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Merry Christmas!



O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Ven Adoremuslo

Merry Christmas Brothers and Sisters!

¡Feliz Navidad hermanos y hermanas!

I pray that this Season of Christmas, which we begin today may be a time of peace, joy and grace for you and your family. The coming of Christ to us at Bethlehem is lived out in our experience as Catholics at every Mass we attend. Namely, Jesus Christ comes to us in this world, and we come to adore him, and better still, to receive him.

Oro para que esta Temporada de Navidad que comenzamos hoy sea un tiempo de paz, alegría y gracia para ti y tu familia. La venida de Cristo a nosotros, en Belén, se vive en nuestra experiencia como católicos en cada Misa a la que asistimos. Es decir, Jesucristo viene a nosotros en este mundo, y venimos a adorarlo, y mejor aún, a recibirlo.

That simple reality of our meeting God in the Most Holy Eucharist is, for me, a singular reason above all others that I am both a Catholic and a priest. There are many other things I treasure about the life of faith and also of the Church, but the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist is the one thing that, for me, separates the gift and experience of the Catholic faith from all other things in this life and on this earth. Every Mass is a meeting with God – a meeting like the one the shepherds outside Bethlehem had on Christmas Night. A meeting like the one Peter had with Jesus at the Sea of Tiberius. A meeting like the condemned Mary Magdalene had when Jesus saved her from being stoned to death. A meeting like the woman at the well had, when Jesus called her out of personal emptiness and to the wellsprings of grace and friendship. A meeting like two disciples had on the Road to Emmaus, when Jesus, raised from the dead, was made known to them in Breaking of the Bread. All of the meetings of man and God are lived fully in the celebration of the Mass – every time and in every place.

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Esa simple realidad de nuestro encuentro con Dios en la Santísima Eucaristía es, para mí, una razón singular por encima de todas las demás por las que soy católico y sacerdote. Hay muchas otras cosas que atesoro sobre la vida de fe y también de la Iglesia, pero la Presencia Real de Jesucristo en la Eucaristía es lo único que, para mí, separa el don y la experiencia de la fe católica de todas las demás cosas. en esta vida y en esta tierra. Cada misa es un encuentro con Dios, un encuentro como el que tuvieron los pastores en las afueras de Belén en la noche de Navidad. Un encuentro como el que tuvo Pedro con Jesús en el mar de Tiberio. Un encuentro como el que tuvo la condenada María Magdalena cuando Jesús la salvó de ser lapidada. Un encuentro como el que tuvo la mujer junto al pozo, cuando Jesús la llamó del vacío personal a las fuentes de la gracia y la amistad. Un encuentro como el que tuvieron dos discípulos en el Camino a Emaús, cuando Jesús, resucitado de entre los muertos, les fue dado a conocer en la Fracción del Pan. Todos los encuentros del hombre con Dios se viven plenamente en la celebración de la Misa, en todo tiempo y en todo lugar.

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This year the Christmas Season lasts until January 10th. That means that we've got a little over two weeks to celebrate Christmas! In my experience growing up, Christmas often seemed to end sometime on or before New Year's Day. More or less, I think that is the experience of most American Christians. But, for the Catholic, the Season of Christmas really does last over a week into January. Even as a young priest, I always found it tough to kind of stay in the moment of it all, especially as we turned the calendar page to a new year. And then, something changed for me. Some years ago I decided to make my annual 5-day retreat right after New Year's Day. I did it for two reasons: first, in order to begin the year in prayer and with God who I want to be first in my life; and second, in order to try to live the Christmas Season solidly through to its completion. Making my retreat then really elevated me spiritually.

The past two years, however, I wasn't able to make my annual retreat that week. And yet I still found myself still able to remain dialed in to the grace and season of Christmas through to its completion. Prayer did it! Prayer always does it. Prayer makes it happen. Actually, prayer makes so many things happen. Once I became awakened to beginning the new year by still living the grace of Christmas, I found I was able to still do it no matter what. And living in the spirit and season of Christmas until around January 10th each year has helped me, as prayer does, to live and walk and be on another plane as I live out the reality Christmas and begin a New Year. And that plane is the plane of everlasting life.

If I can offer a small word of encouragement to you, friends, as well as to myself, it would be to live a little more on that plane – the one of grace and of the spirit – more in this time and in this New Year to come, than we have in the past. Live in the grace and spirit and movement of Christmas until January 10th. We can choose now to live 2023 on a deeper and more prayerful level than any year we've ever lived before. We should do that! We should do it because you and I were made for the best things; that is to say, for eternal things. God comes to meet us. Let's meet him anew. Let's ask him to remain with us. And, let's choose stay with him too. O come, let us adore him!

