




25 December 2021

My Dear Parishioners and Parish Friends,

Take a moment to contemplate the symbols of the season. The crèche tells us the Gospel stories: first from Luke, which details the human birth in a lowly stable and the angels' message to shepherds; and later from Matthew, which describes the arrival of Magi who signify that God's salvation extends to all. The angels stand as heralds of the good news, an emblem for each of us on this solemn feast of our own duty to spread the message that Christ is born and saves us from our sins. The tree stands as a symbol of life, its green branches unfading even in the winter cold, just as God's life remains in us even though our human form should die. The wreath made of evergreens reminds us that God is one, without beginning or end. The candles recall the birth of him who is forever the Light of the world. Today, we celebrate the fact that God came to earth as a beautiful, innocent infant who rejects no one. We rejoice this day in the birth of Christ! We remember especially that Jesus Christ came into this world quietly, humbly, and gracefully, an example of how we should live our lives.

God bless you all and have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely in Christ,



Reverend Michael J. Riccola, V.F.

Pastor

