



Feast of Christmas 2018

Dear Parishioners,

*“Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of goodwill.”*

That is the wonderful song the Angels sang at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The bible goes on to say that the shepherds came and adored the newborn Savior. St. Luke wrote, *“And Mary treasured all of these things and reflected on them in her heart.”*

Mary shows us that we too need to pause and treasure the gift of Christmas in our hearts. And that gift is simply Jesus, true God who became true man.

This child in his birth revealed perfectly God’s truth and love to us. He founded a Church – a family – where His presence continues in both Word and Sacrament.

If only we could live and enjoy the spirit of Christmas the whole year through, and not let Christmas just be a passing day. The spirit of Christmas should be lived each and every day throughout the year.

There is really only one gift at Christmas and that gift is Jesus coming to us. We in turn can make a gift to Jesus, a return gift of our lives pleasing to him.

By God’s grace, may our reflecting on the gift of Christmas move us to an even more intimate relationship with our Lord. May our souls be like the stable in Bethlehem where Christ first made His dwelling among us.

Lastly as your parish priest, I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make this parish a beacon of Christ’s love. In particular, I thank those who serve in our various ministries and organizations.

On behalf of Fr. John Petravicius, Fr. Clauber, Fr. Shannon, Fr. Sanetra, Deacon Ron and all the staff at St. Anthony’s Parish, I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year 2019! And we can all sing *“Glory to God in the highest.”*

Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions and a remembrance at Holy Mass. May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

May God bless you,

*Fr. Jack Pereira*

