

Christmas 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is often a time of remembering. As I write this Christmas letter to you, I think of several of my cousins who always had the tradition each year of writing a lengthy Christmas letter they included in their card. They would write about the many highlights of the year, what the kids were doing, and the many activities they were involved in. When the kids grew up, all those letters stopped appearing in the Christmas card. It's something that can happen in families as the generations change.

I think of these letters from Christmas past because 2020 has been a difficult year. We have tried our best to stay in contact with you during this pandemic and bring you the latest news. Thankfully, our priests and our staff have remained healthy throughout all of this. I am grateful for the hard work that everyone has done to try to make St. Catherine a safe haven in the midst of all that is going on.

Yet we do miss all of you who are not able to be with us in person. Virtual is just not the same as being here. I know that many continue to join us for our livestream Masses, and I am thankful for all those who can join us in person. We all look forward to the day that this will not be the way we need to live. It will certainly be a different Christmas without all the members of our Church family able to join us this year.

As we celebrate this very different Christmas, remember to keep the Christ child at the center of your Christmas celebration. This will help all of us to remember that there is always hope, that these days will pass, and the things that we did before will slowly return to our routines. We can't lose faith or be discouraged because of all that has happened this year. Instead, 2020 has shown us just how much we need our faith, how much we need our Lord to guide us through any situation.

If you are not able to join us this Christmas, please know that you are in my prayers and the prayers of all your priests. In this midst of a troubled world, may we always be reminded of that first Christmas, where the birth of Christ changed the world. Each Christmas, we see how Christ continues to do this and brings peace to our world.

May you and your families have a blessed Christmas!



Rev. Mark J. Vyverman
Pastor