



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

December 25, 2022

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

As we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day, but the whole year, not just the whole year, but our whole lives. Let us inspire one another, especially those who seem to be lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in our community. Let us welcome family and friends back to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Let us be welcoming to the strangers and travelers in our midst who may join with us to celebrate the Eucharist. Make room in the pews; greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality. Like Mary and Joseph, many persons are seeking room in the inn. Let us not send them away but let the light of Christ shine through our church with welcome grace.

If you are returning to Church from a long absence, especially during this pandemic, or even a short one, while searching for your faith, let the joy of this Christmas celebration fill you. Let the light of Christ into your lives and into your hearts so that your faith may grow this Christmas and always and return to the joy of celebrating the Eucharist in fellowship.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you have done and continue to do even through these tough times. Thanks for your continued support and generosity to continue to keep the parish active. In my humility, I give thanks for the opportunity of serving as your Pastor. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

The Scripture for Mass at Midnight reminds us, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angels praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk2:10-14)

May God bless you and yours this Christmas, may all doubt in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth and may you be missionary disciples of that joy,

Merry Christmas!

Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