Merry Christmas, Fr. Mark

Feast of the Three Kings - January 8

Our Hispanic Community will be celebrating in a special way, as always, the Feast of the Epiphany - and the arrival of the Three Kings at Bethlehem - on Sunday January 8. Following the 11:30 AM Spanish Mass that day, all are invited to a special luncheon in the School Gymnasium. We ask all those coming to please bring a dish to share. Also, at that celebration, gifts are given to children of the Parish. Friday, December 30 is the last day to sign up children to receive gifts. Please contact a member of the Hispanic Ministry Committee or the Parish office to sign up a child for gifts. Also, donations of brand new, unused, unwrapped toys are graciously accepted and may be dropped off in the wrapped boxes near the entrances to the Church.

Este año la Temporada de Navidad dura hasta el 10 de enero. ¡Eso significa que tenemos un poco más de dos semanas para celebrar la Navidad! En mi experiencia de crecimiento, la Navidad a menudo parecía terminar en algún momento del día de Año Nuevo o antes. Más o menos, creo que esa es la experiencia de la mayoría de los cristianos estadounidenses. Pero, para los católicos, la temporada de Navidad realmente dura más de una semana hasta enero. Incluso cuando era un sacerdote joven, siempre me resultó difícil permanecer en el momento de todo, especialmente cuando pasamos la página del calendario a un nuevo año. Y entonces, algo cambió para mí. Hace algunos años decidí hacer mi retiro anual de 5 días justo después del día de Año Nuevo. Lo hice por dos razones: primero, para empezar el año en oración y con Dios que quiero ser primero en mi vida; y segundo, para tratar de vivir con solidez el Tiempo Navideño hasta su culminación. Hacer mi retiro entonces realmente me elevó espiritualmente.

Sin embargo, en los últimos dos años no pude hacer mi retiro anual esa semana. Y, sin embargo, todavía me encontré capaz de permanecer marcado en la gracia y espíritu de Navidad por toda la temporada. La oración lo hizo. La oración siempre lo hace. La oración hace que suceda. En realidad, la oración hace que sucedan muchas cosas. Una vez que me desperté para comenzar mi año viviendo aún la gracia de la Navidad... descubrí que aún podía hacerlo. Y hacerlo me ha ayudado, como lo hace la oración, a vivir y caminar y estar en otro plano mientras vivo la realidad de la Navidad y comienzo un Año Nuevo. Y ese plano es el plano de la vida eterna.

Si les puedo ofrecer una pequeña palabra de aliento a ustedes, amigos, así como a mí mismo, sería vivir un poco más en ese plano, el de la gracia y el del espíritu, más en este tiempo y en este Año Nuevo. por venir, de lo que tenemos en el pasado. Vive en la gracia, el espíritu y el movimiento de la Navidad hasta el 10 de enero. Podemos elegir ahora vivir 2023 en un nivel más profundo y de oración que cualquier año que hayamos vivido antes. ¡Deberíamos hacer eso! Debemos hacerlo porque tú y yo fuimos hechos para las mejores cosas, es decir, para las cosas eternas. Dios viene a nuestro encuentro. Conozcámoslo de nuevo. Pidámosle que se quede con nosotros. Y elijamos quedarnos con él también. ¡Venid, adorémosle!

Feliz Navidad, Padre Marcos

Fiesta de los Reyes Magos - 8 de enero

Nuestra comunidad hispana estará celebrando de manera especial, como siempre, la Fiesta de la Epifanía - y la llegada de los Reyes Magos a Belén - el domingo 8 de enero. Después de la Misa en español de las 11:30 a. m. de ese día, todos están invitados a un almuerzo especial en el Gimnasio Escolar. Pedimos a todos los que vengan que por favor traigan un plato para compartir. Además, en dicha celebración se entregan obsequios a los niños de la Parroquia. El viernes 30 de diciembre es el último día para inscribir a los niños para recibir regalos. Comuníquese con un miembro del Comité del Ministerio Hispano o la oficina parroquial para inscribir a un niño para recibir regalos. Además, las donaciones de juguetes nuevos, sin usar y sin envolver se aceptan gentilmente y se pueden dejar en las cajas envueltas cerca de las entradas de la Iglesia.

