



LaCuesta's Quest

"Merry Christmas everyone!" That phrase might sound cliché but I mean it sincerely. It brings me so much joy to be able to gather with you this holy day, and I hope that same joy finds a place in your heart despite the busyness that often comes with this time and the all the chaos of this extraordinary year! But I can kind of see it on your faces—that glimmer in your eyes of something special taking place, something meaningful. It's a good and holy thing we do this day as we come together to give thanks to the Father for the greatest Gift of all—a gift first given long ago, yet a gift we can in a very real sense "unwrap" for the first time this very day. You see, the same Jesus who was born over 2,000 years ago is the exact same Jesus who comes to us every time our hearts are open to him, particularly during this season of grace and miracle.

What we are celebrating this day is really quite astounding if you think about it. And that's the key: thinking about what this day really means. We're so familiar with it that it's easy for us to accept it without marveling at the mystery of it all, without having a true appreciation for what God has done for us. What could possibly make our God want to become one of us?! I certainly am not going to say that I know what is in the mind of God. Yet, reflecting on the Incarnation (God taking on human flesh) can help us understand a little more about God and a little more about ourselves. God could have made an infinite number of other choices but he chose THIS way...THESE circumstances... THIS moment in history. There is nothing random about it, nothing accidental. This was God's plan and that means it is the best way, the best for us and for the world. What a God we have!

But why THIS way? What are we to make of it all? Well, for one thing, the fact that God came to us as a helpless child to a family of no status or power shows us that our God of gentleness, not of force. He's a God of humility, not of arrogance. He's a God who is not disinterested but who is profoundly concerned with his creation—with you and with me. My friends, he is an incredibly caring God, one willing to do absolutely anything and everything to lead us where we need to be, heal every wound, dry every tear, forgive every sin. What a God we have!

I could go on and on. You see, the birth of Jesus doesn't reveal just ONE thing about God, it illuminates for us so much that had been in darkness for so long. The Light that has come into the world shines his radiant light on all of creation but also, in a sense, shines it on himself, helping us see him from a whole new perspective. God is so much more than we could ever imagine. Christmas shows us that loud and clear. What a God we have!

And if I had to try to sum up these holy mysteries in one phrase (which is not easy) I'd probably say that *when God became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ he changed absolutely everything*. The birth of Jesus was a pivot, a life-changing and world-changing reversal of the highest order. Humanity had been on one path, and Jesus altered that path forever! God became one of us in the hope that we would never be the same either. He became like us, so that we could be like him. Will we now let him change us? That's the real miracle: allowing Jesus to be born again in each of us so that people everywhere can still experience him through us. So let's make room for him...and change the world!

Praying and hoping that each of you has the holiest, happiest, most meaningful Christmas ever. And the merriest too!

— Fr. Don A. LaCuesta

Merry Christmas





Announcing: **FAMILIES of PARISHES**

We are pleased to share with you the fruit of many months' work: the list of how parishes will be grouped into **Families of Parishes**. (*OLMC Parish & St. Anthony Parish in Temperance & St. Joseph Parish in Erie will be a "family"!*) Over the next 18 months, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit will join together into groups that will work together, sharing resources and talents, to further advance the shared mission of our local Church to unleash the Gospel. The Family groupings have been compiled in the last few months through consultation with the auxiliary bishops, vicars and priests—a process steeped in prayer and with attention given to the best interest of each community.

"In the midst of the pandemic, with all of the things that are on our minds, there could be a lot of reasons to put on hold our effort to become a missionary community, but not so. In fact, we know that the world needs now more than ever the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our new model of Families of Parishes is a continuation of the fruit of Synod 2016. From now on, our parishes will work together as families, in order more effectively to fulfill their mission to evangelize. It's been the call in every age, and it's our call today. This is what God wants of the local Church here in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Monroe and St. Clair counties...I am firmly convinced that the Holy Spirit will give us new ways to think about how each of us can be strengthened by the other, in order for each of us to do what God is inviting us to do, so that the world hears the great Good News...To give God thanks for all that has been accomplished, to give God thanks for all the joyful missionary disciples he's raised up in our midst, and to give God thanks for what he'll do ahead of time in the next generation. (from Archbishop Vigneron's homily, November 22, 2020)"

TRUST in the LORD

Every child is a symbol of God's trust in humanity. That is why one of the most lovable qualities of a child is their trust. Young children trust blindly and unconditionally. But the older they get, the more this God-given trust fades away. Disappointments, broken promises, injuries, and faithlessness—all of these undermine trust. In the end, there are some people who end up no longer trusting anything or anyone...In order to heal this wound in the human soul, God himself came to earth as a perfectly trusting child, and in this way restored the ruptured Father-child relationship. This is why Christmas also celebrates mutual trust between God and humanity, and between each one of us his children. Let us learn from the Holy Family how to trust in God. During their desperate search for an inn, and when they were afraid of dying during the flight to Egypt, Joseph and Mary trusted in the Word of God—in the child who was with them at all times. Only such trust can free us...from the fears that surround us. On seeing an image of the holy Infant of Prague, St. Edith Stein exclaimed, *"Is not he who will one day put an end to all suffering? For it is he who holds the reins in his hands, even though men think that they are in control."* (—excerpted from Fr. Martin M. Borta's article in *Mirror*, December 2020)

Friendly Reminders...

... in case you didn't know!

If it's been a while since you've been here, or if you just haven't noticed, there have been a few changes to our weekend Mass Schedule.

Saturday evening Mass is 4:30PM (not 5:30PM).

Sunday Masses are 9:00AM & 11:00 AM (not 8:30AM).

The **Sunday evening** Mass is cancelled until further notice.

Private confession is by appointment with Fr. LaCuesta, 734-847-2805, ext. 12, due to COVID.

There is no change to weekday Masses: 9:00AM, Monday through Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

We are allowed 50% seating capacity in church (observing physical distance). Face masks/coverings are required.



Your Envelope Speaks...

Budgeted Weekly	\$ 9,500
Actual	\$ 6,672
Over/Under	\$ - 2,828
Budget YTD	\$ 237,500
Actual YTD	\$ 207,366
Over/Under YTD	\$ - 30,134

We thank God for our faithful parishioners who continue to support our parish. Bless you!