

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

THEME: A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN TO US

Good morning my brothers and sisters in Christ! Something must have happened during the early hours of today. I can see many smiling faces and cheerful spirits this morning! All are fully awakened with smiling faces and sparkling eyes! Indeed, the light shines on us on this very special day! Today, we are celebrating Christmas Day, remembering the birth of the Infant Jesus who came into this world as our Lord and Savior.

As we have heard from the second reading of this mass, long ago, God spoke to our fathers in many and various ways through the prophets. But, when the Baby Jesus was born, things changed. Now God is speaking to us through his beloved son. For it is Jesus, through whom all things were created, that God has appointed to be in charge of all things. Jesus is the reflection of God's glory and the imprint of God's very image. Whoever has seen Jesus has seen God the Father. For in Jesus the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Today we celebrate the birth of the Messenger from heaven. As we read in today's Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". Jesus came to liberate us from our human predicament, our sinfulness. Sin is what mars and disfigures us from the beautiful image of God that we supposed to have. When Jesus the Light of the world came into the darkness of the world that was lost in sin, sin did not overcome him. He who created all things came into the world and the world did not recognize him. He came to his own people and his people did not accept him.

But to all those who did receive him, who believed in him, he gave power to become children of God. For being born again in baptism by water and the spirit they were not born of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man.

Through Jesus, we receive grace upon grace. At first came the Law through Moses. But now, grace and mercy came into the world through Jesus Christ. While no one has seen God, it is Jesus who is God and who is close to the Father's heart, who has revealed God the Father to us.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, a child has been born to us. As you look at the Baby Jesus in the manger, always remember that the fullness of God dwells in him. In Jesus is the fullness of the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of Christmas tells us that through Jesus, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit came into the world as one in bodily form.

As we heard during the Advent, the Holy Spirit came upon the Blessed Virgin Mary at her moment of conception. Jesus himself told the people repeatedly that he was one with the Father, that the Father is in him, and that those who have seen him, have seen the Father.

The Baby Jesus came into the World for each and every one of us, so that we may be saved. Through Jesus, our living faith that is manifested through the Sacraments of the church, leads us towards the light of God and the truth as our assurance of salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Let us never forget this! From the time we rise in the morning to the time we go to bed at night, let us always be thankful to Jesus for manifesting to us the goodness and love of God.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, today the Light of God shines on us as it shined on Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the angels two thousand years ago. We can see that even though today is a cold winter day, we can see all the happy spirits around us, the shining eyes and the smiling faces. We can hear the Christmas sounds and see the twinkling lights. We can see that we are spiritually elevated in the Divine presence of The Baby Jesus who is with us here today.

May the light of our living faith in Jesus continue to shine in our thoughts, our words and our actions both now, and forever.

I wish you a happy and grace-filled Christmas celebrations. Merry Christmas to you all!