The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2022

Weekly Masses

Saturday, December 24

4:00p.m. Leonard A Schrantz by Leonard & Dorothy Schrantz

9:00p.m. Bilingual Mass: All Souls by Parishioners of SEAS

Sunday, December 25

9:00am Fr Walter Werbicki by Leo & Sandy Bain

Monday, December 26-St Stephen

No Mass

Tuesday, December 27-St John

7:00a.m. Raymond Schrantz (Ann) by Family

Wednesday, December 28-The Holy Innocents

7:00a.m. Communion Service

Thursday, December 29-St Thomas Becket

7:00a.m. Arthur Budniewski (Ann) by Wife Ann

Friday, December 30-The Holy Family

7:00a.m. Guillerno Rivera (Ann) by Sons & Daughters

Saturday, December 31

5:00p.m. Barbara Rafan by The Young Family

Sunday, January 1-

8:00a.m. Leo Bain Sr by Leo & Sandy Bain & Family

9:00a.m. Barbara Rafan by Jean Bennett

11:30am Parishioners of SEAS

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament:

Weekdays before Mass: 6:30 AM to 6:55 AM (with Rosary)

Tuesdays: 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

First Fridays: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Please remember to pray for the infirmed:

Carol Balzer, Janet Bonasera, Scott Collins, Sue Dietzen, Len Fijal, Jose Gambarelli, Keith & Kevin, Desiree Jones, John Maternowski, Frederick Mackowiak Jr., Mike McCarty, Peter Notaro, Joel Rivera, Javier Robles, Lenny Schrantz, Jessica Sinclair, Jim Skrzeczkowski, Jack Van Dervort, Mollie Watkins, Kevin Washington and Fr Tom Wopperer.

Please call or email Chris at the Rectory Office to have names added or removed from the sick list. Only immediate family members may request names be added.

Proclaiming the Good News

"I proclaim to you good news of great joy!" God has been calling us to rejoice since the very beginning. This news is so good, the whole world pauses to rejoice in it on Christmas Day. Find the fulfillment of all joy in God's plan for your life. Consider the religious life or priesthood, and contact Fr. Dave Baker at 716-847-5535 or visit buffalovocations.org

Rectory Office News

In accord with the Diocesan holiday schedule, the rectory office will be closed tomorrow Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2. Please also note that there will be no 7:00 AM Rosary or Mass on Monday, December 26 or Monday, January 2.

Noticias de la oficina de la rectoría

De acuerdo con el calendario de vacaciones diocesano, la oficina de la rectoría estará cerrada el lunes 26 de diciembre, y el lunes 2 de enero. Tenga en cuenta también que no habrá rosario ni misa a las 7:00 a. m. el lunes 26 de diciembre ni el lunes 2 de enero.

Weekend of December 17 & 18

Fin de semana del 17 & 18 de diciembre

Mass Attendance/Asistencia a Misa:

5:00 PM -73

8:00 AM -51

10:00 AM -80

11:30 AM -57

Total 261

Collection/Collecta:

\$3,914.00

Christmas Flowers:

\$657.00

Religious Retirement:

\$166.00

Christmas Flower Envelopes

There is still time to hand in your Christmas Flower envelopes.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Christmas Basket Project Thank You!

On behalf of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Christmas Basket Project, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for your generous donations towards our Christmas Basket Project, which took place from December 9-10, 2022.

This year, the SEAS Christmas Basket Project was able to give out several food and gift baskets to needy families in our area. Through your donation, many children and adults received Christmas this year. In addition, hundreds of meals were distributed to families through the Christmas Basket Project. This could not have been accomplished without the financial support and generous donations of gifts from your parish community. Even through difficult economic times, the true spirit of giving was witnessed.

Once again, thank you very much for your donation towards the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Christmas Basket Project. We hope you will consider making a donation next year as we continue to help others in need. May you have a blessed year!

Sincerely,

Carol A. Smith

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Saturday, December 24

4:00PM-Mass

9:00PM-Bilingual Mass

Sunday, December 25

9:00AM-Mass

Monday, December 26

Rectory office closed

Wednesday, December 28

3PM-Food Pantry

Upcoming:

January 8- 3 Kings Celebration in the gym

Tuesday Adoration

We are looking for someone to cover adoration on Tuesdays from 10am-11am. Please contact the rectory if you are interested in spending an hour each week with Jesus Christ, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Adoración del martes

Estamos buscando a alguien para cubrir la adoración los martes de 10 am a 11 am. Comuníquese con la rectoría si está interesado en pasar una hora cada semana con Jesucristo, presente en el Santísimo Sacramento.

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