that we may be with God forever.

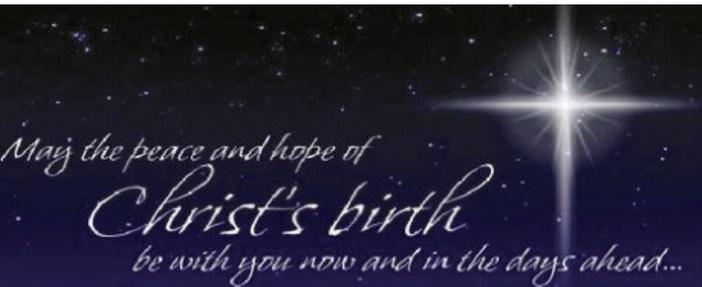
This year we have experienced division and fear because of violence around us and erosion of trust among us. There is also fear from Covid that prevented us from going to Church for part of the year and freely socialize.

Amid all these problems, God is always with us. As the Prophet Isaiah said, "God our Emmanuel is with us and around us always in whatever circumstances we have in our everyday life."

God alone can give us true and everlasting peace and may His light illumine our darkness. Again we extend to you true love, peace and Joy which God alone can bring.

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

Yours in Christ,
**Deacon Napoleon and Lynn Tabion
and Family**



Brothers and Sisters,

It is in this beautiful season that we want to thank our parish family for your continued prayers and well wishes as Deacon Dan continues to battle his dreaded cancer.

Our prayer is that we make every day a Christmas Day – give from your heart, care for others and live in peace.

We wish all of you a wonderful and Blessed Christmas and the very best in the New Year.

**Lady Mary Lou Zurawski, LHS
Deacon Daniel Zurawski, KHS**

**JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS**

When we live our lives with faith-filled purpose, we infuse it in all aspects of our lives and with all whom we encounter. We, as a community, joyfully anticipate the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, this Christmas season. It is a time to count the blessings that you have been given, give to others in abundance, and respect the life you live.

We are intentional in educating our students in faith. We teach with love, lead with respect, and pray with fervor. Our goal is to make God known, loved, and served.

Our school is a place that knows "Excellence happens on purpose." I am blessed to say that my purpose is to be of service to St. Thomas More and its community.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Dr. Samantha Hofferth-Francis
Principal of St. Thomas More School**



**"And The Word became flesh"
Christmas Message
December 25, 2021**

And the Word became flesh! What a joyous Day! For today in the Town of Bethlehem a child has been born to Joseph and Mary. It hasn't been an easy time for them. The census has made their journey quite long and dangerous and when they arrived in town, the only room was that of a stable.

The Chosen people have been awaiting a Messiah for hundreds of years. Today that prophesy has been fulfilled.

We celebrate today that event that happened over two thousand years ago.

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. He has come to not only save those of long ago but to live in each of our hearts.

He has come for our salvation. Will we open our hearts to him on this Christmas morning? He is awaiting an invitation from each of us. He wants each of us to be with Him in the kingdom that he has prepared for us.

Let us open our hearts to Jesus the Word made flesh. From the beginning of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

Let us remember to those who struggle this day. We can be there always to reach out to those in need and offer prayers and support for this is their Christmas day as well.

A joyful and blessed Christmas to each of you.

Deacon Dave and Kathy Kapala



During Advent, it's easy to shift our focus from the true meaning of Christmas when we're busy decorating our Christmas trees while watching Christmas movies, hosting holiday parties, and whipping up the perfect batch of sugar cookies to leave out for Jolly Old St. Nick.

Before getting wrapped up in the bells and whistles that come along with celebrating the most wonderful time of the year, take some time to rest and reflect on why we might be celebrating on December 25th in the first place.

There are so many Christmas Bible verses, prayers, and symbols of God's love that can point us to the miracle of Jesus' birth. Take a moment to fill your heart with a peace that reminds you of the reason for the season, here is a prayer for us all to remember—

"God grant us the light in Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ."

May you all have a Spiritual and Christ-filled Christmas

Deacon Joe and Joyce Stodola

As we have just ended the Year of Saint Joseph, I have been thinking a lot about Saint Joseph and his often-unsung role in the Christmas story. When we think of Christmas, the first people that usually come to our minds are Jesus, of course, and Mary. Joseph can sometimes be an afterthought, forgotten when compared with the Savior of the World and the Queen of Heaven and Earth. He is "just Joseph". A good and righteous man, but not terribly exciting or interesting.



But, Saint Joseph played a crucial role in the story of Christmas. Although he considered himself unworthy to do so, he took Mary as his wife and assumed the role of Foster Father to the Son of God. It was a weighty task, with worry, responsibility and fear mixed in with the joys of being in the constant company of Jesus and Mary. Joseph protected, provided for, and guided Jesus and Mary, constantly trusting in God to give him the strength necessary for his task. Since we have no words of Saint Joseph recorded in Sacred Scripture, just his actions, he shows us that our words are not as important as our actions.

This Christmas Season, ask Saint Joseph, pillar of families, to watch over, protect and strengthen your family so that you may all trust in God at all times, seek and act on God's will, protect Jesus and Mary by standing up for and defending your faith, and grow in holiness and love for each other.

May God bless you and yours this Christmas Season,

**Miss Emily Hackett,
Director of Religious Education**



I've been thinking of all of the customs we participate in during the Christmas season. Even though some of our customs have been COVID modified, we continue to send Christmas cards, bake, give gifts to loved ones and friends, help those in need, decorate our homes, and hang stockings. I am sure that you and your family have your own special customs and traditions that you follow year after year. These traditions can be an important part of who we are and how we celebrate.

Another less visible tradition is to take time every Christmas and New Years to reflect and focus or re-focus on what is really important in our lives. It is an opportunity to celebrate with our family the tremendous love God has for us. God shows us his love by giving us the gift of the birth of His only Son, Jesus Christ. We can joyously celebrate the truth that Jesus Christ, the light of the world, has saved us from a life a darkness. We truly have a reason to celebrate!

At St. Thomas More Church and School, we are blessed that so many of you consider us important in your lives. We see this through the amazing work that you do in our various parish ministries and at our school and by your financial generosity. We are grateful for our wonderful parishioners, school families, alumni, staff and other friends.

I wish you and your family a Christmas filled with love and joy and may 2022 be filled with good health, peace, laughter and an abundance of spiritual blessings.

Merry Christmas!

**Noreen Bickel
School President
Parish Director of Finance**

